

Saint Titus, Pastor and Confessor - January 26

Sermon Road Map

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Titus 1:1-9

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God knows his people need to be shepherded.

- Today is the Festival of St. Titus! Who's that?
 - ♦ Know the name from this book of the Bible, but...?
 - ♦ Not mentioned in Acts. Only Galatians, Corinthians, & 2 Timothy
 - ♦ **my true son in our common faith** - Paul's protégé and assistant
 - Probably at Antioch, an uncircumcised Gentile, among those sent to the 1st Church Council in Jerusalem - Christ freed us all from Sinai.
 - ♦ Titus, sent by Paul to handle challenging situations. God blessed richly.
 - ♦ Crete, a prime example: ¹² **One of Crete's own prophets** [Cretan philosopher Epimenides] **has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."** ¹³ **This saying is true.** - challenge training pastors

❖ Titus - faithful Confessor of Christ

- We confess because someone confessed to us.
 - ♦ ²⁰ ...there were some men ...came to Antioch and also began to speak to the Greeks, preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ ...a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord. Acts 11 EHV
 - ♦ Someone shared the gospel with Titus. God works through our sharing.
- **Confessing** Christ is **what believers do** to the end of life.
 - ♦ ¹⁰ For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and it is with the mouth that a person **confesses**, resulting in salvation. Rm 10 EHV
 - ♦ A growing understanding of the facts and implications of the gospel deepens your conviction, strengthens your stand, fills you with joy, equips you with simple clear good news to share.
 - ♦ Apostles' Creed: all good news. Ask: *So what?* (i.e. Implications) Share
- ♦ ⁹ **He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.**
 - **Gently** encouraging sin's victims with Jesus' healing & help
 - **Bold**, unmoving, correcting and exposing liars, twisters, deceivers
- We don't just confess with our lips. Our way of life confesses Christ.
 - ♦ We follow the Lord to be rescued from sin's perverted thinking & ways.
 - We daily expose our own sin so God's forgiveness can rescue us.
 - Follow Jesus to be remade in his image, rescued from our wickedness.
 - ♦ The criteria for a pastor - a man mature in humbly following the Savior
 - Critical for integrity & to attract, demonstrate, model, then mentor

- Titus and other faithful confessors are not novelties! Not our focus, but...
 - ♦ Living proof: God's truth rescues sinners from Satan's destructive work
 - ♦ God provides servants **to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness** v. 1

❖ Titus - faithful Pastor for Christ

- Titus was foremost a pastor. Necessary to train and appoint pastor/elders
- Here we see how God shepherds his people - through under-shepherds.
 - ♦ The disciples needed Jesus' shepherding - training them to shepherd
 - ♦ Paul shepherded Titus, who now shepherds men to become shepherds.
 - ♦ Shepherding: a follower of Jesus mentoring other followers to know God's revealed word, be fed, freed, and follow in safe paths to life.
- Here it is clear. **God knows his people need to be shepherded.**
 - ♦ Pastors need to be shepherded. (Conference, Circuit, Circuit Pastor)
 - ♦ Those gathered to Jesus by the word, he shepherds with mature leaders
 - ♦ Pastor's role: apply God's word...
 - **to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness**
 - encourage, correct, encourage - be daily made new in Jesus - following
- Being shepherded is not optional for a Christian.
 - ♦ To consider shepherding optional = to consider following Jesus optional
 - ♦ Psalm 23 is merely sentimental for those who refuse to be shepherded.
 - ♦ The signs of despising shepherding are clear.
 - Avoiding the pastor or elders. Ignoring their requests for visits.
 - Gathering for festivals or sporadically. Sentiment not to be shepherded
 - ♦ The regulars also need to ask: *Do I long to be shepherded?*
 - Do you hide your problems from your pastor rather than seek his help?
 - Our Service - Word and Sacrament A to Ω - is a rich pasture
 - Spectators or going along for the ride - are fed, but not shepherded.
 - Take notes. Study Sermon Road Map. Ask how: grow, change, act?
 - Fed sheep, little exercise = fat sheep, easily deceived & devoured
- Shepherds: teach to know, to apply, and to develop godly habits
 - ♦ A pastor equips leaders, parents, all people to shepherd each other.
 - ♦ This only happens when we know and trust each other's care.
 - ♦ This requires time together. Working to create a community to equip.

A festival like this calls us to see God's critical design of being a people on his mission to help each other know Jesus, the transformative power of his forgiveness, the liberating power of his revealed truth, the life-transforming work of repentance, the peace that comes with the sure hope of eternal life with God. Only Jesus can give this to us. It's ours only when we let Jesus shepherd us in his community of believers. Isolated and alone - we lose.

God knows his people need to be shepherded.