

For Sunday, December 29, 2019

The Pastoral Epistles

Titus 2:11-15 – “11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

This passage is written in a format that makes it easier for us to start in verse 15, and then work through the other four verses. Verse 15 says to do three things with the information from these verses:

Declare – speak these doctrines forth

Exhort – persuade, or invite people to live these doctrines

Rebuke – use these doctrines to prove people’s lives

These three things are to be done with “all authority.” This is a “my way or the highway” kind of statement. When we teach these things, we don’t dare compromise the message by exercising political correctness, attempting to not hurt feelings, or attempting to avoid conflict. We teach these doctrines with the understanding that we are giving voice to God’s message. With that position, or posture, we “let no one disregard” us. How does that happen?

We make a literal demand for respect. (Hmm. I don’t think so.)

We disregard people’s perspective, and only consider how we view ourselves, or perhaps how we want God to see us. (Still don’t think so.)

We teach true doctrine with confident assurance. The reaction of the listener will be other than disdain, though they may disagree, be angry, or imply superiority. The key is believing God’s Word to be right and true. (I think this is it.)

So, what is the doctrine we are to teach?

*** The revealed grace of God which: (What is this revealed grace of God?)**

1) Brings salvation to all people

2) Is training us to:

1- deny ungodliness

2- deny worldly passions

3- live lives that are:

1* self-controlled

2* upright

3* godly

4- wait for the second coming of Christ

This is the Christ who gave himself for us so we would be redeemed from chaos, and purified for His own possession and purposes.

As Christians, our primary doctrine to anyone around who will hear us is?

CHRIST