

Titus

Note:

In this teaching, the following terms are used: “new creation”, “new man” or “new self”, “Christ in You”, “holy spirit” and “gift of holy spirit”. All these terms refer to that which is received and born in a person when he or she becomes born again.

Turn to Deuteronomy 29

Before we begin with Titus, I will explain a concept that is expressed in this teaching.

Deuteronomy 29:29

29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

The spiritual things that were revealed to the children of Israel, both written and spoken initially belonged to the children of Israel. This spiritual unveiling was done for the sole purpose that the children of Israel could habitually do, faithfully practice, chronically obey, ALL, not just some, but ALL the Words of this LAW. There is no partial credit when it comes to the law. They either did all of the law, or they were guilty of all of the law.

Now, turn to Romans 15

The old testament was written so the children of Israel could do all the words of the law.

Romans 15:4

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

What former days? These are the days before the day of Pentecost in the 1st century, which is recorded in Acts chapter 2. Whatever was written, which is all the writing of the old testament of the Bible, was written FOR OUR INSTRUCTION. Who does “OUR” refer to? It refers to the saints, the believers, those who have been born again since the day of Pentecost.

Deuteronomy says that the word was written so the children of Israel could do all the law. Romans says that the same written word was written for our instruction so that we might have hope. It has nothing to do with the law! What happened? Is this a contradiction? Did the purpose of the Word of God change? Not at all! Something else is at work here. In Deuteronomy it says that the secret things belong to the Lord our God. God did not reveal to the children of Israel a secret purpose that he had for authoring His written word. That secret purpose was unveiled to the apostle Paul, who wrote it down by revelation.

The Word of God did not change, its purpose did not change. What happened is that we are privileged to receive additional understanding about the purpose of the written Word of God. In a similar manner, in this teaching on the epistle of Titus, I handle truths and make statements about Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ did not change but Paul received additional revelation about our savior and the results, the impact of his accomplishments that are not recorded anywhere else. The four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all have a limited perspective of Jesus Christ. They deal with a very limited aspect of our savior, which is his first coming. This includes his birth, his ministering to the nation of Israel, his sacrifice and his resurrection.

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What was revealed to the apostle Paul and is recorded in the Church epistles is an expansive unveiling of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which was not revealed before Paul first received it. In this teaching, I make a distinction between the truths recorded in the four gospels and the truths that are revealed by the apostle Paul. This distinction is the limited point of view of the four gospels and the expansive unveiling of Christ as recorded in the epistles.

Turn to Titus

Titus was an esteemed fellow worker in Christ who labored with Paul. In Titus 1:4, Paul calls him "...my true child in a common faith...". Titus was a Gentile who came to Christ and the knowledge of the truth by way of Paul's service. After Paul was released from prison in Rome, the two traveled together and preached in Crete. Titus was probably a native of Crete.

In 2 Corinthians 8:23 Paul testifies of Titus by revelation,

23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory (*exercised power*) of Christ.

Titus 1:1

1 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 (*agrees*) with godliness (*righteousness*),

Paul was called to be a servant of God and an apostle, a "sent one" of Jesus Christ; why? For the sake of the faith, the practice, the walk, the conduct of God's elect; the elect are the saints, the believers, anyone who is born again. AND for their knowledge of THE TRUTH. Paul was called to serve according to the will of God, not according to the will of man or according to the will of the rulers of the darkness of this world. The will of God is expressed in 1 Timothy 2:4:

4 who (God) desires all people to be saved **and** to come to **the** knowledge of **the** truth.

As Paul, Timothy, Titus and others served, God supplied the knowledge of the truth to these faithful, capable servants of God to impart, teach, and apply. Thus, God's passionate desire for us to have the knowledge of the truth came to pass.

Titus 1:2

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;

God is our savior in that it was HE who gave his only begotten son. God saved us through the accomplishments of his son, Jesus Christ.

This hope of eternal life, the hope of righteousness, was promised to us when we were called. We were called before the ages began, before the beginning of the world, before any man was made to walk upon this earth.

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Paul refers to this in 2 Timothy 1:9 which testifies:

9 who (God) saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

10 and which **now** has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and **immortality** to light through the gospel (*this is the gospel of the grace of God*),

11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,

This gospel of the grace of God is what Paul was sent to preach and teach. Our holy calling, Gods purpose and Gods grace is what is to be manifested. This eternal life, this immortality is brought to light through the gospel of the grace of God.

If you concentrate on the old testament, or the four gospels (which are really part of the old testament) it will be difficult to perceive your holy calling, Gods grace or an illuminated knowledge of immortality. In short you WILL NOT come to THE knowledge of THE TRUTH.

Jesus Christ is THE TRUTH. His calling and ours happened before the ages began, our existence in the foreknowledge of God before the ages began was not revealed until Jesus Christ revealed it to Paul. This calling, this knowledge of THE TRUTH does not exist anywhere else in the word of God. Do you think that a knowledge the four gospels will suffice? Think again.

2 Corinthians 5:15 – 17 proclaims

15 and he (*Christ*) died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard (*acknowledge, know*) no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded (*knew*) Christ according to the flesh, we regard (*acknowledge, know*) him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the **new has come**.

THE knowledge of THE TRUTH IS NOT the knowledge of the physical man Jesus Christ who was wounded by the devil. This is THE knowledge of THE RISEN Christ in whom we were called with a holy calling before the ages began. This is THE RISEN Christ with whom we are now identified by way of the newly created spiritual self, which was created IN Christ Jesus.

It is THE knowledge of THE TRUTH which sets men and women free. There is no other knowledge, no other scripture, no other teaching or preaching which sets men and women free.

It is THE knowledge of THE TRUTH which agrees with Godliness, or righteousness. This is the knowledge of the great mystery which was hid in God before the ages began.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 2

This preaching, this teaching, this knowledge is what Paul and Titus shared. They had in common a deep understanding of THE truth and its application. The knowledge of THE truth is what is required in order to obtain a good understanding of 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus.

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1 Corinthians 2:6

6 Yet among the (*spiritually*) mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

What wisdom did Paul impart? A secret and hidden wisdom of God. God hid this wisdom before the ages began for OUR glory for OUR exercised power.

IF the rulers of the darkness of this world, the rulers of the age had understood this mystery (which is now revealed) they would not have crucified the Lord of glory, the Lord of exercised power.

Not only does the knowledge of the truth of this great mystery set us free, it sets us free to exercise the power of God according to HIS will. Does he want power in operation in our lives? Yes, of course He does; look at all the trouble He went to in preparation for us to function!

This wisdom of the great mystery does not exist anywhere else in the scriptures except in the Church Epistles.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

The hidden things that God has prepared for his sons and daughters is now revealed through the gift of holy spirit that became available in the 1st century. This knowledge and wisdom was revealed to the believers, starting with the apostle Paul, who wrote of it by revelation, in the epistles. You won't find this mystery revealed or even mentioned in the old testament or the four gospels.

1 Corinthians 2:11

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might understand the things freely given us by God.**

It is by way of the new creation, our new spiritual selves that we obtain an understanding of the things freely given us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:13

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 The natural person (*the flesh, the person walking by the flesh*) does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is **not able** to understand

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them because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:15

15 The spiritual person judges (*discerns*) all things, but is himself to be judged (*discerned*) by no one.

16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

What a statement! What a declaration! We have the mind of Christ! This is the new creation in Christ Jesus, our new spiritual self which has the mind of Christ. As we walk by the spirit, by the newly created spiritual self we are functioning with the mind of Christ, not the mind of the flesh. This too is part of the great mystery which has now been revealed.

Turn back to Titus 1

Our common faith, our practice, is the understanding and application of the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery. It is to walk by the newly created spiritual self with the power of God in our lives so we can serve and minister effectively in the body of Christ.

Titus 1:4

4 To Titus, my true child in a (*the*) common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

Titus was a partner and fellow worker with Paul. He was a visionary as Paul was. He had work to do in Crete. To serve and minister effectively, he would apply Paul's directions as he walked by his spiritual self.

Now Paul outlines the qualifications of the elders who were to be appointed by Titus.

Titus 1:6

6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination (*These are not young children but adult children. You would not charge a 7 year old with “debauchery”*).

7 For an overseer (*not a Lord, not a ruler*), as **God's** steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,

8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled (*see Romans 6, the old self of the flesh does not rule*), upright, holy, and disciplined.

This overseer, this elder is God's steward. He or she is not a corporate steward or a denominational steward. His or her allegiance and accountability is to GOD, not a board of directors or committee or any other man, woman, office or authority.

The overseer or elder is not a career choice, it's not how a person makes a living. The person so appointed is already employed and has raised a family; he isn't taking this work for the money!

Titus 1:9

9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to **rebuke** those who contradict it.

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What trustworthy word had the elder been taught? What was he supposed to be able to teach? The gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery! Was the elder supposed to quarrel with the believers who contradicted this trustworthy word, was he to remain silent? No, he was to rebuke them! This word “rebuke” means: “to put to shame, convince, refute, confute, show to be wrong, prove guilty; to prove *anything that was disputed or denied (and therefore implying opposition)*; hence, to reprimand, blame”. (from Bullinger's Critical Lexicon).

Titus 1:10

10 For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party.

11 They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching **for shameful gain** what they ought not to teach.

These are false visionaries, false teachers of legalistic religion. These deceivers were teaching for the money; this was their employment. By revelation God declares this “shameful gain”. The money in and of itself was not shameful, it was their motive, their hypocrisy, their hidden agendas, deception and greed that made the gain “shameful”.

We need to compare these instructions with the instructions given in 2 Timothy 2:23:

23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

The instructions given by revelation in Titus and the instructions given by revelation in 2 Timothy seem to be at odds, even contradictory. What is the answer?

The key is in understanding who these instructions are referring to. In 2 Timothy the key is in verse 25, which says “God may perhaps grant them (*his opponents*) repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth”. This is referring to Gentiles who are not born again; they are not believers.

Turn back to Titus 1

In Titus, these instructions are for the Elders who are to oversee activities in the household Churches, the activities among the believers. These scriptures are referring to those who have been born again at one time, but are now contradicting the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery. They are deceivers and are devoted to religious law. These are the people who are to be rebuked. The unbelieving Gentiles who oppose Timothy are to be corrected with gentleness. Thus there is no contradiction in these two sections of scriptures.

Now, just because we read the instructions about rebuking those devoted to religious legalism, it does not mean that we automatically start rebuking these people at will. The accurate application of these instructions by Titus was realized as he walked by the new spiritual self. As he received

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spiritual guidance and wisdom he knew when, where and how to carry out these instructions. It's one thing to be told to rebuke someone, it's another thing to know exactly what to say and how to say it. The only thing we do automatically is to walk by the spirit.

Now in the following verses of Titus 1:12 – 16, the context is still dealing with “those who contradict the trustworthy word”, those of the circumcision party who are teaching for shameful gain and others who have been mentioned.

Titus 1:12

12 One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

13 This testimony is true. Therefore **rebuke them sharply**, that they may be sound in the faith,

14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the **commands** of people **who turn away from the truth**. *(there is an example of such a person in Acts 13, when Paul was on the island of Cyprus. The religious legalistic believers were following polluted religious legalistic leaders).*

15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving (*those who are contradicting*), nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled (*spiritually unclean, spiritually polluted*).

16 They profess to know God (*lots of people do this*), but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, **unfit for any good work**.

They are unfit for any good work because of the spiritual pollution. They are standing against and contradicting the trustworthy word which they had been taught. In contrast, 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 reveals,

2 Timothy 3:16

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

It is THE knowledge of THE TRUTH which is inspired of God which enables a man or woman of God to be competent, equipped and fit for every good work. We dare not turn our backs on the grace of God and the wisdom of the great mystery which he continues to reveal to his children in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:10 illuminates these good works. It says:

10 For we are his (Gods') workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand (*before the ages began*), that we should walk in them.

These good works are revealed as part of the great mystery which was hid in God before the ages began! There is no mention of these good works in the old testament or in the four gospels! Every time you read any reference to “good works” in Titus or in the Church epistles, you are reading about the great mystery. (Ephesians 3:7 – 12)

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Titus 2:1

1 But as for you (*in contrast to those who are unfit for any good work, the polluted religious legalistic leaders*), teach what accords (*agrees*) with sound doctrine. (*this is the great mystery*)

2 Older men are to be sober-minded (*sound minded*), dignified, self-controlled (*not allowing the old self of the flesh to rule*), sound in faith (*spiritual conduct, behavior*), in love, and in steadfastness.

3 Older women **likewise** are to be reverent in behavior (*this is the behavior described in verse 2*), not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

The older women are to walk by the spirit and serve in the body of Christ. They ARE TO TEACH what is good! Given the context, what is good? THE knowledge of THE TRUTH which includes the great mystery. What is the practical impact of their teaching?

Titus 2:4

4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

5 to be self-controlled (*again, not allowing the old self of the flesh to dominate. The young women are to walk by the spirit as well*), pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled (*again, not allowing the old self of the flesh to dominate. The young men are to walk by the spirit, too*).

7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works (*these are the good works which God appointed for us to do before the ages began*), and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,

8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent **may be put to shame**, (*what does this mean? It means*) having nothing evil to say about us.

9 Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

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 (*we don't allow the old self of the flesh to rule, but we walk by the spirit*),

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the **glory** of our great God ~~and~~ even our Savior Jesus Christ, (*our Savior Jesus Christ IS the glory of our great God*)

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 (*these are the good works which God prepared for us before the ages began*).

15 Declare these things (*Declare the great mystery and its practical application. Declare our freedom from the bondage of religious law and our identification with Christ who was raised from the dead, ascended and seated at the right hand of God*); exhort and **rebuke with all authority**. Let no one disregard you.

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The rulers of the darkness of this world do not want the knowledge of the great mystery to be declared, taught or lived. They will twist the scriptures any which way they can to blind people to THE knowledge of THE TRUTH that can set them free. One such twisting I heard recently asserted that if we do not live under the mosaic law, then we must be lawless. If you understand the depth of what it is to be lawless then you know that this is an accusation that Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul, and those who declare the truth of the great mystery are born of the wrong spiritual seed. Turn to Romans 7

Lawlessness in this case is the unredeemed state of those who have not accepted Jesus as Lord and savior, those who do not yet believe that he was raised from the dead.

The opposite of not living under the law is NOT lawlessness; there is another alternative.

Romans 7:4

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

We have died to the law through the accomplishments of Christ, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the spirit!

Romans 7:22

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

This is the “law of God”, not the law of Moses, not the mosaic law, not the commandments contained in ordinances from which we have been set free. We delight in this law in the new spiritual self, not in the flesh! The law of God is NOT the old way of the written code!

Remember 1 Corinthians 2:16 which we read earlier. It declares:

16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Remember, in the new spiritual self, we have the mind of Christ!

Romans 7:25

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind (*what mind? The mind of Christ in our new spiritual self*), but with my (*old self of the*) flesh I serve the law (*principle*) of sin.

Romans 8:1

1 There is therefore **now** no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the **law of the Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

There it is! The law of the spirit of life IS the “law of God”. We have been set free from the law of sin and death, the old mosaic law, the law of Moses, and all the religious counterfeit laws which are resident in so-called christianity since before the end of the 1st century.

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Romans 8:3

3 For God (*not man*) has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Turn to Galatians 5

God produced a way for us to escape the law of sin and death by the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. Every time we read Romans 8:1 it states that “There is NOW no condemnation”. It will ALWAYS read “NOW”. WE WILL NEVER EVER BE UNDER THE CONDEMNATION OF THE RELIGIOUS LAW EVER AGAIN!

Galatians 5:16

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The result of being released from the law, is not lawlessness it is justification, it is righteousness! The expression of this liberty is to be led by the spirit! The how of keeping our flesh under control is to walk by the spirit!

Turn back to Titus 2.

One reason people are put into the bondage of the law so easily is that they do not know how to work the scriptures so that the four gospels and the epistles agree. They are taught that the four gospels are superior because they contain the words of Jesus, and they ignore the epistles as being inferior.

The do not know about 2 Timothy 1:9 which testifies:

9 who (God) saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which **he gave us in Christ Jesus** before the ages began,

10 and which **now** has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and **immortality** to light through the gospel (*this is the gospel of the grace of God*),

11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,

The apostle Paul received this gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery by way of Christ Jesus who revealed it to him. These are the words of Christ Jesus our risen and ascended Lord and Savior who is seated at the right hand of God. We are seated next too him – this is our position which he obtained for us. We are identified with Him, AS HE IS RIGHT NOW!

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Continuing the context of declaring the gospel of God, the great mystery, its practical application and setting things in order,

Titus 3:1

1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work (*which God prepared for us beforehand. This does not command blind obedience*),

2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

As a visionary works together with the Elders to bring order to the activities of the believers, they are and will be accused of speaking and thinking evil, of quarreling, of not showing courtesy. The instruction of the last verse in chapter 2 can be easily overlooked. The observation and exposing of evil is not speaking evil. Rebuking is not speaking evil.

Here, verse 3 gives further details of the meaning of the revelation in verse 2. It is speaking of the conduct of people walking by the flesh, before they were born again.

Titus 3:4

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (*God saved us by the accomplishments of His only begotten son*)

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (*this is what it is to be baptized; no water is required. It is GOD who does the baptizing*)

7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 The saying is trustworthy, and **I want you to insist on these things**, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works (*this is the application of the great mystery, to do those works which God prepared for us beforehand*). These things are excellent and profitable for people. (*Remember, we are enabled to bring forth fruit for God*)

9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,

11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.

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Titus 3:14

14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Before we close, we need to handle verses 10 and 11:

Titus 3:10

10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,

11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Turn to Luke 12

In the context, it is the believers that are the people being referred to. The person of verse 10 is a believer.

Additionally, these two verses are in the context set in Titus 2:15 where Titus is instructed to declare the gospel of the grace of God, the great mystery, and to set things in order in the body of Christ in Crete. The person mentioned in verse 10 is stirring up division against the work of the visionaries and elders as they declare the mystery and bring order to the Church.

This is important to understand because people and devil spirits will use these verses to declare that *any kind* of division is wrong. However, the very act of departing from a divisive person is in itself an act of division. Not all division is ungodly.

Jesus declares

Luke 12:49

49 "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!

50 I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

51 Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

52 For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.

53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

One impact of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ is DIVISION which is caused by the world and the rulers of the darkness of this world rejecting Jesus Christ as God's son, redeemer and savior. The fire that Jesus came to cast upon the earth was finally accomplished on the day of Pentecost in the 1st century when the baptism of the holy spirit was poured out. As people believe and become born again as the new spiritual self is created within, the world reacts by rejecting and fighting against the believers. It is the unbelief of the world and their love of the darkness which initiates the division.

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Turn to Ephesians 3:6

6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. (*this is NOT what is found in the four gospels*)

Ephesians 3:8

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable (*it is unsearchable because it cannot be found in the old testament or the four gospels; it was never revealed before*) riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

These are the rulers of the darkness of this world, the devil spirit kingdom. One of the good works we are to do is to declare this manifold wisdom of God so that even these ruling devil spirits know about it.

1 Corinthians 2:7 and 8 reveal what this manifold wisdom of God is:

7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The declaration of the manifold wisdom of God is not the talking, it is living and applying the gospel of the grace of God and the great mystery. This good work is accomplished as we are led by the spirit, as we manifest the power of God in our daily lives.

Ephesians 3:11

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

12 in whom (*in Christ Jesus*) we have boldness and access with confidence (*to God*) through ~~our~~ the faith ~~in~~ of him.

It is the victorious, risen, ascended and seated Christ who was in God's foreknowledge before the ages began. It is the Christ of the great mystery who was declared by Paul. We are to declare, teach and preach about no other.

God desired for this great mystery to be declared and to live in Titus' day. Now, the visionaries, the elders and the believers are to again declare this wisdom of God, the great mystery which is according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord. We have access to God himself in order to accomplish the will of God in this our day and time.