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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TITUS

Titus 3:9-15

Having stressed the profitability of teaching that is centered in the person and work of the Savior (3:4-8), the apostle once again **warns against the futility and worthlessness of the perverted (the non-biblical) opinions of man. While we are to be able to defend the faith and give a reason for the hope within us, we must not get involved in the wrong kind of discussions.** Thus, Paul first warns against some of the various kinds of false teaching that Titus and all believers will face (vs. 9) and then gives abbreviated directions for handling these false teachers themselves (vss. 10-11). Obviously there is a place and need for biblical inquiry and discussion regarding the truth and the meaning of Scripture, but if the goal is proving one's point in an attempt to win an argument or to prove one's scholarship or protect one's scholarship before one's peers rather than Christ-like living, then we have missed the point and goal of the Bible.

Instructions to Titus

Date	Lesson	Text
07/10	Introduction	
07/17	Greetings	1:1-4
07/24	Elders	1:5-9
07/31	False Teachers	1:10-16
08/07	Various Groups	2:1-10
08/14	Godly Behavior	2:11-15
08/21	Good Citizens	3:1-8
08/28	Final Instructions	3:9-15
09/04	Summary and Review	
09/11	3 Crosses	Bro. Cisneros

Paul's instruction for dealing with the false teachers and those attracted to such teaching consists of identifying their character and conduct and then the manner in which they are to be dealt with. They are to be dealt with on an individual and case-by-case basis. First, they are identified as **divisive**. Second, Paul gives the **responsibility** which is two-fold. They are to be warned at least twice. But what happens when there is no response to the warnings? Then, they are to be rejected. Third, in verse 11 the apostle gives the **reason** for the above action. This is found in the character and conduct of such a factious person. The NET Bible has: "You know that such a person is twisted by sin and is conscious of it himself."

Food for Thought

Radical Generosity

Even if we're not wealthy, God has called us to radical generosity. We can share what we do have and be rich in good deeds. When we give ourselves to the Lord, all other giving becomes easier.

*Instruct them to do good,
to be rich in good works,
to be generous and ready
to share*

(1 Tim 6:18 NASB)

From "Our Daily Bread", Aug 02, 2007)

Paul's closing words consist of three instructions (vss. 12-14) followed by a mutual greeting and a closing benediction (vs. 15), but as in all his epistles, these closing remarks demonstrate a couple of vital characteristics in the life and ministry of Paul. First, they show he was a team player who recognized the importance and function of the other members of the body of Christ. God had not made him a one-man team regardless of his office as an apostle or his special gifts and the direct revelation that he had received from God. Further, these final words demonstrate his warmth, compassion, and loving care for others. Finally, we also see his penchant for teaching by the way he used simple needs as an opportunity to communicate truth in practical ways. The apostle had previously mentioned **good works**, but now he gives added definition to this with the words "**to meet pressing needs.**"

The apostle closes with final greetings from all of his associates again showing his team spirit. He closes with, "**grace** be with you all," which expresses not only his affection, but his desire for all believers since grace is so vital to our experience and walk with the Savior. Grace is not only the source of our salvation, but the basis of our sanctification, fruitfulness, and reward.

(Excerpt from "The Letter to Titus Commentary" by J. Hampton Keathley III)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Perverted and Useless Teaching (9)

Don't get involved in arguments

Because as God's servants we must be kind and patient (2 Tim 2:23-26)

Because most arguments are about things against the knowledge of God (2 Cor 10:5)

Don't have conversations that are worthless

Because our speech should always be full of grace (Col 4:6)

Because we are responsible for every careless word we speak (Matt 12:34-37)

Because only wholesome words that edify others should be spoken (Eph 4:29)

The Perverted Advocates (10-11)

Reject the divisive

Divisive by causing dissensions and hindrances contrary to godly teaching (Rom 16:17)

Divisive by those irreconcilable scoffers in the last days (2 Tim 3:1-5)

Divisive by those who try to bring teaching of a different gospel (2 John 10-11)

Warn the perverted

Warn them in a specific way (Matt 18:15-17)

Warn them that they are upsetting whole families (Titus 1:10-11)

Warn them that God will avenge against their practices (1 Thess 4:3-6)

Instructions Concerning Good Works (12-14)

Do good deeds

Good deeds that we were created to do (Eph 2:10)

Good deeds that are motivated by love for one another (Heb 10:24)

Good deeds that motivate others to glorify God (1 Peter 2:12)

Supply needs

Supplying needs as an outpouring of our faith (James 2:15-16)

Supplying needs that are provided by God (2 Cor 9:10-12)

Supplying needs because it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)

The Mutual Greeting and Closing Benediction (15)

Love in the faith

Love in the faith because they are part of what will remain (1 Cor 13:13)

Love in the faith because faith works through love (Gal 5:6)

Love in the faith because it is a goal of godly instructions (1 Tim 1:5)

Display grace

Display grace because we must grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18)

Display grace because we stand in the grace of God (Rom 5:1-2)

Display grace because we use God given gifts given by grace (Rom 12:5-6)

Display grace so that grace can spread (2 Cor 4:15)