

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 3 November 2024

Sermon Title : Saved For A Purpose

Speaker : Rev Peter Koh

Text : Titus 3:1-11

INTRODUCTION

This week we examine what Paul wrote to Titus, a Gentile believer who was facing problems with false teachings. Through the passage we are able to glean how we should conduct ourselves in this world we live in and understand God's purpose for our lives. We often need to be motivated to do well. We need a sense of purpose so that what we do will be meaningful. If we come to church Sunday after Sunday just to sing, after a while we will feel very dry. We need to know that the purpose we come to church is to worship and bless God and this will make our coming to church more meaningful. Similarly, when we know the purpose of why we join a Life Group or serve, it gives us the drive and passion to do well. Paul's letter was to encourage the Christians in Crete to help them understand how they can conduct themselves with a purpose.

1) A Reminder (vv. 1- 3)

Paul first reminds them:

a. How to live – To

- be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient – as we live in this world we need to submit to higher authorities even when they are unreasonable. The only time we can be disobedient is when the authorities insist that we disobey God. But we are not supposed to be passive Christians.
- be active Christians to be ready for every good work
- speak evil of no one
- avoid quarrelling
- be gentle and show perfect courtesy to all people

b. Their past – They were once:

- foolish
- led astray
- slaves to various passions and pleasures
- passing their days in malice and envy (want what others have)
- hated by others and hating others

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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On one hand we are to conduct ourselves rightly, but we may also come across people that we do not like, and we may become judgmental. Paul is reminding us that we were once like that too, foolish and disobedient, living as though God did not exist and rejected God's authority. In disobedience, we would not listen or respond to the voice of God and rebelled against His authority and argued with His commandments. We also lust for things, and we become slaves to the passion we have. When we are not careful, everyone else becomes unimportant except ourselves and our passion, even when we serve. Paul says we must be kind and gentle in serving others, treating them well and not talk bad, gossip or slander.

2) Renewed by God's grace (vv. 4-7) – Reason for living rightly

We are renewed by the Holy Spirit and regenerated. We are saved not by works but by God's grace. This is something we do not deserve but God has given it to us. We do not deserve to be God's children yet Jesus died for our sin on the cross so we cannot boast about how we are better than others. Learn from the past and live rightly.

3 things to consider when serving:

- a. Our Position** – appreciate the transformation of salvation
 - (i) Regenerated and renewed by His mercy and Holy Spirit
 - (ii) Being justified by His grace (v.7)

- b. Our Posture** – active involvement i.e. grace-filled living
 - (i) Obedience and readiness (v.1)
 - (ii) Humble and gentle (vv. 1-2)
 - (iii) Thankful (v.7)

In serving the Lord we embrace the joy of the Lord as our strength and remember that we do good works from salvation and not for salvation. This translates into active involvement and grace-filled living through exemplifying obedience, gentleness and thankfulness.

- c. Our Possession** – not material wealth and power
 - (i) Heirs according to the hope of eternal life (v.7)

Through the acceptance of Christ and being saved by His grace, our possessions are not defined by material wealth and power. For the reward is far greater than any earthly treasures as we have been justified by His grace and become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

3) Respond with good works (v. 8)

So, our response of doing good works is not to gain but to give and bless others. By devoting ourselves to good works, these acts of service to those we commune with are excellent, i.e. service of the highest quality, and profitable to them. Excellence is different from perfection as perfection is unattainable by man and often a time-consuming endeavour. Excellence is shown by God giving us His best, His Son coming

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as a humble man, yet many were blessed by His coming. Profitable in this verse is in the sense that those we serve, including pre-believers, being able to feel the presence of God and experience His love through us.

4) Refrain from useless quarrels (vv. 9-11)

Life is not always smooth sailing and there will be controversies and quarrels, and we need to avoid them. However, we must still take time to reach out to help people who cause dissension to come to their senses so they may experience God too. We can only cut them off after following what Jesus says we must do in Matthew 18:15-17, but they are still unwilling to change. We help people by trying to restore them but not waste time arguing. Pride puffs us up and people cannot see God if we are full of pride. If we are humble, gentle, loving and caring, more and more people will see God manifest in our lives – as little Christ lighting up the dark world.

CONCLUSION

May we always remember the purpose we are saved for – to learn from our past and live rightly because we have been renewed by God's grace. Let us also be mindful of our position, posture and possession as we respond with good works which comes out of our salvation, making all effort to avoid useless quarrels so our service will truly be profitable to all when they see and experience Christ in our lives.

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

3. Consider your past before you accepted Jesus into your life. With reference to these:

*“foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures, lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another”
(Titus 3:3)*

- a. Which of these described you?
- b. Which of these is/are still describing you now? (Read Titus 3:3-8 again to find out why this is still happening in your life)
- c. According to Titus 3:3-8, how can you live a renewed and regenerated life?
- d. How can your group members help or encourage you to achieve 3c. above?

4. *“But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law because these are unprofitable and useless.” (Titus 3:9)*

- a. Have you ever insisted on your view of the Bible or argued for it?
- b. Could pride be one of the reasons for your insistence or argument?
- c. What does this verse say to you?

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C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

5. Share your personal testimony on how God enabled you to live out the purpose Christ had saved you for, giving thanks and glory to Him.

OR

Give thanks to God that according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, we are justified by his grace and might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

6. As a group, seek the Holy Spirit's revelation if you have not lived out the purpose Christ has saved you for. Confess and repent if you have hindered the regenerative and renewal work of the Holy Spirit and commit to allow Him to work in you. Pray also for our church that every member and worshipper will conduct ourselves with a purpose so others may see and experience God's love in our lives.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. This is Amazing Grace – Phil Wickham
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQKj2Zptr0&ab_channel=PastorMadeline
2. Goodness of God – Bethel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4&ab_channel=musicmeetsheaven
3. Love of God – Phil Wickham and Brandon Lake
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5JBP8u78e4&ab_channel=ShekinahPraise

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