

Titus 24-07-24a

Good evening fellow grace and truthers. We're here on Wednesday the 24th of July 2024 Continuing our study in the epistle of Paul the Apostle to Titus very fascinating emphasis in this which is Important as we have seen because the Apostle receiving his message from God himself through the Lord Jesus Christ is transmitting the priorities for believers priorities for the church to Pastor Timothy and Pastor Titus the instructions to the officers are then passed on to the troops and That is the Mission that is the scope of work. That is what should be focused on and accomplished and These books that we are studying.

We've seen first Timothy. We're in Titus are remarkable for the distance and the difference between what is emphasized what is prescribed what is emphasized and mandated and Charged as a responsibility to these pastors and what we see in a typical mainstream church in America today There's an enormous difference, how did this gap appear and widen to this extent? well, we're going to pick up our study here in the first chapter and Note what we should be doing regardless of what other churches are doing regardless of what other believers are Attending to or distracted by We should pay attention to this five paragraph order this Absolute set of exhortations and commands priorities characteristics functions this Defines us this is who we are and why we are here if we are not doing these things if we don't match these Descriptions if we are not focused on and pushing for the accomplishment of these objectives There is something wrong with us because it's clear We've seen the clarity In our previous studies, and we're going to see more of it tonight. Let's ask God's blessing on our fellowship and studying will begin Father it is such a privilege to live in this day at this time in history with the freedom of access the voluminous materials that are available for research for consultation Commentaries lexicons Aids in language and culture every possible benefit every kind of support has been granted to us To have the best possible understanding of the content of your word, which is in fact the content of our spiritual Charge our spiritual call we pray that as we look at this portion of your word tonight that the Holy Spirit will minister to our hearts Help us to see not only what it meant in the day that Paul wrote it Under the inspiration of your spirit, but what it means to us in our individual circumstances we In many cases differ from the individuals who dwelt in Crete or even in Ephesus we live in a Post modern country we are scattered Geographically and yet we know that your word is timeless the power and presence of your Holy Spirit Overcomes all obstacles, and we are able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us We pray that as a result of our study each of us will Be able to see clearly what you would have us to do and find within us your strength your power and your guidance To accomplish it we ask it in Jesus name Amen Remembering that these are letters Typically you get a letter or these days you get an email or a post on social media or something You don't typically Dive in and start exegeting and doing a detailed word study We have more of that approach for two reasons first of all Unlike letters and posts and emails that we receive this is inspired material every word is inspired and Bears a close look because it

has been carefully constructed It is Supernatural it's this is not normal communication You can't just kind of skip over the inelegancies or the uninteresting parts Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

I once saw people trying to make a distinction between Lagos and Ramah when you look at the Response of the Lord Jesus to Satan in the wilderness, and he says man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Ramah not Lagos Every Ramah, there's Ramah Bible school in Tulsa R-h-e-m-a Ramah and You go to the lexicons and they say well Lagos this is more the content. It's often Referring to the written word the Holy Scriptures and so on where Ramah is spoken But I think it is so helpful that in our recent studies we've seen that the material with that we read as words as scripture in our Bible has originally emanated from God Himself God speaks it it issues forth look at the Prophetic works that we find Old Testament and new where there is a voice from the throne room that Dictates the next move issues the next command it sends forth the next angel or sends forth the Lord Jesus Himself and We don't live by material goods material nourishment alone or material provision of whatever kind bread of course is metaphorical for Everything in the material world that keeps us going the air we breathe the water we drink the food We partake of our food clothing and shelter and so on Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God God thinks it and then he speaks it and we are to live by it not just in the material world, but existing as material beings in this physical world we live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God and that Emphasizes its origin its source He doesn't go on to say and then is picked up by the Lord Jesus and passed on to the Apostles who then Give it to a pastor and and we have these inspired letters But these words that we are looking at are here because God commanded that they be delivered to you and to me and all believers who are church age who are Fed under the apostolic shepherding function and the under shepherds the pastors and the Apostles having gone to glory it is the Inspired word under the guidance and ministry of the Holy Spirit that connects us and these words directly back to our Father in heaven, so This is not Casual it's not something to be taken lightly or advisedly I'll take it under advisement. I you know, those are good suggestions this is from the heavenly throne and if we have a church if we have a family of believers if we are interrelated as Brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is the word. This is the guidance These are the policies the procedures the priorities that we are to observe and it's no light thing I Imagine a military scenario where Orders of a vital and immediate nature are issued something is happening. You need security You need you need to move you need to in place you need to attack you need to defend you need to rearm You need to supply you need to protect whatever it is You need to do ships need to be in place the ammunition needs to be delivered it and so on if someone Saw that come into their inbox and said, you know, I noticed I got the last of the coffee I better go make another pot you look at the need for security in some of our national venues and events and the Sweat grenades that everybody is throwing over the fact that

that security wasn't taken seriously You know, it's so easy in hindsight Bullets were fired.

So where's the accountability? How come there wasn't all kinds of Gymnastic effort to make sure that nothing like this could possibly happen. What's the problem there? Repetition breeds complacency. Well, we were a little sloppy and Nothing bad happened.

Maybe we're you know, all of this letter of the law and you know Every possibility and just assuming the worst all the time. Why don't we just relax a little bit? This is a job we do it every week every month every year and there's lots of people and thousands of agents and you know, it's Let's just take a conversational pace here And not, you know kill ourselves every single time And because you don't kill yourself every single time somebody else gets killed on a day when that security matters We face an invisible spiritual adversary Who is roaming the earth? Seeking whom he may devour he's not a 20 year old kid with a drone a backpack and a folding stock he's Lucifer he's Satan the smartest being to ever come from the hand of God and he leads an army of Principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this age who have as their mission To distract us to deflect us to wave a hand in the air while our pocket is being picked to Cook up a nice mess of pottage as it were and get us to go for that and lose our birthright so if There's anything to be gained from observing current events. It isn't so much Political or structural in Federal services it is personal and spiritual Look at what can happen if you let down your guard if you get just a little bit sloppy on In one area for a short period of time if you think well Somebody else has probably got that covered Which do you think is more important now that here's a question that will Drain some of the blood out of your head What's more important? whether or not a high political figure is Endangered or injured or whether you and I fail in our spiritual responsibility to represent the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God in All of our waking moments What's more important? What do you think? Which one has more eternal significance? Which one do you think God is thinking about on his throne? I Can tell you which one from his word and that's why we have this book of Titus before us.

This is not Kind of a hobby where we learn a little bit about the Word of God and kind of tuck it away and think about it At odd moments. This is life and death. This is the eternal future This momentary light affliction is working for us an eternal weight of glory your thoughts your Character formation your integrity in small and seemingly invisible things matters bigly Hugely It's not indifferent it's not insignificant Suppose there is a failure in security, but nothing bad happens and you say well see that wasn't such a big deal because nothing bad Happened this is what happens in our spiritual life.

We're sloppy. We're indifferent we allow sin we allow a pattern to form and Lightning doesn't strike worlds don't come to an end relationships. Don't shatter and that was just a Kind of a minor thing I'll have to try to work on that when I get around to it The attitude that tolerates poor performance and bad priorities and sloppy Policies and procedures Costs us in eternity Well done thou good and faithful servant you have been faithful in a

few things You have been faithful in a few small things.

I will make you ruler over many things What's the flip side of that coin? poorly done Bad and unfaithful servant you weren't even faithful in the small things How can I include you in any of these wonderful future large things? Go thou to the edge of the crowd and observe from the darkness, which is outside And it isn't because there was a cataclysmic failure as a result of our indifference or our apathy But it counts it matters the smallest priorities the smallest decisions the smallest of efforts to be faithful and be Diligent and represent the Lord Jesus Christ and things large and small Matters you think nobody saw nobody cares how many other uncovered building roofs have there been you know in past years? Nobody knows, but I can tell you this if there had been rabid attention to detail This this last important one would not have occurred and think about how much Talk there would be had the bullet been you know a quarter of an inch in a different direction the narrowest of margins but it just points up the importance of Semper Fidelis always faithful always Somebody's looking somebody's not Seems large seems small regardless always faithful Priorities don't be distracted. Don't be deflected because the enemy is out there Endeavoring to do that very thing and has done That's why That's my background for bringing to the fore Why Paul begins with both Timothy and Titus talking about qualified leadership? the church Remember we we've seen over the years that as goes Israel in the Old Testament so goes the individual believer in the new the nation and its Successes and failures and its leadership are emblematic of things that individual believers in this age need to watch out for and Of course collections of those believers in in churches but primarily individuals The same type of thing is true When you read about what a church should be doing and the kind of leadership that a church should have that is also Serving as an example as an illustration of what kind of leadership we should have in our own heart and in our own soul and so what should dominate in my character in my personality in my interactions with others in my Accomplishing of my stewardship my functions my assigned responsibilities. What should lead? well Paul says You've got to set in order the things that are lacking How do you know what's lacking? Well, you got to take an inventory.

That's what inventories are for right? That's what accounting does is look to see where's the money and where is it? not where is the where are the supplies where where is the the backlog of parts or Items or whatever it is that you're responsible for One of my first jobs Not the first but one of the first was working at Safeway in the grocery store back when grocery stores still had a back You know There's stuff out on the aisles and if a shelf gets low the stockers go to the back and you've got piles of you know crates of canned goods and frozen foods and and Vegetables and all kinds of things one of my favorite grade school field trips was being taken to a grocery store and being taken to the back and it was cold and kind of misty back there because To keep the groceries fresh and we got to see behind the curtain It was like going back there and seeing you know Oz the Magnificent you don't see that I've been to the grocery store ever since I

could see and To see what was back there and oh look They've got stuff in reserve back here and it's it's cold and there's all of this cardboard and look They've got this big cardboard smashing machine. I never thought about what happened to the boxes and that this gigantic trash compactor and later on when I started driving it you drive behind the store and you see these gigantic bales of cardboard and That came from the stockroom. You it's it's all changed now with this, you know just in time You know hope it's there because if the shelf is empty, you're not getting any till the next truck arrives if and when But a Reserve and there was a smooth operation the stockers worked at night and they restocked the shelves and they did an inventory What's low this determines how much of this we order? What do we typically go through? What do people buy on a weekly basis and a successful store and the successful store managers? and I was good friends with three or four guys who were store managers and They had a great eye for inventory and ensuring that things flowed smoothly and nobody came into the store looking for a Particular kind of baby food or a particular kind of medicine and it wasn't there Taking stock this is leadership.

This is oversight. This is episkopos episkopos overseeing and Recognizing what you see One of the startlingly Dangerous and and soberingly Concerning Situations is if you have a leader who doesn't really seem to have a grasp of reality even as they speak you're not sure they are Delivering the words with a meaning that they themselves understand they might be reading the words But you get the idea that if you ask him, what was that last sentence what what did it mean? What what is the subject? They would just be in a fog and the ability to read and speak I've got a printer that will do that You want somebody who has a grasp of what it is that is passing through their mental machinery? So how important is it for us in our soul to have leadership that grasps the issues that Understands what we hear and what we say Leadership the church is Commanded to identify and encourage sound leadership leaders who know the truth who know error and are quick to encourage the one and the rebuke and Separate off the other you have to have this discernment and That goes back to our study on conscience. How are you going to know what is good? And what is bad? What is? pleasing to God and what Seems right to a man, but it doesn't seem right to God your conscience can't be off your Rightness detector can't be flawed and unbalanced or broken For this reason set in order the things that are lacking verse 5 of chapter 1 and appoint leadership in every city as I commanded you This isn't a suggestion Paul doesn't say you know might help there if you if you had somebody that's kind of in charge Just kind of make sure things are done decently in good order if it works out But you might have some of these and maybe they'll just want to do it by committee maybe they'll just all do it free form and let every let's put the chairs in a circle and just see who speaks first and Everybody encourage everybody else and well, what do you think Bob? And and what do you think Jane? And you know? Yeah, let's just let's just feel our way through it and hopefully everybody will have a kind of a nice experience The command is for structure and leadership The same for our souls we need structure We need leadership in our soul and we don't lead with

our emotions We don't lead with our fantasy life or our wishful thinking life.

Wouldn't it be great if We have to know the truth. We have to implement the truth we have to be in contact with reality able to grasp it ourselves and Inject it into the reality around us and make sure that what we do and what we say is Characterized by and reflects God's truth not My truth how I wish it was or well Can't I just compromise it on this in this one area or this one time and I'm just gonna go with my gut here leadership leadership keeps the gut in check and ensures that the orders the commands are followed and it is just as true individually as it is for a church and In order to be a good leader You have to be blameless if you're blameworthy what's the first order of business before you get around to doing anything else and affecting the environment and and Helping to structure and fulfill what is lacking you got to get rid of the blameworthy item, right? This is your first John 1 9. This is your Psalm 51 Search me Oh God and know my heart try me and see if there be any wicked way in me and if I find myself in situation after situation after situation and sooner or later the same pattern kind of emerges you begin to think if this is a pattern and And it happened here and it happened here and it happened over here and it happened back there What's the common denominator on your own time? You can look up the acronym? IATA The problem is me I'm the common denominator. These things always seem to Go north when I'm involved Go to God if we have a flaw if we've got a weakness if we have a bad characteristic we first have to have the humility to look for it and Then go to God and say search me Oh God and know my heart try me and see if there be any wicked way in me I Suspect that something is wrong, but I can't see it but the Lord God in heaven can absolutely see it and if we pray that prayer he will absolutely reveal it and as Any good marine would do you don't identify a problem without providing the solution if God Enables us to see the problem he will provide with it the solution the strength the provision the change The power to change the power to calm the power to quit as he used to say about that smoking gum or whatever it was We don't have the power in and of ourselves.

We're like addicts who can't de-addictify ourselves God has the power But that's what this means to be blameless Leadership in a church Should not be blameworthy in the eyes of the community or in the eyes of those who are inside This is a problem of the Catholic Church and all of their priests that have been you know Doing all kinds of heinous things with children and and you know you tell guys don't get married Then you wonder why they turn into perverts Leadership needs to be blameless look at what happens when a leader incurs blame We've seen it in the ice church community. We've seen it in the Evangelical Church community. We've seen it in denominational church communities and when leadership is Blameworthy it drags the entire Christian witness down it drags the name of Christ into the mud Because we are here to represent Jesus Christ, and if we are blameworthy The organization or the group or whatever you want to call the fellowship of believers Should never allow someone like that to stay in charge and they know There are clues there are signs if you have a leader if you're detecting an

undertone of current events your detector is working perfectly if you have a leader and there are Clues that there is something wrong with the leader Pull the leader The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one any science fiction movie goer knows this But it's true.

You don't sacrifice the good of the many For the improper sake of one and Leaders have to be blameless They've got to be functional they've got to be in command of the truth and the facts They have to know the difference between a friend and an enemy They have to know the difference between good and bad and we in our own souls have to do the same thing if it's broken Fix it by God's grace and God's power blameless a Commitment keeper husband of one wife if you were going to broaden this out into a representative symbolic Characteristic, what would it be? this guy Plighted his troth to a woman and it's still death to us part thick thin rich poor sick. Well up down good bad Consistency dedication loyalty the opposite of this loyalty is pornos Faithlessness promise breaking pornaya is Self-indulgence at the expense of commitment at the expense of what is right? Pornaya our pornography words really concentrate on salacious characteristics of things but the root in pornaya is betrayal of trust breach of contract breaking faith Violating a pledge That's why fornication adultery and all other kinds of Relationship damaging or relationship ending behavior is characterized under pornaya So he is the husband of one wife. What should our soul be like? Our word is our bond anytime we make a promise we say we will do something or we will not do something We will be there or we won't It is as though there was a judge holding a Bible our right hand is on it Our other hand is in the air and we say so help me God Our word should be sterling We should be like God be holy for I am holy when God says I'll save you eternally What if he was kind of sloppy and he didn't really? Whosoever believe in him.

Well, most of those who believe in him I'll give eternal life or the people who believe in him I'll give a really long life and you start modifying and caging and hedging and coming back from the absolute What kind of God? How confidence inspiring would he be if his word wasn't something we could absolutely trust to the fullest and most eternal extent That's how our word ought to be And if we say something and something else happens and we can't keep our commitment. We need to be communicating immediately. I Said this but I didn't see this coming.

It's impossible I want you to know at the earliest opportunity so you can make other arrangements to Pledge and then to be sloppy and somebody's counting on you and there's nobody there is The worst testimony you want to talk about not being blameless Not keeping your word not doing what you say not saying what you're gonna do and then fulfilling it It's at the top of this list. Do you notice? husband of one woman means This guy has pledged himself to a woman and nothing is getting in the way of that ironclad commitment Having faithful children That over which you are given responsibility and oversight What's the primary responsibility of a husband and wife once they have kids? What's their first and foremost primary responsibility beyond paying

bills? Beyond almost anything you can name is the care provision and protection of their children Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and said how often I would have Gathered you under my wings as a hen gathers her chicks And you've heard the stories of prairie fires and they find these dead prairie hens with living chicks under their wings Because they gave themselves Instinctively by God's design to protect their young to provide for their young That is a characteristic of church leadership and it is a characteristic of every faithful believer when you are charged with responsibility with care You can be counted on to fulfill it and to fulfill it well, this is why faithful children emerge from faithful child training faithful parents now So long as they are under your roof When you look at them they are obedient What does it mean by faithful this doesn't mean you have somehow turned them into God-fearing Christ loving You know narrow road straight gate believers Faithful means they are obedient They are faithful to do what they are told by their parents children Obey your parents in the Lord. This is right.

Their obedience is faithfulness What is the relationship between faithfulness and obedience for a believer How can you be? Obedient and not be faithful. How can you be faithful and not be obedient? They really go hand in hand But in the child's case, they are faithful and obedient to their parental authority sometimes when they leave the roost They are not interested in the things of God at least not to begin with parents Don't have to shoulder responsibility and say if I had done something different my child would be a glorious believer Not so faithful children means while they're under the roof. They are responsive and obedient to the parental authority This is not a spiritual characteristic every single human being Regardless of their upbringing is going to make their own personal decision and that decision will be the same regardless of the environment of their upbringing People have come from the worst horrific abusive drug-addled Environments in the world and become glorious believers people have come from the most glorious Christian households and become reprobates apathetic indifferent rebellious Attacking I love Richard Dawkins and worse You cannot can or bottle Christian faith Hold your child's head and pour it down their gullet.

What you can do is ensure that you give them a foundation of authority structure faithfulness and obedience That shines a clear light and makes it possible for them to understand the issue and when they make their decision It's not done in ignorance It's done with with open eyes and that's between them and the Lord This faithful children is When someone views the household, what do they see? Is it disorder? Is it chaos? Is it rampant noise and toys and They do what they want. They go down the grocery aisle again It's safe way used to see women Pushing their kids in the little two-legged deal in the basket and they just reach out and grab Something and half a shelf of stuff goes in the floor and I'm the guy that gets to go pick that up and restack it Oh, honey, wait till we get home and the parents are just indifferent. That is not faithful raising of children you Inculcate them with authority orientation and self-control Faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination Notice the directions Dissipation is self-

gratification Dissipation is I can't keep my hands off the liquor bottle I you know every chance I get I've got to go to the golf course or I've got to go see the next movie or I've got to you know, I'm Lost in the world of video games or whatever dissipation is self-gratification There's something where you just kind of lose control you get absorbed.

You're you're Binging a TV series or something and you you can't Extricate yourself from it. You stay up till 4 or 5 in the morning because you just got to see what happens next in this Completely imaginary story. That's the product of somebody's imagination and you can't free yourself from it dissipation is Being controlled from the outside by something that hooks into your self gratifying mode That's pointing inward.

That's lack of self-control In subordination is Rebellion and undermining authority on the outside. This is your relationship to those primarily over you and You Sleep when you think you can get away with it You've got solitaire playing on your computer instead of your spreadsheet Then they used to have a boss screen clear back in the days of DOS I mean computers were barely off the assembly line and in the old days of Spreadsheets the the earliest spreadsheets before there was an Excel and DOS primitive black screen C prompt DOS had a boss screen and you would load this thing and You could play Games the early card games and if the boss came by you just hit a screen and it popped up a fake spreadsheet So it looked like you were working and then as soon as the boss walks on by or anybody else of interest You hit another screen and you're back to Dissipation and dissipation and insubordination can go hand-in-hand because You are using what is provided by the environment the employer or the business or whatever it may be for your own purposes Instead of you know, this is the Kelly's heroes syndrome so dissipation insubordination and Overseer the word bishop there is Episcopal must be blameless. Did you notice what's your fifth word in verse 6? If a man is what? Blameless What's the sixth word in verse 7 overseer must be blameless Blameless doesn't mean you never make a mistake But you are not guilty of a pattern of any of these things all parents occasionally Get overtaken with frustration anger fatigue, whatever it may be and say or do things with their kids that they shouldn't it's an episode It should be infrequent.

It should be Apologized for it. We should take steps to ensure that it doesn't happen But blame or blameless has to do with the climate. What is the trend? What is the long-term pattern and impression blameless as a Steward of God Do you view yourself in this way? Think of all of the Bible class every one of you I know has Hundreds thousands perhaps tens of thousands hundreds of thousands of hours of Bible study under your belt We are stewards of that information this is treasure from God's own lips We we are custodians we are to To guard it.

We are to preserve it. We are to pay attention to it We are to live in its light. We are to embody it and reflect it when Jesus said I am the truth We are here representing him.

What should we reflect? What should we be known for? Boy, those people tell the truth even when it hurts even when it you know, he's gonna get passed over there They're gonna look askance You know the truth hurts, but these are just Compulsive truth-tellers, they will tell the truth no matter what That should be us We can only do that by God's grace and in God's power. We are stewards of God Therefore we are not self-willed. We are not quick-tempered.

We are not given to wine we're not violent not greedy for money, but instead and then you have the Flip side a the opposites beginning in verse 8. So what is our conclusion here in this? study What is said about the church is said about the church because the church is the pillar and ground of the truth and every Individual in the church should reflect these values and characteristics of the church and of its leaders That's why these words have come from God through the through the Lord Jesus through the Apostle to pastor Timothy and to every other pastor from then forward to Impress to exhort to encourage and you've seen at first Timothy How many different times does Paul say command and teach these things let no one turn you down turn you off Let no one despise your youth Command exhort preach teach find other men who can pick up the torch and carry it in the same way These are vital. There is nothing more important in the Word of God than us paying attention to these and implementing them in our lives So that's why it's front-loaded This is combat loaded so that we get it first if you don't get this Anything else Paul says isn't going to matter we have to be people of the truth I've got an interesting chart to show you when we come back from the break about the difference that Truth makes in the life of believers. It's science It's great Actual science.

I'm going to put it on the screen when we come back