

Lesson 9 – Titus and Philemon

Text: Titus; Philemon

Key Passages:

- Philemon 15-16 – Perhaps Onesimus left for a short time so that he could be with Philemon forever.
- Titus 1:5-9 – Qualifications for elders in the church.

Titus - Background Information:

The letter to Titus is one written by an older preacher (Paul) to a younger one (Titus). It has many similarities to 1 Timothy, which was written by Paul to a similar type of person (Timothy). Titus had worked with Paul in different capacities, but it seems that, at the time of the writing, Titus was preaching without Paul in Crete. Notably, Titus had been with Paul and Barnabas when they returned to Jerusalem amidst the controversy about the Law of Moses and circumcision (Acts 15; Galatians 2:1-3). In his letter to Titus, Paul gave Titus some specific instructions regarding Titus' responsibilities and the proper conduct of Christians.

Titus - Outline:

- I. Purpose: to encourage and teach Titus, a young preacher, regarding his responsibilities
- II. Titus was left in Crete to help the churches and to appoint elders (1:5-16)
 - a. The elders were to have specific qualifications (1:5-9)
 - b. One of the main responsibilities of the elders is to guard the flock from false teachers (1:10-16)
- III. Teach sound doctrine to all of the different types of people, how they ought to act (2)
 - a. Older men should be sober, temperate, sound in faith, love, and patient (2:2)
 - b. Older women should be reverent, not gossipers, and should teach the younger women (2:3-4)
 - c. Younger women should learn to love their husbands and children and to be chaste (2:4-5)
 - d. Younger men should demonstrate a pattern of good works and integrity (2:6-8)
 - e. Servants should be loyal and obedient (2:9-10)
 - f. The grace of God teaches us to live soberly and righteously as we look for Jesus (2:11-15)
- IV. Various instructions (3:1-15)
 - a. Be careful to maintain good works (3:1-8)
 - b. Avoid foolish disputes and troublemakers (9-11)

Philemon - Background Information:

Philemon is a personal letter written by Paul to a brother he had converted, Philemon, who seems to have been a member of the church at Colossae along with Onesimus and Archippus (Colossians 4:9, 17). In addition to Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, Philemon is another of the four "prison letters" Paul wrote while he was in prison for the first time in Rome (Philemon 1, 10, 23). Paul wrote the letter to ask Philemon to have mercy on Onesimus, Philemon's slave. Onesimus had run away from Philemon and met Paul in Rome, where he was converted. Paul asked Philemon to receive him back as a brother without punishment.

Philemon - Outline:

- I. Purpose: to ask Philemon to take back Onesimus (his runaway slave) as a brother without punishment
- II. Paul was thankful and encouraged because of Philemon's faith and love for others (4-7)
- III. Paul requested that Philemon be willing to take back Onesimus (8-18)
 - a. Paul wanted Philemon to choose to do the right thing rather than be commanded (8-9, 14)
 - b. Onesimus had been converted while Paul was in prison (10)
 - c. Paul cared deeply for Onesimus and wanted him to stay with him in prison (12-13)
 - d. Paul asked Philemon to look at the situation optimistically; perhaps he left for a short time so that he could be with him forever as a brother (15-17)
 - e. Paul asked Philemon to hold him responsible for anything that Onesimus owed him (18)
- IV. Closing comments and encouragement (19-25)