

Titus 3:12-15
Concluding Words to Titus in a Godless, Decaying Culture

Introduction:

1) Titus must meet three primary needs on the “to do” list—3:12-14

- a) Command # 1: spend time with Paul—3:12
- i) What is Titus to do? *make every effort* [aor. act. impv. spouda,zw] *to come to me at Nicopolis,*
(1) 300-350 miles NNW of Crete, an approximately 7-10 day trip
 - ii) When is Titus to do this? ¹² *When I send* [fut. act. ind. pe,mpw] *Artemas to you (Titus), or Tychicus,*
(1) These men appear to be Titus’ replacements in the ministry on Crete.
One’s ministry is not always a lifetime in one location.
(2) Tychicus ends up in Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12)
(3) Titus ends up in Dalmatia/Croatia today (2 Tim. 4:10)
 - iii) Why is Titus to do this? *because* [ga,r] *I have decided* [pf. act. ind. kri,nw] *to spend the winter* [aor. act. inf. paraceima,zw] **there** (emphatic).
(1) Paul made a judgment call based on strategic ministry reasons.
- b) Command # 2: help others in the ministry on the Word—3:13
- You are going to have visitors!
- i) What is Titus to do? *help on their journey* [aor. act. impv. prope,mpw],
(1) Furnish what is necessary for them
 - ii) How is Titus to do this? ¹³ *Diligently/eagerly* [spoudai,wj]
(1) Not half-heartedly
 - iii) Whom is Titus to help? *Zenas the lawyer and Apollos*
 - They seem to be the ones who brought this letter to Titus from Paul.
 - (1) Zenas—normally these men were of high social status
(a) it is good to know the laws of the people among who you minister
 - (2) Apollos—a beneficial teacher of God’s Word
(a) Originally from Alexandria in North Africa, first observed in Ephesus (Ac. 18) and later in Corinth (Ac. 19)
(b) Some say that Jews from Alexandria that settled on Crete.
 - iv) Why is Titus to do this in this way? *so that* [i[na] *nothing is lacking for them.*
(1) This assumes that God has provided in such a way for Titus that he is now able to meet the material needs of others.
- c) Command # 3: disciple believers to meet the needs of others—3:14
- i) Who is Paul addressing? ¹⁴ *And ... our people* [h`me,teroj] *also*
(1) All believers
 - ii) What are they to do? *let* (them) *learn* (how) [pres. act. impv. manqa,nw]
(1) To do what?—*to maintain/take the lead in* (Cf. 3:8) [pres. mid. inf. proi<sthmi] *good* [kalo,j] *works*

- (2) What type of good works?—*to* [eivj] *meet/relieve urgent/pressing*
[avnagkai/oj] *needs* [crei,a]
- iii) Why are believers to do this? *so that* [i[na] *they may not be*
unfruitful/unproductive [a;karpoj].
- (1) Believers need to gain a larger perspective than their own concerns if
they would be fruitful for God.
- (2) We gain by giving. We grow by cultivating the benefit of others.
(Kitchen)

2) Greetings and benediction—3:15

- a) Greetings to Titus—¹⁵ **All** (emphatic) *who are with me greet you.*
i) Paul's ministry team
- b) Greetings through Titus—Greet *those who love* [pres. act. ptc. file,w] *us in the*
faith.
i)
- c) Benediction for all the readers—*Grace be with you^{pl} all* (emphatic). *Amen.*
i) Paul assumed his private letter would be read in public in the
congregations across the island.
ii) Remember 1:4.
iii) Jim Rosscup reminds us: “If you can do little or nothing else than pray you
still may accomplish a very great work in God's service. ... Do not think in
terms of the human ability or potential, but on the level of what the
mighty God can do in answer to the prayer!”

3) Things we need to remember:

- a) Someone has said: The strategic advance of the Gospel requires many people
and much change.
- b) Grace is needed for us to be fruitful in our Christian life. Pray for one
another.