

The Power of the Gospel

READ: Titus 1:1-2, 4, 10-16

This letter is from Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. ²This truth gives the hope of eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began. I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace. ¹⁰There are many rebellious people who engage in useless talk and deceive others. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation. ¹¹They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money. ¹²Even one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, “The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons.”¹³This is true. So reprimand them sternly to make them strong in the faith. ¹⁴They must stop listening to Jewish myths and the commands of people who have turned away from the truth. ¹⁵Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live.

REFLECT: What kind of reputation did the Cretans have (How were they known by others)? (v. 12)

Titus was sent to Crete by Paul to share the truth of the gospel and the hope it gives, eternal life (v. 2). It may seem hard for Titus to be sent to a place like Crete since the people there had such a bad reputation. Even one of their own prophets talked about how bad they were. Maybe it didn't surprise Titus since he knew how the gospel had changed Paul's life and many others including his own. Titus's job was to share the gospel with those in Crete so they could hear of the truth and hope of the gospel.

Romans 1:16 calls the gospel the power of God. It has the power to change anyone and any culture. As we dig into Titus we will see what happens in lives that are changed by the gospel and how each day we need to have the powerful gospel change our lives to become more like Jesus.

RESPOND:

Think of Zacchaeus and Paul. How were their lives changed by the gospel?

What are some ways the gospel has changed your life and others you know?

Give thanks for the power of God that is in the gospel and ask God to help you continue to be changed by that power so you can be more like Jesus each day.