

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Titus 3:4-8**.
- B. Other passages to be looked at: 1Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2Tim. 2:11.
- C. Five times in the "pastoral epistles" as they are called, Paul uses the term "it is a faithful saying" or "it is a trustworthy statement." He then (or has just given) gives a fundamental truth of God that is to be remembered.
- D. The statements do not generally go together, but they do give us some great teachings about the Xian religion. Tonight's sermon is to briefly look at each on of these statements.

I. **FIRST, 1TIMOTHY 1:15.**

- A. Read the verse.
- B. It is significant that JC came into the world, showing that our salvation does not rest on mere man. Jesus existed with God from the beginning and at the right time appeared to save mankind (Gal. 4:4).
- C. We are appreciative of His life, teachings, miracles and His death on the cross (Phil. 2:5-7).
- D. Jesus' mission was to those who need a doctor, everyone (Mk. 2:17).
- E. Paul calls himself the "chief of sinners," realizing the greatness of his own sin, and the greatness of Jesus Christ in being able to take it away.

II. **SECOND, 1TIMOTHY 3:1.**

- A. Read the verse.
- B. The eldership is a place of ministry. It is a high calling because it demands self-sacrifice and service of the brethren. The elder who faithfully discharges his office does a lot of work.
- C. Too many times, we are tempted to think of the eldership only in terms of their qualifications and resulting position. But we should think rather of a situation that requires ministry, patience, understanding, and courage.
- D. The work of elders has great rewards. Elders who work hard (at both preaching and teaching) are worthy of double honor (1Tim. 5:17).

III. **THIRD, 1TIMOTHY 4:7-10.**

- A. Read the verses.
- B. This particular statement seems to be a type of conclusion with emphasis to the preceding statement found in 4:7-8.
- C. Paul speaks of the great profit to be found in spiritual training. Spiritual training is better because it:
 - 1. Lasts a long time.
 - 2. Helps solve mental disorders.
 - 3. Keeps the soul right w/God.
 - 4. Is profitable in all things.
 - 5. Holds the promise of life to come.
 - 6. Fixes our hope (4:10).
- D. Whatever is gained through physical training is lost in a short period of time, and does little or nothing in the important areas mentioned above.

IV. **FOURTH, 2TIMOTHY 2:11-13.**

- A. Read the verses.
- B. Four things are mentioned here by the apostle:
 - 1. If we died with X, we shall also live with Him (Rom. 6:3-5).
 - 2. If we endure with X, we shall also reign with Him (Lk. 21:19).
 - 3. If we deny Him, He will deny us (Mt. 10:32-33).
 - 4. If we are faithless, He will be faithful, He cannot deny Himself (Rev. 2:10; Heb. 13:8).
- C. Jesus is under no obligation to save us if we fail to live faithfully unto Him (Heb. 6:4-6).

- D. The admonition that the phrase (“a trustworthy statement”) teaches is that Jesus will be faithful even if we are not so let us die to self, live for X, and endure to the end.

V. **FIFTH, TITUS 3:4-8.**

- A. Read the verses. This particular time Paul says “a trustworthy statement” it is most difficult to decide whether it goes with the preceding verses or 3:8 itself. For the purposes of this lesson I will use it in reference to 3:5-7.
- B. These verses are excellent to show the relationship between mercy, grace, salvation, the HS, and baptism. Truly we have been justified by grace when we are baptized.
- C. Mercy comes before grace. While there is little difference in the terms, mercy is “the outward manifestation of pity” while grace is the “giving of an unmerited gift.” To my thinking God had mercy on our sinful condition (pity for us that prompted Him to act). He then bestowed grace in the gift of Jesus Christ of which man did not earn or deserve.
- D. While not explicitly taught, what else could “the washing of regeneration and renewal by the HS” mean other than the commanded baptism of Ac. 2:38?
- E. In responding to God’s mercy in JC and being baptized, and being renewed by the HS, we are then justified. Not by our own works but by God’s grace.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Paul makes a great emphasis on certain teachings in his letters to Timothy and Titus but use of the phrase “it is a faithful saying” or “it is a trustworthy statement.”
- B. It is similar to Paul saying in other places, “I lie not,…”
- C. With our closing emphasis on Titus 3:4-8, I ask, have you been justified by His grace by your obedience to “the washing of regeneration and renewal by the HS?”
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.