

Communicating Plans

July 23, 2017 ~ Titus 3.12-15

Last of 7-Part Series

- ❖ Parts 1 thru 6:
 1. Following Orders ~ 2 things – “set in order” and “appoint elders”
 2. Choosing Lieutenants ~ Elder role and qualifications
 3. Establishing Discipline ~ Titus was to “stop the mouths” of false teachers
 4. Training Troops ~ Paul gave specific directions to 5 social groups
 5. Honoring Heroes ~ We serve in “blessed hope” and look for Christ
 6. Maintaining Morale ~ Cretans reminded who God is & their evil past
- ❖ Today’s message is “Communicating Plans” / Paul was a planner

Military Theme Revisited / Military Planning

- ❖ Initial study (*outline*) of Titus led me to adopt military theme
- ❖ Communication and discipline are obviously emphasized in letter
 - ✧ Paul confirms earlier commands & shares future plans / months in advance
- ❖ Paul always had a plan / God’s plan is offensive in nature
 - ✧ “The gates of hell shall not prevail” (Mt 16.18)

Planning Compared to Presumption

- ❖ v12 ~ “When I send”, “I’ve decided” / Paul didn’t qualify future statements
- ❖ Read Luke 12.13-21 ~ “Then one from the crowd .. is not rich toward God.”
- ❖ 2 more examples – James and Paul
 - ✧ Read James 4.13-16 ~ “Come now, you .. boasting is evil” / boasting
 - ✧ Read 1 Cor 4.14-21 ~ “I do not write .. spirit of gentleness” / proud
- ❖ Some in light of this lesson use D. V. a lot (deo volente – “God willing”)
 - ✧ !!!: Roads - “God willing and the creek don’t rise.” / But must we do this?
- ❖ Jesus was teaching a lesson about presumption
 - ✧ Was Paul being presumptuous? / Was he laying up treasure for himself?
 - ✧ No... / He was planning future actions for God
- ❖ It’s good for us to live in the knowledge of our mortality
 - ✧ We should at times rebuke the presumptuous / But let’s not nit-pick
 - ✧ Speakers addressed specific sins / “We need not caveat every statement c/future with a disclaimer expressing our mortality and confessing God’s sovereignty...”

Xition: Let’s talk about what Paul is planning. . .

Titus to Complete Duties and be Relieved by Winter

- ❖ **v12a** ~ “When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus”
- ❖ Opinions vary on why Artemas or Tychicus will be sent by Paul
 - ✧ But the consensus is that Titus was to be replaced / relieved
 - ✧ Perhaps only temporary / But that seems unlikely
- ❖ We addressed Paul’s expectations in the very first message
 - ✧ Paul expected Titus to complete his 2-fold assignment
 - ✧ To “set things in order” and to “appoint elders in every city”
- ❖ Paul wanted someone to winter in Crete / But not Titus
 - ✧ **Why not Titus?** / Because he needed Titus for something else

Before We Go Farther / Who **Were Artemas and Tychicus?**

- ❖ Artemas ~ We have no idea / This is the only mention of him
 - ✧ He’s mentioned first though ~ Probably the primary candidate
- ❖ Tychicus ~ Mentioned in 5 texts (**Acts 20.4, Eph 6.21, Col 4.7, 2 Tim 3.12**)
 - ✧ **Acts 20.4** ~ Left Ephesus (w/others) to wait at Troas after riot (3rd journey)
 - ✧ **Read Eph 6.21** ~ Carried letter / “But that you .. things known to you”
 - ✧ **Read Col 4.7-9** ~ Carried letter / “Tychicus, a beloved .. happening here”
 - ✧ Tychicus also appears to have carried letter to **Philemon (vss 10-12)**
 - ✧ **Read 2 Tim 3.9-12** ~ “Be diligent to come .. sent to Ephesus”
 - ✧ From these refs we see that Tychicus is at least a reliable mailman
- ❖ Tychicus is mentioned in **2 Tim** as having gone to Ephesus
 - ✧ Was Artemas then sent to Crete and still there?
 - ✧ We don't how much time has passed between **1 Tim/Titus** and **2 Tim**
 - ✧ At least 1 year and no more than 3

Paul is Traveling

- ❖ Paul probably wrote **1 Timothy** and **Titus** around the same time / very similar
 - ✧ Paul is now in Macedonia (**1 Tim 1.3**)
 - ✧ He was recently in Ephesus (**1 Tim 1.3**) and was to return (**1 Tim 3.14-15**)
 - ✧ Nicopolis is on the southwestern border of Macedonia – near Greece
- ❖ Paul's not in Nicopolis yet / But he plans to be there before winter
 - ✧ **v12c** ~ “I have decided to spend the winter there”
- ❖ Paul wants Titus to join him there
- ❖ Timothy was in Ephesus / Paul told him to stay & wrote him there (**2 Tim 3.12**)

Xition: Paul needs Timothy to remain in Ephesus .. But not so Titus in Crete ..

Paul Wants Titus to Return to Him

- ❖ **v12b** ~ “be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis”
- ❖ Paul needed Titus for something else / Only Titus would do
 - ✧ Artemas or Tychicus were to take over a “going concern”
- ❖ People are all different / Different abilities ~ strengths ~ weaknesses
 - ✧ **III**: Sandwich shop ~ Fremont CA business starter
 - ✧ **III**: UP NEQ team ~ Fill critical roles first
- ❖ Titus was a trusted lieutenant / Paul needed him for another work
 - ✧ And we have a likely answer given to us in **2 Timothy**
 - ✧ But before we discuss that let’s cover **vss 13 - 14**

v13 ~ “Send Zenas the Lawyer and Apollos on their journey .. lack nothing”

- ❖ This statement pops up seemingly out of nowhere
 - ✧ But we must think about the context / Paul presumes their presence
 - ✧ They brought letter to Titus / Phrasing and occurrence similar to others
- ❖ Paul combined responsibilities
 - ✧ First and only occurrence of Zenas
 - ✧ But Apollos powerful leader mentioned in **Acts 18.24, 19.1** and **1 Cor 3, 4**
 - ◆ **Read Acts 18.24** ~ Apollos “mighty in the Scriptures” before Christ
 - ◆ **Read 1 Cor 1.10-12** ~ Paul rebukes Corinthians for sectarianism
 - ◆ **Read 1 Cor 16.12** ~ “Now concerning .. convenient time”

v14 ~ “And let our people also learn .. not be unfruitful”

- ❖ “**Good works**” have been emphasized throughout letter
 - ✧ This is a golden opportunity / Have them support Zenas and Apollos
 - ✧ Paul accepted that Apollos had his own plans

Let's Summarize the Context

- ❖ Paul left Titus in Crete months earlier
- ❖ He stopped in Ephesus to visit Timothy
- ❖ He travelled into Macedonia (north of Greece)
- ❖ He’s written letters to Timothy and Titus (Timothy – stay put) / (Titus – come)
 - ✧ Titus’ letter went to Crete with Zenas and Apollos
 - ✧ Timothy’s letter carrier not known ~ Tychicus? He took 2nd (**2 Tim 4.12**)
 - ◆ Could be reason Tychicus relieving Titus on Crete may be iffy

Xition: Does it really matter that we figure this out?

Significance of These Details Too Easily Dismissed

- ❖ I know Christians who would scoff at these detailed studies
 - ✧ Their belief is that such trivial matters are unimportant / souls are at stake
- ❖ But for me, 2 great truths are proven by these details

1st ~ Calvinism & Missions

- ❖ Reformed people often accused of hardness of heart towards the lost
 - ✧ But Paul was reformed / He wrote **Romans 9 c/**"potter" and "clay"
 - ✧ Paul had a heart for the lost ~ And many reformed leaders have
- 1. John Calvin ~ Church in Geneva sent missionaries to France (*martyrs*)
- 2. John Eliot ~ American Indians (1600s) – "**grandfather of modern missions**"
- 3. David Brainerd ~ American Indians (1700s) – tremendous diary influence
- 4. Jonathan Edwards ~ American Indians (1700s) – 1st Great Awakening
- 5. George Whitefield ~ Americans (1700s) – 1st Great Awakening (18x x Atlantic)
- 6. William Carey ~ India (1700-1800s) – "**father of modern missions**"
- 7. Robert Moffatt ~ Africa (1800s) – 1st to reach interior of "**dark**" continent
- 8. David Livingstone ~ Africa (1800s) – Most famous missionary to Africa
- 9. Robert Morrison ~ China () – 1st Chinese translation & m to China
- 10. Adoniram Judson ~ Burma (1800s) – Baptist but reformed in beliefs
- 11. D James Kennedy ~ America (1900s) – "**Evangelism Explosion**"
- 12. John Piper ~ America (1900s) – Sends missionaries into world
- 13. Peter Hammond ~ (2000s) – African missions every year

2nd ~ Veracity of the Bible

- ❖ The Christian Bible has withstood great criticism over the past 150 years
- ❖ 100 years ago it became common for Christians to dismiss Bible as error filled
 - ✧ Many falsely believed that science had disproven key aspects of it
 - ✧ Christians retreated from a defense of it / Embarrassed by it
- ❖ But in 100 years science has changed 100 times – the Bible not at all
- ❖ It's true that the Bible is not a text book
 - ✧ There's much to be learned apart from the Bible
 - ✧ But the Bible stands as the unyielding straightedge of all truth
- ❖ "**The Bible is true to everything of which it speaks, and it speaks to everything.**"
- ❖ To concoct a story as complex and tightly interwoven as the Bible
 - ✧ It's simply beyond human ability

Xition: Close with one more thought ~ Paul knows what all good leaders know

“People Make All the Difference”

- ❖ Paul was very skilled at building networks of people
- ❖ He was task-oriented
 - ✧ But accomplishment of his tasks required people
 - ✧ He depended on people and was sometimes disappointed
 - ✧ Yet God gave him goals that he couldn't possibly accomplish on his own
 - ◇ He needed a lot of help
 - ◇ Successful people always had help
- ❖ We all should strive to be like Paul, Apollos, or Tychicus
 - ✧ We all don't need to have the plans / We can't
 - ◇ But we must all actively support those that do
- ❖ Planning is vital to building up God's Kingdom

- ❑ Titus served for a season on Crete
- ❑ Paul counted upon him to do his work well ~ To be freed up for more work
- ❑ God made us for this ~ This is why we exist
- ❑ Let each of us purpose to:
 - ❖ Establish aggressive goals for ourselves (if God's will), and to
 - ❖ Join with others in the accomplishment of theirs
 - ❖ We each have vital roles to play in fulfilling God's plans on earth

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .