

=THE EPISTLES=

Lesson 11

Paul's Epistle to Titus

AIM: to teach my pupils the purpose of patience in difficult times.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils to give an example of a time when they thought they could not see their way through, a time of discouragement or despair.

INTRODUCTION: Titus was one of Paul's preacher boys. He had been sent to pastor on an island called Crete. The work had become very difficult, and Titus had become discouraged. He had written Paul and asked if he could be relieved of his responsibility. Paul wrote him back and told him to stay in Crete. Let us look at the purpose behind this.

I. WHY TITUS WAS TO STAY IN CRETE.

1. Crete needed Titus. (II Corinthians 8:6)
 - 1) They needed Titus to finish what he had begun.
 - 2) There were people who were unruly and vain talkers who needed to be helped. Review Titus 1:10, 11. Notice in verse 11, "Whose mouths must be stopped."
 - 3) Paul called them "liars, evil beasts, slow bellies," in Titus 1:12. The words, "slow bellies," mean "lazy gluttons."
 - 4) They needed rebuking. (Titus 1:13)
 - 5) They needed to be sound in the faith.

In other words, Crete needed Titus. There are many places where the work is hard, discouraging, and unrewarding; and yet, those places need preachers, teachers, and Sunday school workers. When the going gets hard is not the time to quit; that's the time we are needed most!

2. Titus needed Crete. There is something about tough times that all of us need. They do something for us that nothing else will do. There is an education in having it difficult that is necessary for a successful servant of God. Titus needed those experiences. He needed to fight the battle for his own good. God knew that Titus needed to have hard times financially, emotionally, etc. When times of discouragement come, remember that God may be pruning us for greater things in the future. That is one of the most tragic things of our day. Our boys and girls are growing up on a silver platter with not enough adversity to educate them properly.
3. God needed Titus in Crete. God needs people to stand in difficult places. Anyone can stand when the going is easy, but God needs men such as Titus to stand in difficult places. God needs you, and God needs me in this dark day to stand, even though the going is rough.

II. WHAT TITUS WAS TO PREACH IN CRETE, Titus 2:1-15.

1. He was to preach to the aged men. He was to tell them to "be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience," Titus 2:2.
2. He was to preach to the aged women. They are to be holy, careful with their tongues, not given to liquor, good Sunday school teachers, good instructors of their daughters and young women, etc. (Titus 2:3, 4)
3. He was to preach to the young women. They should be sober, good wives to their husbands, good mothers to their children, pure, good housekeepers, submissive wives, etc. (Titus 2:4, 5)
4. He was to preach to the young men. They are to be sober, a good example, sound in doctrine, sincere, careful about their language, etc. (Titus 2:6-8)
5. He was to teach salvation by grace. (Titus 2:11)
6. He was to teach separation. (Titus 2:12)
7. He was to teach the Second Coming. (Titus 2:13-15)

CONCLUSION: We should never pray for God to give our preacher boys an easy life, but we should pray for God to give them faith and supply their needs in hours of testing. A good servant of God needs testing. May God help us to stand the test when it comes.