



Called into His Service

Titus 1:1-4

Paul J. Bucknell

Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, 3* but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior; 4* to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

Introduction

Every relationship that we have has the potential of bringing forth God's love and light to others. We might not regularly think about the people we meet as in this light, but we should. This is the difference between a mature Christian and an immature one.



The mature Christian is aware of those around him or her and constantly discerning what is God's purpose for him in relationship to him. A person around us might be discouraged. When we notice that, we pray and seek the Lord for words of comfort

that we might be able to say. The immature Christian, however, focuses on how others fulfill his own needs. If he or she is happy, they exude a sense of happiness. But if they are upset, one can easily notice that they want everyone else around to notice and feel pity on them. Sometimes this is done by withdrawing oneself; at other times by complaining.



Paul showed himself to be a man who cared for others. In between prison sentences, he could not get the church off his heart. He cared for those in Crete even though it might have only been a month that he was there. He remembered them, though, and

Notice the people around us.
Prayerfully observe their needs.
Meet those needs as God enables.

heard of their plight. It is this relationship of love that stands behind any office that makes it so powerful. He was not just exerting his authority. He cared for the people and therefore exerted his authority. God's will is most easily discovered by looking at the needs of those God brings into your lives.

It is true that we all are very different, especially compared to Paul the Apostle. He had a special role in life. But we do too. We have much more in common than we would normally think about. It starts with observing those around us. Secondly, we are to care for them. Thirdly, we are to follow up that concern. Whether here and elsewhere at work, home or while traveling. We are on a mission. We have different gifts, resources and capacities, but like Paul, we are called to make ourselves available to Him and others. Let's try learning from Paul on how to be sensitive care for others.

<p>An Outline of Titus 1:1-4</p> <p>A. Our Personal Calling (Titus 1:1) How God's community is formed</p> <p>B. Our Corporate Mission (Titus 1:1-3) What God's community exists for</p> <p>C. Our Joint Task (Titus 1:4) How God's community functions</p>
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From Titus 1:1-4 we find three characteristics behind a mature Christian that God can greatly use.

A. Our Personal Calling (Our Names) (Titus 1:1)

“Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,” Titus 1:1.

1. Our Name

Some might wonder why the apostle had his personal name, “Paulos” as the first word of this letter. This was the typical way to start a letter. I remember studying Chinese and how to write a traditional letter. The opening and closure were very important. Moreover, there were strict rules that dictated how to do it.

We might be shy about who we are, but God certainly isn't. He wanted each of us to be unique. Even twins are special in their own way. Saul, of course, was his name when converted. He was a highly educated and zealous Jewish man that protected his traditional Jewish religion from this fast growing group called, “The Way.” He even secured permission to visit other cities and arrest participants in “The Way.” God amazingly converted him just before he arrived in the city of Damascus.

We do not have time to discuss much of his background here (read the Book of Acts), but we must remember this man is not your typical traditionalist. God changed his life and made him a person through whom the Lord changed many people. This is what a Christian is. Although he could have boasted of his high educational titles and the influential positions he had held in the past, he first and largely saw himself for who he was. It is the same place we need to find ourselves if we are going to get clear minded in a very confusing society. We are saved from some form of bondage to this world.

In this world where people are convinced that they are a blob of chemicals sloshing about, we all the more need to hear of God's special design for our lives. The false message of our irrelevance plagues this generation. But when you allow the truth of God to shape your life, you realize you are no accident, even if your parents hadn't thought about you coming into the world. God purposed it. God furthermore designed you so that you could serve Him by loving others. Paul, the missionary, used his few remaining months to help protect and develop the churches there on the island of Crete and elsewhere.

Remember. Love starts with you. A person that wills to care for another. If there is no you, then what love could have been is not there. Satan surely seeks to destroy us by stripping us from our true identity and power to commit ourselves to others, whether it be a family member as mother, a child or a casual Christian who doesn't want to commit himself to a local assembly. Who are you? What is your name? Paul's name means little. He considered himself the littlest in the kingdom of God because of his persecution against Christians. God will use everyone a bit different. Our life search will be to better understand how God has equipped us to serve others and commit ourselves to doing those very things.

2. Our Master

After using his name, Paul called himself a bond-servant which equally can be translated servant or slave of God. The original language used (Greek) does not make a difference between the terms even though the English language does. Back then, a person who was not his own master was another's a slave- a 'doulos.' One might think it odd that he starts this way, but it is the right way, not just for him but for all of us.

There really is no such thing as a free person. Everyone is a slave. The key is to find to whom you belong. Paul defined his master to be God-a slave of God. God was his owner. The popular expression, "I am my own master" has confused an endless number of people and made ourselves out to be gods.

The problem with this mentality is that while seeking the thrill ride of their lives, they unknowingly become more and more fixed in the grip of the evil one. They see life as a wild roller coaster. They think they chose to get on the ride. They even paid the ticket. But what they don't realize is that the whole amusement park, that they they grew up in, belongs to the evil one.



The roller coaster is just another means the evil one swallows up its deluded riders. Closer and closer to destruction they descend.

“If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

The greatest confusion among people today is to confuse their lusts with their true selves. Although people are told that their feelings are their true selves, it is a lie. Your feelings are not yourselves. A person’s sin nature might lead him to steal something (a feeling that it would be good to do), but a person has a conscience that helps him pinpoint himself to who he really is. The conscience might say that stealing is wrong. This is the real person. Jesus spoke real clearly about our identity.

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s offspring, and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You shall become free?’” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. “And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. “If therefore the Son shall

make you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:31-36.

Paul uses the terms flesh and spirit to describe the two spheres under which we will live our lives. It cannot be both. The flesh speaks about all the self-focused desires. While the Spirit speaks of the way God’s empowers a Christian to act normal and love others.

The purpose of the evil one is to destroy and kill. He gets people so excited about the present, they don’t take a look ahead. One homosexual cried in front of me about seeing his young friend die of AIDS. They step in the way of death without looking ahead. They are trapped, but Paul and the people of God have been set free. More people need to be set free.

Real freedom comes not from being one’s own free man but by having a good and gracious master. The Christian can grow in his or her spiritual life only when he clarifies who he is serving. I like how Paul emphasizes this at the beginning of his letter. If the letter stopped here, we would already know much about Paul.

But many Christians are tormented by their own indecision as to who they will serve. As long as we keep the flames of our own desires and ambition alive, we will be tormented by sin and worry. We will be driven along like a boat in a storm.

We only find peace like Paul when we realize our ship is about to fall apart in a very big ocean, and we ask the Lord to take charge of our ship. Becoming a Christian is essentially the change of masters. We go from darkness to light, from serving the evil one to

Master



FREEDOM

Free to do what one wants

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. (Jn 8:34)

serving God the Creator, from seeking our own fulfillment to seeking to fulfill the needs of others. If you haven't turned your life over to the Master, then know for sure your life is being swallowed up by the evil one. Your end is coming soon. Cry out to God for salvation now!

To whom do you belong? If you say Christ, then let it be Christ. No longer say that Christ is my Savior but do other things. That would betray your true master. You cannot have two masters. Be brave. Make a decision. Like Joshua say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" Paul saw his life like that, and it became a solid foundation from which he could properly understand his whole life and existence.

3. Our Special Design

"Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

Paul also says that he is an apostle of Jesus Christ. An apostle is a sent one. God sent him into the world. He was thrust forth. Yes, he wanted to go to some places that he couldn't. Other places that he went to, didn't want him. Nevertheless, God wanted him to go as God ordained him, he went.

Many people ask about finding the purpose of their own lives. They might not be an apostle, but still God has specially made, formed and created a plan for them. Ephesians 2:10 says that He has mapped out for each of us the good works we are to carry out. Remember, that you will never be content with your special calling if you are not sure of your general calling to be a slave to Christ.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10.

Any special purpose in life must be carried out in light of the general calling. Saul was appointed God's first king over Israel. But problems for him and then, problems for others through him occurred, because he refused to live in light of the general calling to do what God wanted.

"So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it, and did not inquire of the LORD. Therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse." 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14.

People often think that being a father or mother will automatically make them a good father or mother. This is by no means the case. I hope you are, but it is not by any means automatic. Being a good father is a life of deliberate purpose seeking out God's ways in your home as the appointed leader. Only dying to yourself can free you to be what God wants for you as a father, mother or single. The same is true even if you be a student, doctor or professor. You want to be that student for the Lord, a doctor for the Lord, a professor for the Lord. You can only be such if you thoroughly recognize that you are not living for yourself but for the Lord. You are not permitted like others to



seek a good and content life on earth. You have been set on a higher mission. It is a holy calling to serve the Lord. It is disastrous to profane your holy calling by dare living for yourself. One might not be a Christian in this case.

God called Paul to be an apostle. This would largely shape how he would carry out his good works. One might think of it as a template, that is, a prescribed approach to life. Each of us is different. Our gifting, burdens and resources influences how we are to carry these things out. It is imperative that we place our career and life within the Lord's own purposes.

B) Our Corporate Mission (Titus 1:1-3)

Paul could see what he was clearly called to. The more clearly we see what the Lord wants, the easier it is to accomplish it. As an apostle of the Lord, one which was thrown out upon pagan lands to proclaim God's truth and start the church, Paul was specially gifted with certain aspects of declaring the gospel. But all of us as His people share a common element of this in our own lives and professions. Remember, we live in light of our general calling as His child.

Paul used a few key phrases here. Each is very helpful. We can see three things that he focused on: The Purpose, Power and Proclamation.

1. The Purpose

Paul said that he was so equipped by God for two reasons. Note the word "for" used in verse 1. The word 'for' here signifies the purpose for which God made him.

*"Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **for** the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life,*

• for the faith of those chosen of God

Paul has clarified very clearly who he is serving: other believers or believers to be. It is for the building up of their faith that God has called him. God is effectively carrying out the expansion of His kingdom through Paul's life. A person's faith is built up by the faithful teaching and proclaiming of God's Word without any corrupt motives. Although the world might be tenaciously fighting the Lord, we should not think He is at all frustrated. He is accomplishing all of His great work.

Some people resist the idea of God's people being chosen. Some are adverse to a chosen people because from their perspective God is not fair. But the truth is, if God is fair then we all must go to hell. It is what we deserve—judgment. That is justice. The word chosen speaks about a concept deeply connected to grace and kindness.

God being just and yet gracious, reached out to mankind through His Son. God was willing for His Son to die for these people. This is love. God did not have to love one person let along a multitude beyond number. But this is what He has done. This is not a new thought. All the way through the scriptures this idea of being chosen is trum-

peted about. "O seed of Israel His servant, Sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!" (1 Chronicles 16:13).

The other reason people resist this idea is because they are counting on their works. They figure if it is by their works, then it is not because they are chosen. They are prideful of their works, wherein fact, they should be boasting of Christ their Savior and see all our works as dead works which could never make one perfect.

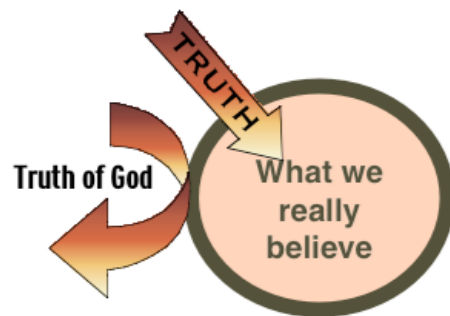
This aspect of being chosen is beautiful. No man is faulted for not wanting to marry every young woman. He has every right to choose His bride. God chose the bride. This is clearly stated here. The Lord did not foresee that a certain group would first choose Him, and then respond to them. That is convoluted thinking. He chose them to be owned by Him. And then, in time, God saved them.

This, of course, does not mean that the Christian will not fight with numerous battles. This letter showed how Paul and the Christians in Crete faced many obstacles.

- **the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life,**

Paul's calling is not only for building up the faith of the chosen, but also for their knowledge of truth. The real fight is not with swords but with the truth of God. Once we understand that the strength of God's workers is directly related to how they allow God's truth to shape their life, then we will perhaps stop playing with the world and start obeying the Word of God.

We should recognize that secularism humanism has taken over public education (and much of private education too) as well as almost all forms of media. As a result we are a very secular people. We think we know the truth but that confidence leads us into blindness. Confused by this delusion, the average Christian only encounters casual study of God's Word. If you are a connoisseur of movies, do you realize that unless you at least balance that with equal time in God's Word, that the message of the world will get through stronger? How dare we think that our children, who sit through hours of school classes with a strong bent on humanism, can ever live godly lives? I am not stating that it is impossible for people to come to know the Lord in such situations. But without a deliberate purpose of learning God's Word and having it influence our lives, we will slide into hell's mouth with only a form of truth.



For instance, Paul states two important characteristics of truth. First of all he says truth is **according to godliness**. In other words, God's principles have everything we do with how we live our lives. If the truths of God do not shape how one dates, talks, forgives and be full of good deeds, then one can be sure that the truth has not entered that one's life.

Paul recognized that something else shaped the lives of many Christians in Crete and elsewhere. The truth did not thoroughly affect the people. Most so-called Christians today look and sound like the world. Without the truth of God, there is no freedom from sin. Indeed there is no salvation. The church must clearly unashamedly identify that it depends on the truth of God. The truth of God goes far beyond what the typical Christian thinks it does and therefore does not occupy a significant place in their lives.

Unless we purposely foster times with the truth of God so that it can enter our minds, we will be shaped more by the secular culture than God's Word. We need to be more earnest in meeting with God in His Word each day so that we can become like Him.

Paul knows where the battles are fought. It is in the delusion of those around him. It is through their confidence in untrue things that people perish. They brag about their experiences instead of thinking how they are going to get out of there. Indeed, now is the time to repent. Now is the time to see your sins as God sees them. Call out to Jesus, and He will save you. If you don't think He hears you, then cry out louder until He does. Remember that the philosophies of the world will not bring you to Christ's likeness., but God's truths always do.

We also see another effect of the truth of God. It is "in the hope of eternal life." We throw this phrase '**eternal life**' around a lot, but many of us have no real understanding of it.

"The knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, even His word."

First of all, we should see that it is extricably linked to godliness. Without godliness, there is no hope for eternal life. The point is this. If you can be satisfied in some habitual sin, then more than likely you do not have the Spirit of God in you. I know you can say something about some past testimony, but frankly, godliness accompanies eternal life. If you attend a church that doesn't live above the world, then get out. That is a ship headed for hell.

Secondly, we need to realize that eternal life has to do with the way the truth of God shapes our lives. In this age of toleration, we think we can belief what we want. But the hope of eternal life is anchored to the truth of God. If you do not accept the truth of God, then you do not love God and His Word.

Let me share with you why many cannot accept the truth.

When people accept the truth of God, they also have to reform their lives. Repentance always accompanies the embracing of God's truth. One cannot separate the two. Many have been antagonistic against the truth but really they are only defending their wretched lifestyle. If they accept Christ, they must repent. They are right. We should at least compliment these unbelievers for getting this true. For there are many others, who would insist that they can believe in Christ and go on in their ungodly behavior. Yes, he is getting a divorce. Yes, he lives with a girl. Yes, they lie or steal. These people need to realize that they are living in a delusion that will cost them their lives.



Some romantic liberals pretend they can be like Jesus without believing in the physical resurrection of Jesus, the blood atonement of the cross or the Genesis model of marriage. But their confidence is in a foolish religion, perhaps called Christianity or Presbyterianism, etc., that has nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with the Gospel.

Let's look a bit closer at what 'eternal life' means.

Many people think of eternal life only in the context of an extended life. Eternal life means a life without end. The Moslem thinks like this. For him, eternal life is an opportunity to live out his lusts. But many so-called Christians think like this too. But this is a very incomplete concept of eternal life. This is not eternal life. That is eternal death. These people only want to live out their false ways. They don't want God's ways otherwise they would choose them on earth. Eternal life, rightly speaking, begins on earth when one comes to know God through Jesus Christ. It is here, that this new life begins. The true Christian will go through a transition of throwing off this body (in physical death), but only to gain an immortal one. But what they seek and love will exist only for them in a greater way. They will live in God's holy presence and only desire God's ways.

Back in the Garden of Eden, there were two trees. We usually focus on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There was another tree which Adam and Eve did not choose to eat. That was the tree of life.

"And the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Genesis 2:8, 9. "but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:17.

My guess is that when they finally got to the center of the garden and saw the two trees, the serpent attracted them to focus on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with his pretty colors and soothing voice. Temptation led them astray. Paul says it is the knowledge of truth that saves. They rejected truth for an acquiring of more knowledge. This curiosity to know everything (good and evil) gets us going down all sorts of bad corridors. We should only expect to meet the worse.

Life, however, is that image of what we read of in the garden before sin arrived. Life is that glorious and wonderful relationship with God in which all of His goodness comes to bear itself on your existence. Life is living in light of all His truths. For it is only in His truths, that His goodness can be witnessed, accepted and fully enjoyed. Evil people are caught up in a pursuit of their own success and can't stand God's ways or His truth. Eternal life is not a ticket to heaven but a living out of God's truth now and forever into the future. The church needs to waken up to the glory of what it has. The Lord says it is so great that it makes itself desirable to those around them.

2. The Power

The truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior.

The power behind the truth is that what God says is always true. Notice the statement, God “cannot lie.” The power behind truth is God Himself. He cannot lie. Once He pledges, He works it through. Truth is the message of redemption that takes man out of his misery and suffering. The truth is the means by which man is recovered from his wayward lives and asked to participate in God’s grand kingdom plans. God has promised this ages ago. Even as early as Genesis 3:15, we see the truth of God planted as a seed in the heart of man.

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.” Genesis 3:15.

The tempter with all his plans will be bruised on the head. At the proper time, Christ came into the world just as His Word had proclaimed. We do not have time to go into all the prophecies regarding Christ’s life and ministry, but just read the Book of Matthew or Hebrews and note all the quotes from the Old Testament (usually the quotes are set apart by italics). God was feeding His people more and more leads as to who and what would happen. Hebrews 1:1–2 says,

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” Heb 1:1, 2.

3. The Proclamation

Paul goes back and speaks how he ended up proclaiming this message. The Lord converted him and told him that he needed to take the message to the nations, that is, the Gentiles.

“But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”” Acts 9:15, 16.

Paul as an apostle was of course expected to proclaim the Gospel, the truth of God’s Word that leads to salvation. But we are too! We are not apostles, but we are those who are privileged to know and share Christ. We should always be alert to how God would want us to share His Word.

C. Our Joint Task (Titus 1:4)

Paul defines here how the community of God functions. It is not enough to speak about calling and mission. Relationship is very important for it is the place love reveals itself. We will find both the need for others and the investment of our lives into them.

1. The Need for others (body)

As we earlier mentioned, Paul did not see him doing everything. The church is likened to a body. Not everyone is an arm nor a foot. Paul was very determined to fulfill his role as an apostle, but he fully realized that much more was at work. In fact, it is Paul himself that writes so much about the body of Christ and spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

Titus probably was led to the Lord by Paul himself. This is why he probably calls him “my true child in a common faith.” If you lead others to faith, you become spiritual fathers and mothers too. God wants to bear more children into His family through our lives and testimonies. Don’t be scared. He will help you.

But what we find in Paul is very right and special. It is what we want to find in this community of God’s people. Although Paul had the gift of healing and miracles and had a great testimony of preaching the gospel, he depended on others. Many leaders are not like this. Everything points to them. They just take the world and put it in the church.

I heard recently of one experienced pastor/missionary. He is about to retire and those left behind are scared. This man, godly enough, carried out servant leadership without hesitation. That is good. He was there opening up, preaching, teaching and even cleaning up. He would welcome people and visit people. He did everything and everyone else watched. When he left, no one had confidence to do anything. This man did not have the right concept of the body of Christ. Christ served but He also sent disciples out.

Paul here depends on Titus to carry out a task that he could not do. He did not let his pride interfere with the need of God’s people. He prized those that grew up in the faith around him. A great leader is known from the way he works and depends upon those around him. It is not his special gifts and great works that sets him apart, but his deep awareness that he is just one member of the body and that everyone is important.

2. The Investment in others (training)

We should mention one other aspect that is very obvious here. A good father cares for his children. He shows this care by involving himself in the child’s life to learn what the child needs to learn. Depending on who it is and what area of life it is, the involvement can greatly differ. I was recently giving instruction to one son on how to properly recycle garbage so that the flies wouldn’t come around. I was helping another one to tie a shoe. I am helping another by going through training material on how to overcome anxiety.

Paul in a similar way was helping Titus where he thought he needed help. The rest of the Book of Titus forms this help. We will be speaking more about this. And yes, though the end result was going to be the benefitted churches in Crete, Paul was training Titus and helping him succeed.

Many a time, we fail because we set a person to do a certain thing, but we do not provide assistance. We ask them to teach Sunday School or count money or visit someone, but we do not provide the necessary details. I have failed in this myself, but have

learned, through parenting many children, that good training also means not only to privilege others by having them participate in tasks, but to specifically identify the tasks and make sure that they know how to do each one.

I was helping my wife the other day. With the wedding and different responsibilities, she was being overwhelmed with the many things to do. I care for her. I pray for her. So I showed her how to manage many things and prioritize tasks. I needed to pay attention to the way she worked. I would do it a bit different for myself but was willing to help her in a way that best suited her own way of doing things. She felt my love by my patient training.

Training is the way we show we love those around us. It enables us to take what perhaps has taken us many years to learn and pass it on in minutes. Titus might have been a bit fearful, but he had some one there that would make him a success. Paul in this way exemplified Christ and His way of working in us that we might succeed.

Conclusion

Our personal calling, our corporate mission and our joint task. No Christian should be off wandering by himself. Yes, we are individuals and we have our wills. But as a Christian, we belong to God. We are not our own. We have been bought with a price. The Lord's mission becomes our mission. His work becomes our work. Yes, we have our own jobs and lives, but His mission shapes all that we do. We cannot succeed by ourselves. We are to succeed with others. Everyone is important, and so we involve our time and resources investing ourselves in the lives of others. In this way, they grow quicker and end up in many cases doing a job better than ourselves. It is a shame that so few Christians have been disciplined. Let not that curse be upon our church.

Instead, let us take the full blessing of God upon ourselves. Remember. God's ways are the best. His goodness and truth are fully compliment each other. We are not only to say things and know things but practice them so that all of us work together in joy serving our great Master. May His kingdom come on earth even as in heaven.

Called into His Service: Summary

- ◆ *How God's community is formed*
Each Christian is a special design of God. We excel only when we consecrate our lives to our Lord.
- ◆ *What God's community exists for*
Living out and proclaiming God's truth influences how we do everything in life.
- ◆ *How God's community functions*
We treasure carrying out God's work in cooperation with others and assist them as we are able.

Bible Study Questions on Titus 1:1-4

Called into His Service

A. Our Personal Calling (Titus 1:1)

How God's community is formed

"Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ (Titus 1:1, NASB).

**Each Christian is a special design of God.
We excel only when we consecrate our lives to our Lord.**

1. Who wrote the book of Titus? What does the name 'Paul' mean (look it up)? Look at 1 Timothy 1:15 and speculate why Paul might have adopted this new name.
2. What was Paul's old name? Recall 7 facts about Paul's former life and conversion.
3. What does your name mean? Names are significant because there is a real person behind each one that God cares for. Share some special aspect of your life, perhaps your own conversion.
4. Altogether Paul uses three phrases to describe himself. His name is the first one. What are the two other phrases he uses to describe himself (1)?
5. Check other versions to see various translations for the second description. They come from the Greek word *doulos*. There is no difference between servant and slave in the Greek world even though there is in English. Who is he a slave to?
6. Why would Paul use such a title to describe himself?
7. Would you use this term to describe yourself? Why or why not?
8. Paul lastly describes his special calling as an apostle. What does apostle mean? What does an apostle do?
9. Paul was very effective in his ministry partially because he was clear as to what God had for his life. What does God want to do through your life? As one of His children, we can be sure that every person has a calling, whether a Mom, Dad, single, all have our purpose. God works His purpose through each of us.

B. Our Corporate Mission (Titus 1:1-3)

“Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior;” (Titus 1:1-3, NASB).

What God’s community exists for

Living out and proclaiming God’s truth influences how we do everything in life.

10. The word ‘mission’ describes the purpose for an individual and more commonly a group or organization. What two things summarized Paul’s mission or purpose for life (1)? (Note: See the word ‘for’ in verse 1).
11. What does it mean by ‘For the faith’? Put that in your own words. How would he help them in their faith?
12. Election (i.e. God chooses who is to be saved) is a tough issue for some. Why? Does verse 1 teach election? How so?
13. What is one valuable application of election to our lives?
14. The second purpose is to advance their ‘knowledge of the truth.’ How is this knowledge different from other kinds of knowledge? How is it valuable? Why is it so important to Paul?
15. Some people assert they believe in Christ but do not have Him as Lord. How can one use the phrase “truth according to godliness” to expose their false thinking?
16. What is eternal life? Where might this term originate? (Think back to the garden.)
17. What does verse 2 say about God? How does this affect the words God speaks? Are your words so reliable? Why or why not?
18. List three Old Testament prophecies that were filled at the right time by Christ’s life and death (3).



C. Our Joint Task (Titus 1:4)

"to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior." Titus 1:4, NASB.

How God's community functions

**We treasure carrying out God's work
in cooperation with others and assist them as we are able.**

19. Who did Paul write the Book of Titus to? What do we know of him through this verse (4)? If you have time, do a Bible search of his name and see what else you can find about him.
20. What kind of relationship do you think Paul had with Titus from what we read here?
21. Do those in authority always have a close relationship with those they work with? Why or why not?
22. Why is Paul writing to him (see 1:5)? Paul entrusted this work to Titus. Is it easy for you to share the work with others or do you have to do it in order "to get it done right"?
23. The Book of Titus was actually a letter to help Titus properly carry out his work. Have you trained anyone before? Who? What? Make sure you include different groups of people like at work, family, friends, church, etc.
24. How does training help people?
25. Have you ever been given something to do but not know how to do it?