

Faith, Hope, and Knowledge

Titus 1.1-4

Main Idea

When Paul lays out his qualifications and mission as an Apostle of Jesus Christ we learn the basic facets of the Christian life and the purpose therein.

Overview

Servants of God...Messengers of Jesus Christ

- Vs. 1: Paul understands himself to be a servant (slave) of God and an apostle (messenger) of Jesus Christ
 - Paul is laying out his authority as one who was appointed with the other 12 as a direct commissioner of the Authority of Christ on earth (1.3b)
- While Paul's authority is unique, his ministry is not unique, but it represents what should be the ministry of all Christians
- We should be servants or slaves of God the Father and Messengers of Jesus Christ
- Christ did not come to be served but to serve, Paul understands himself as a servant of God, therefore we should understand ourselves as servants or slaves of God and messengers of Jesus Christ:
 - Slavery to God is not a bad thing anymore than being 'enslaved' to any good thing is a bad thing

Servants of God for the sake of the Faith of Gods Elect

- Vs. 1: Paul sees his service to God by way of serving the Faith of Gods Elect (Gods Ppl)
- The idea in the text is to further the faith of Gods Elect
 - "Furthering" or the "sake of" comes through evangelism and discipleship amongst believers
 - He/we serve the faith of Gods elect by proclaiming it among the nations in order to see it rise, and also serving in growing them as they mature
- This is the mission of the church...to serve the Faith of Gods Elect:
 - We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ
- "Gods Elect" are those whom God foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified (Romans 8.29-30)

Knowledge of the Truth which accords with Godliness

- The way in which we serve the faith of Gods elect is by promoting their knowledge of the Truth of God (vs. 1):
 - Through preaching (v. 3) Paul grows their understanding of the Truth
 - The Truth is what accords with Godliness:
 - Godliness is the right balance of right thinking and right living
- This must be known and grown up into because it is the design for which we were made to adorn the doctrine of God (2.10)

The Faith and Knowledge of God rests on the hope of eternal life with God

- Vs. 2 indicates that the service of the faith of Gods elect and their knowledge of the truth rests on the hope of eternal life:
 - Paul understands that his mission is not simply to turn their eyes backwards to what God has said and what we must do, but given the structure of the sentence, the hope of heaven seems to be the impotence behind teaching the Truth in order that they remain faithful to get to where they are going in heaven
- Doctrine without Hope is a failed orthodoxy

This hope is certain because of the Faithfulness of God

- Vs. 2: God never lies
- Vs. 2: God promised this before the ages began
- Vs. 3: This promise was made manifest through the preaching of these Truths
- The Grace of God in Jesus ushers in the peace with God for sinners (vs. 4)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What are some ways we see the need for order in order to bring about joy and liberation?*

1. Read Titus 1:1-4 (or the whole book). In what ways do we see Paul's service/slavery to God as something that brings about his freedom and not his discontent? What can we learn from this?
2. Describe how Paul's service to God as an Apostle of Jesus Christ manifested itself. What are some ways we can grow in having a posture of service towards the faith of God's elect and not consumerism?
3. Why is serving the Faith of God's elect and building them up in the Truth of God which accords/fits with Godliness so important? What are some ways that is happening in your life? In the life of Restoration Church?
4. Why does the hope of eternal life weigh so heavily in the New Testament? Likewise, how are you doing this in the day in and out? What is the danger of gaining knowledge but minimizing the Hope of eternal life?
5. Why should we believe these Truths and in this Hope? Why should we not doubt?

Accountability Question: *Where are you serving the faith of Gods elect? How is Hope playing into your daily life as a Christian? Point out evidences of grace where this is happening in other CG members.*