

For Sunday, October 27, 2019

The Pastoral Epistles

Titus 1:1-4 – “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command 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.”

Paul establishes his authorship immediately in this letter. He identifies himself as: 1) a servant of God, and 2) an apostle of Jesus Christ. The fact that Paul saw himself in these roles is enormous to the productivity of his ministry. His first recognition is the result of a humble position in relationship to God; he is His servant. The term “servant” could also be translated _____. The Greek word, “*doulos*” is defined as: “1) a male slave as an entity in a socioeconomic context, and 2) one who is solely committed to another,” – Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich.

An apostle is one who is commissioned. It is very different from a disciple. A disciple is a student, or understudy. Eleven of the twelve young men that Jesus called to himself to be mentored and taught as disciples went on after His resurrection to be commissioned to the work of the ministry as _____. Paul came to the apostleship late, as he is believed to mention in I Corinthians 15:8.

Paul continues to discuss the intent of his own apostleship, and why God would use him for His own work. Essentially, he serves for the purpose of God’s elect coming to faith and knowing the truth so that they would be able to live godly, as well as having full assurance of eternal life. This eternal life is key to Paul, and you notice that he dwells on this doctrine for a moment. It is:

Promised by a trustworthy God.

Promised before time began.

Made known through publicly sharing His Word.

The public sharing is a responsibility of Paul. His purpose in life is to preach the gospel, as a result of the command of God in his life.

Finally, in today’s text, we find the receptor of this letter. Titus is a young man that Paul led to the Lord. He is known to have pastored the church in Crete, and was believed to have been a strong leader in the early church. Paul blesses him with a greeting of grace and peace which is sourced in God the Father, and God the Son.