

A Successful Business Meeting (Titus 3:12-15)

Paul, in his closing remarks to Titus, is:

1. Dispatching Godly Men to Crete (v.13-14)

A. Artemas

- This is the only place where his name is mentioned in all of Scripture and nothing else is known about him in Scripture. Since he is mentioned first, he may have been Paul's first choice to relieve Titus.

B. Tychicus

- He is mentioned five times in Scripture (Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7; Titus 3:12; 2 Timothy 4:12) and may have known Titus (2 Corinthians 8:22).
- He is described as a beloved faithful brother as well as servant/slave in the LORD. He was the courier for at least two of the four letters the apostle Paul wrote during his first Roman imprisonment.
- He may have even delivered the letter to Philemon, since Philemon's house was in Colossi. Additionally, he is the only one who was chosen to relieve Timothy of his duties in Ephesus, so Timothy could come and visit the apostle Paul during his second Roman imprisonment. Tychicus is mentioned with Artemas, which means that he was considered to be one of two dependable servants of the LORD to relieve Titus of his duties so that he can visit Paul at Nicopolis.

C. Zenas the Lawyer

- This is the only place where his name is mentioned in all of Scripture. He was an expert in Jewish or Roman Law.

D. Apollos

- He is mentioned several times in Scripture (Acts 18:24-19:1; 1 Corinthians 1:12, 3:4-22, 16:12).
- As a Jew born in Alexandria, he would have been well-versed in the Scriptures.
- He would have received premier education in the Alexandrian school system which focused on rhetoric.
- We see Apollos first mentioned in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-19:1):
 - He is described as being an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. There is a slight nuance, however, between accurateness and fullness.
 - Apollos knew the baptism of John, but was unaware of anything additional about Jesus Christ other than the "baptism of repentance" (Matthew 3:2, 11).
 - He may have been a disciple of John the Baptist.

Apollos up to the point of meeting Aquila and Priscilla, would have:

- Had the correct view of the Messiah through Old Testament study. He was expecting a Savior to come that would be humble (Isaiah 53).
- He heard of John the Baptist and embraced his doctrine (may have been baptized by him). Apollos, however, was paving the way for the Messiah that had already come.

- This ministry of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2) initially would have penetrated deeper than the ministry of Jesus (Acts 19:1-3).

Priscilla and Aquilla would have instructed Apollos more precisely and in greater detail concerning Jesus Christ (Acts 18:24-26).

Four Lessons we learn from Apollos (Acts 18:24-26):

- Apollos was humble enough to receive correction, despite his education.
- He was corrected by both Priscilla and Aquilla.
- This account re-affirms that women do not have authority to publicly teach men. They both spoke with him "privately."
- Priscilla is a knowledgeable, experienced, and godly woman who was able to be an encouragement to Apollos.
- The LORD blessed Apollos' ministry even more (v.28).

We see Apollos in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:12, 3:1-9, 21-23)

- Point of application: As you stay faithful to labor in God's field, do not become prideful if you reap a harvest and do not become discouraged if you see no fruit; God gives the growth.

2. Commanding Genuine Christian Hospitality (v.13)

- Zenas and Apollos were responsible for delivering Paul's letter to Titus. It would have been difficult travel from Macedonia to Crete. The Cretans were to extend hospitality not only in their stay, but also as they departed from Crete.
- Christians must be generous in their hospitality, especially among other believers. Zenas and Apollos were to leave with all of their needs met.

3. Encouraging the Cretans to Devote Themselves to Good Works (v.14)

- The Cretans are to be intentional about good works. The "good" in the Greek refers to something that is beautiful, whole, precious, commendable, or admirable; something that is inherently excellent.
- Specifically, they are to help those who are in urgent need.

Warning:

1. Providing for those who are not in "urgent" need can take away from those who are truly in need.
2. Regarding work, Scripture is very clear: do not help those who are unwilling to work (2 Thessalonians 3:9-15).

Considering "good works", Christians are to:

- Love what is good (Titus 1:8)
- Teach what is good (Titus 2:3)
- Do what is good (Titus 2:7, 14, 3:8)