

The Lord's Day April 19, 2020

When I was asked to share something for today from message 3, I began to write something down. I wanted to have something of what I felt was Titus' main burden.

After the sharing when Timothy told us what Caleb and Matthew had said on Cleveland's website, "Do you care? Do you really care?" I was very much convicted in my conscience. I began to consider that the real caring for what the Lord desires is in our spirit where the caring One resides. Our emotions can be stirred after hearing message 3 and our spirit say "Amen", but how do we sustain a genuine caring for what the Lord desires; something new, something fresh?

Titus shared, "We are still fighting, struggling between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, between the age of law and the age of grace. When we are according to the law, we do things out of duty, but in His grace, we are short of nothing because we have the bountiful supply of the Spirit, which, or who is just Christ Himself. What is religion? Custom. We just get used to the way things are. We used to sing a song: We aren't here for local church religion — it's no better than the rest. Let's not care for forms or regulations — only CHRIST NOTHING LESS!

Just presenting our bodies without any sight or vision that we've enjoyed from the Lord as grace can be just a habit. So like Zachariah, we aren't expecting anything new. We may be godly and faithful and fulfilling our duty so that it becomes our custom - we become accustomed to it. Titus shared that we just need more grace; more abiding in Him so that we can live by Him and with Him; more visions and revelations to deliver us from our custom.

So, something new doesn't come from merely changing our practices, it comes from enjoying Christ as grace in this dispensation of grace. It also requires our wanting to have a new beginning with the Lord day by day. Titus said our real church life is in our operation during the weekdays. Nobody can do this for you. It is our responsibility in accordance with this grace to enjoy the Lord day by day especially in the word till we see a vision or have some revelation and not just go to the word out of habit. In Matt. 25, the parable of the 10 virgins, the 5 foolish ones who took no extra oil in their vessels asked for some oil from the 5 prudent ones, but the prudent ones answered "go and buy for yourselves." Titus said that

if 10, 20, 30 brothers and sisters could declare "I want to live a life by grace" how great that would be!

So, brothers and sisters, for a new fresh church life, we need to be new and fresh ourselves, not living in the old dispensation, but the new — really caring for the Lord and His church. We don't want to just go home to our old life. Titus said we all come home to our old life and the Lord thru His government says, "I will cause a certain virus to come up and you will be home adequately— Too adequately! You will get tired of your home until what— by being home you have a desire, Lord, something new, something new. I want something new!"

So, brothers and sisters we are truly blessed to be in the church life listening to what is on the Lord's heart. May we all go on in the New Covenant of grace and life and not in the Old Covenant of habit, custom and religion.

Bob Burhenne

The church in Willoughby