

Community Group Study Questions

For the week of January 12, 2020

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1 In 2020 do you have any new year's resolutions or are there any things you intend to do differently?
- 2 Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

TITUS: DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 As we begin a new series on the book of Titus, read through Titus chapter 1 in your group, and highlight anything that stands out to you that you would like to discuss or know more about. Feel free to discuss in group time and/or email Kyle (He may use your feedback in future messages or Small Group times).

Titus 1:1-16 *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;*

⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you-- ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹ They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.

¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

- 2 From your notes and the scriptures you read below take some time to answer the questions about the setting of the book (Author, recipient, place, time, purpose). The setting always adds extra meaning to what is written in the text.

1. Who is Paul? (someone read Acts 9:1-11) What gives him the authority to write a letter like this? What does this passage teach us about Paul? What term does Paul use to describe his preaching?

2. Who is Titus? (Someone read 2 Cor 8:23 & Gal 2:2-5) What do these passages tell us about Titus?

3. How did Kyle describe the island of Crete? What was the basic cultural context? What similarities do you see between the culture of Crete and the world we live in today?

4. According to Vv 1-5 what are Paul's purposes for writing? List as many as you can find.

2

Kyle mentioned that Paul spoke of “good works” eight times in this 48 verse letter. Read through the eight passages below and discuss why you think Paul emphasized good works in each context, and why this seems to be the main emphasis in this letter. (you will need your Bible to get the context of each statement).

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Titus 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

Titus 2:5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Titus 2:7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,

Titus 2:14 Jesus Christ . . . who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,

Titus 3:8 This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on such truths, so that those who have placed their faith in God may be intent on engaging in good works. These things are good and beneficial for all people.

3

Kyle spoke about two different Greek Words that gave two different nuances of meaning for “good.” Without looking on the next page, what do you remember about these two different words and why they were important?

There are two Greek words used that we translate into English as “good,” and Paul uses both of them writing to Titus.

Agathos = Good morally, character, correct; as opposed to evil. Referring to a high standard of quality or worth. Emphasizing the trueness and rightness of something.

Kalos = It has an emphasis on being Healthy, sound, fit, as opposed to bad/evil, ugly/deformed. Good in respect to our senses. beautiful as opposed to ugly. Flavorful, fragrant. (not nasty or putrid)

Why are both kinds of goodness needed in the life of a Christian?

TAKING IT HOME

- 1 What areas of this study do you most need to put into practice in your life today?
- 2 Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what’s most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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