

SET THINGS IN ORDER

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: Titus 3:1-8. From Roy H. Enoch (05-02-1993).
- C. Paul sends this letter to Titus about the same time as the first letter to Timothy.
 - 1. Probably sent after his release from the imprisonment in Rome at the close of Acts.
 - 2. These events do not fit into Luke's narrative of Paul's work in the book of Acts.
 - 3. This was likely in the mid-sixties AD.
- D. Paul gives Titus two tasks in 1:5:
 - 1. Paul gives instructions for the second task in chapter one.
 - 2. Chapters 2,3 directs him in the teaching and correcting that was needed.

TITUS WAS TO "SET IN ORDER THE THINGS THAT ARE LACKING" IN XIAN CONDUCT (Ch. 2,3).

- A. Paul first lists several groups that need specific instruction in 2:10.
 - 1. The older men and women were to be encouraged, instructed, and directed in appropriate work.
 - a. We often focus on the youth, but the older people have a large part of the knowledge and experience of the church.
 - b. They often give a large part of the budget, more in accord w/their abilities than others.
 - c. Yet they are often forgotten when the work of the church is planned.
 - d. They are often ignored or taken for granted when work is assigned.
 - e. Remember the older members: help them and use them.
 - 2. The younger are to be instructed and encouraged rather than entertained (2:4-6).
 - 3. Titus is reminded to pay attention to his own conduct (2:7,8).
 - a. Set an example of good works that could be a pattern.
 - b. Be honest and faithful in your teaching.
 - c. Show reverence and respect to God and man.
 - d. Let your speech be serious and sound to avoid condemnation.
 - e. Preachers need to follow these instructions.
 - 4. Slaves were to be respectful, obedient, and honest that they might glorify God (2:9,10).
- B. Xian morality is based on salvation by grace (2:11-14).
 - 1. The "grace of God that brings salvation" seems to refer to the gospel as in Rom. 1:16.
 - a. By this time it had been preached in every nation (Col. 1:23).
 - b. Preachers must be sure to preach the same message.
 - c. Glorify God rather than men in view of the coming of the Lord.
- C. He gives a charge to Titus (2:15).
 - 1. "These, then, are the things you should teach."
 - a. What we teach is more important than how we teach.
 - b. It is not enough to believe them ourselves: teach them.
 - 2. But how we teach is also important: "Encourage and rebuke w/all authority." (NIV)
 - a. The encouragement should come first and abundantly.
 - b. "rebuke w/ all authority" has been widely interpreted.
 - 1) Those who taught "evangelistic oversight" claimed that this gives the preacher authority over congregations without elders, and some even claimed that the "evangelist" was over elders.
 - 2) Earl D. Edwards gives an excellent review of the work and authority of evangelists in two issues of *Alternative*, Vol. VIII, Summer and Fall, 1982. He calls attention to the preposition "meta" with the genitive which substitutes the dative of manner that would indicate the manner of speaking rather than the authority of the speaker. (Richard F. Weymouth NT of 1903 translates the passage, "encourage and rebuke w/ all

- impressiveness.”)
- 3) Titus should preach God’s word authoritatively as from God and not from men.
3. “Let no one despise you.”
- a. When we present God’s word we should not be ashamed, nor let it be ridiculed.
 - b. Emphasize that it is God’s word and focus on that.
- D. “Remind them” of seven rules for all (3:1,2).
- E. He reminds them of 7 aspects of their behavior before they were saved (3:3,4).
- F. He tells Titus to remind them that good deeds are an obedient response of one who has believed the goodness and love of God (3:5-8).
1. The entire letter has focused on teaching that which is good and maintaining good works.
 - a. An elder must be “a lover of what is good” (1:8).
 - b. Young women are to be taught to be “good” (2:5).
 - c. Titus was to show himself “a pattern of good works” (2:7).
 - d. Slaves were to show “all good fidelity” or that they could be trusted (2:10).
 - e. God’s own special people were to be “zealous for good works” (2:14).
 - f. Everyone was to be reminded “to be ready for every good work.” 3:1.
 - g. “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works” (3:8).
 - h. “And let our people also learn to maintain good works to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful” (3:14).
 2. It should be our emphasis today, but we must be careful that we do not give the impression that these “good works” earn salvation, but rather are the result of it.
- G. Evil things and evil people were to be avoided (3:9-11).
1. We must be ready to defend the truth, but make sure that the issues are truly scriptural.
 2. Reject one who tries to cause divisions after the second warning.
 3. We can be too accommodating to false teachers by giving them a forum.
- H. Paul concludes the letter w/ two instructions to Titus about his travels and a final greeting and benediction (3:12-15).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Xianity is not a life of indifference or convenience.
 1. X did not purchase salvation w/ convenience.
 2. Neither can we receive it at our convenience and practice it at our leisure.
- B. Worship is not “what we like” but “what God says” pleases him.
 1. The purpose of worship is not to please ourselves.
 2. It is to praise God and glorify Him.
 3. It is also to instruct, encourage and correct us all according to God’s directions.
- C. Our greatest happiness is following God’s direction rather than gratifying ourselves.
- D. Therefore we should preach and learn 3:8.