

Light — Leverage in A Dark World

I love this revelation:

We need this light.

"...that Jesus WOULD suffer, that He Jesus WOULD be the first to rise from the dead, and Jesus WOULD proclaim light to the Jewish people and the Gentiles." Acts 26:19-23

Titus 3:1-7 goes like this:

"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, and to be ready for every good work. To speak evil of no one, to be peaceful, gentle, showing all humility to all men. Why? We were once foolish. We ourselves were once disobedient. We ourselves were once deceived. We ourselves once served ourselves through various lusts and envies, living with self-centered malice making life about ourselves and being hateful and being hateful to one another. We all live that away at one time."

Even the best of the best lived a self-centered life. Until they were interrupted and invaded by Jesus and His redeeming grace.

Verse 4 says — "When the kindness and the love of God of our Savior toward man appeared not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy He did what? Man, He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, for whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace, His grace alone, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:1-7

When WE were fools — notice the light he's revealing in Titus 3:3-4. Before Jesus interrupted their life and invaded their soul with His saving grace, they lived themselves. They were foolish or unwise being unpersuaded that God's way was the right way, therefore, they were led away by their corrupt and polluted thinking to roam, as they pleased — with no regard for living for Jesus and reaching people for Him...

A fool thinks his or her way is best, even superior to God's thoughts on a thing. It's not that they are ignorant or unteachable, they're just unwise toward God because they believe their means and methods and mode of learning do not need God or His favor and His wisdom. The fool will go to

great lengths, as needed, to find someone or something or a system of thinking to affirm their opinion, justify their reasoning, and validate their experience. Some fools are much smarter than other fools, but no matter how brilliant or brutish they may be, a fool is still a fool. A genius, without God and His redeeming grace, is still a fool... they just have a bigger trash can to collect and distribute more garbage. Like landfills... some are more toxic than others but all are toxic. Garbage is garbage no matter how shiny or rotten it may be. Any person, no matter the size of their intellect, who functions freely and fruitfully, in a world full of folly, without Jesus, is a walking, talking, and balking fool. The natural result response of a fool to God and His way is disobedience. Why disobedience? Because they have not been convinced or persuaded that God's way is better than theirs or the system they are trusting. Therefore, they are led astray, again and again, by their own opinions, reasoning, and experience. The problem with living like this is that it came so naturally. It just seemed right and what was right seemed so wrong.

We need LEVERAGE in a dark world to fulfill our assignment.

Paul gives us insight into His leverage.

What was it?

God's Light!

He, Who Cannot Lie (Titus 1:1-3)

Titus 1:1-3 (Paul's identity, intent, impact, inspiration, and influence)

Who he is. (Bondslave, apostle)

What he does. (Proclaims God's eternal and transformational message)

How he does it. (In Hope of what God promises)

Why did he keep doing it? (He's Committed)

Called for transformation:

To persuade God's elect through preaching that transforms WHO they love and Who they love for.

To practically influence and guide God's elect through teaching the truth of God in Christ that transforms HOW they love and live, as they are obedient to the faith.

To patiently endure to be an example of WHY we continue to love and live (HOPE)

"I endure all things for the sake of the elect that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." 2 Timothy 2:10

1. God made a promise (a promise that covered the entire scope of eternal life before time began).
2. God manages His own promise (He manages it on both sides of time and performs it in time).
3. God manifested His promise in time (a promise that He made before time and managed through time to make good on His promise when time is no more).
4. God makes good on His promise both now and forever.

Sweet assurance...

If God ever saves... God forever saves!

"God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel..." 2 Timothy 1:9-11

Now that will stick... I like to say — our salvation, which was manifested to us in due time, no doubt, rests on both sides of time. Glory be!

If Jesus didn't live, we have nothing! If Jesus didn't suffer, we have nothing. If Jesus didn't rise, we have nothing! If Jesus doesn't live in us, we have nothing! If Jesus doesn't live His life through us, we have nothing! If Jesus doesn't preach by us, we have nothing! If Jesus doesn't proclaim His light through us today, we have nothing but darkness to proclaim!

Yes, glory, His life and cross speak, and may His will be done in, with, and through us, so that we speak His message in our day.

The cross speaks. It speaks volumes. It speaks of love and grace, mercy and wrath, reconciliation and redemption, judgment, and justice, righteousness, and forgiveness and so much more, that we'll spend an eternity learning the depths of its meaning.

We, like Moses, were drawn out and drawn to this glorious life and work.

#nestingwithjesus #acts #acts26 #acts26and23 #Isaiah9and6thru7 #luke24and44thru49
#1peter1and10thru12 #titus3 #titus1 #exodus #drawnout #Christwouldconquer #Christwouldcome
#Christwouldlive #Christwouldsuffer #Christwoulddie #ChristwouldspillHisblood #Christwouldrise
#ChristwouldReign #Christwouldproclaim #Christwouldpreach #Christwouldpreachthroughus
#Christwouldwouldeould