

Series: Order in the Church

Title: On the Island of the Blind

Text: Titus 2:15

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Illus: The Country of the Blind

He fully intended to follow through and Marry her.
He saw the beautiful Sunrise, and the glory of God's creation.
He realized the valley was a trap of Ignorance & Futility.
He escaped with his life/sight intact f/the country of the blind.

Crete was the Island of the Blind.

The entire Island was enslaved to sin.

The entire island was enveloped by spiritual darkness.

The entire island was encumbered by morality & drunkenness

The Lost were blinded by the Lies of Satan & their Flesh.

Blinded by Satan (2 Cor 4:3-4)

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

*4 In whom the god of this world hath **BLINDED** the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Blinded by their Flesh (1 Jn 2:22)

But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

The Jews were blinded by their formalized Religion

(2 Cor 3:12-16)

12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

Titus was just like the man who stumbled into the country of the Blind.

Titus was on the Island of the Blind.

The People of Crete were going to think he was crazy.

Paul knew that the Cretian Christians in the churches across the island were also going to be under the same pressure, to give up their Spiritual sight, to fit into the society.

Paul's prescribed Solution for this problem, was to involve the church members there to live a dynamic, unified, Gospel-saturated, Christ exalting life.

Where they were willing to sacrifice everything, except their spiritual sight, to make it happen.

Paul is talking to those who know the Lord are no longer in darkness or blind.

(2 Cor 4:6) *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

(Col 1:13) *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

(1 Pet 2:9) *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Paul is giving the churches of Crete a special mission.

Unlike the man in Well's Novel, who escaped with his life. Paul is asking the Cretans, to GIVE their Lives.

This would be a slow process, not an overnight change. The churches were to through take the light of the Gospel into the darkness that surrounded them.

Describe to them another world, another life. One with Spiritual Sight, where they can see the beauty of the Lord all around them.

It wont be easy, the World is going to think they are insane.

It is the same today for us:

We are living in the Country of the Blind today.

The solution our society tells us is become blind like them!

Their solution for those of us who wont give up their spiritual sight is to shut us up, drown us out, or marginalize us.

They use ideas like "Tolerance makes the best citizen." Or they try to vilify us by branding us Homophobes or Bigots

Paul's message to Titus is just as power full to us today, because

We are truly living in the Country of the Blind today.

(Titus 2:15)

These things speak,

I am sorry, but lifestyle evangelism isn't enough.

We need a lifestyle, of Verbal Evangelism.

Target people in prayer.

Engage people in conversation.

Paul is not referring to Sermons, apologetic discourses, or theological dissertations.

Paul mean, ordinary conversation that takes place naturally as we engage people daily.

Not Just In Church!

In the Lunchroom, Across your back fence, in the parking lot. At a store, or on your deck or kitchen table.

At the edge of your kids beds before we tuck them in at night.

Talk to believers about what the previous verses discussed.

Talk about what it means to be a dignified older man. (Vs 2)

Talk about what it means to be a dignified older woman. (3)

Talk about what it means to be a godly young women. vs 4-5)

Talk about what it means to be a godly young man. (Vs 6-8)

Talk about what it means to be a godly servant. (Vs 9-10)

Talk about how Christ is worthy of our obedience (Vs 11-14)

To the Lost! Talk About Jesus!

Bring Him up in Conversation!

Share your testimony.

Invite them to church.

You speak to people everyday who live in the Country of the Blind!

Illus: 1st African American in my church was Rico Faniel.

I helped Rico move to his new apartment.

When I arrived, he didn't realize we were sitting in the dark.

The citizens of the Country of the Blind don't know they are in the dark either.

(Titus 2:15) **Exhort**, - Motivation

He uses this word 9 times in the letters to Timothy and Titus.

Encouraging, counseling, commending, admonishing.

The Passion of someone trying to persuade someone to act.

This is not just informing, but moving them to act on the invitation.

The Gospel automatically involves a decision and a response.

The difference between telling someone of a fire in California, and telling them THEIR backyard is on Fire!

It is Emotionally Passionate and absolutely personal.

We need to be passionate about communicating, motivating to act on the Truth of the Gospel because of (Vs 11).

Our conversation must have an element of Motivation to decide and act because (Vs 13) is Imminent.

It's more than being Available to do a good deed, but being Zealous to do a good deed.

Illus: Abraham Lincoln received a letter in 1850 from his Stepbrother John. D. Johnston, who wrote asking yet again for money to settle his debts.

In the past, Abe Lincoln had simply sent money so as to not get involved.

This time, the lawyer Lincoln decided to get personally involved in an effort to plead with him to change his lifestyle.

Read Letter.

That is an excellent example of Involved Exhortation!

Rebuke - Public Correction

Def ~ To chide; to reprove; to reprehend for a fault; to check by reproof.

(Titus 1:13) *This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

(Vs 15) "These Things" cuts to the heart and demands a discernible change.

Illus: Have you ever used a Taylor Shop.

We go to have alterations done on our clothes.

They don't fit, something has changed & needs to change for them to Work, that's why you went in there in the 1st place.

What if you went to the Taylor shop, and when you returned they didn't altar anything, they just ironed the clothes.

When you ask about it, they say, "Well, we didn't want to offend you and make you think you needed to change anything."

Church is like a Taylor Shop.

Do we go to church to look better?
Or do we go to church to get better?
That's what biblical Worship provides.

Do we go to church to feel better?
Or do we go to church to live better?
That's What Bible teaching provides.

Biblical Fellowship at a Worship service..
Enlivens our conscience by the Holiness of God.
Feeds our Minds with the Truth of God.
Purges our Imaginations by the Beauty of God.
Opens our Hearts to the Love of God.
Causes us to Devote our Will to the Purpose of God.

(Titus 2:15) is the job description of a Shepherd.
My job is not to iron our problems, but leads for change.
The Truth is not always Polite or Passionate.
Sometimes it involves Demolition & Reconstruction.
Alteration is the Goal for all involved.

REBUKE!

Someone has to say it. Someone has to speak truth.

If God calls it sin, then We have to Call It Out!

It does not matter what our government, or society allows, we have to proclaim the truth.

If God calls it Truth, then it doesn't matter what others say about it. It is Still Truth.

If God calls it sin, and a brother is doing it,

We have to Call It Out!

(1 Tim 5:20) *Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*

Paul called listed sin by name, as well as those that sinned.
Someone has to say it.

with all authority.

Authority is a Bad Word today!

Everyone seems afraid to use it because society says we are stealing their personal liberty by enforcing authority.

I meet so many people who think that, we Pastors are overreaching by declaring authority on a topic.

To suggest that one thing is right or another is wrong, to say one is sin and the other Godly somehow makes us judgmental or hateful.

Our enemy wants to silence our Authority.

Declaring only 1 way to heaven.

Declaring Only the Bible as Absolute Truth.

Declaring only 1 church is the True church.

The Current World's Point of View is...

The Universe began as random events.

Life begins by chance.
Human beings are animals.
A fetus isn't a person.
Sex outside of Marriage is safe.
Religions are all the same.
There is no place as hell.
There are many ways to God.
What ever is legal is right.

Someone has to say it. Someone has to speak truth.

In the Country of the Blind someone has to shout the warning they cannot see!

If God says its True, then it is always true, no matter what.

(PS 119:160) *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

Illus: The young preacher said,

“God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

The Old preacher cleared his throat and said,

“God said it, that settles it, whether you believe it or not.”

Truth is knowable: (I Jn 5:13)

Titus will not be teaching uncertainties, or unknowables.

Titus, as well as all of us are to teach the unchanging Truth of God's Word.

Illus: now that we are airing my sermons on the internet, I get a responses that question what I have said.

Demands for Apologies, as if we are the only one who is right
Suggested reading certain books that will change my mind.
Accusations that I am maligning their choices and beliefs.

Let no man despise thee. (Titus 2:15) - Take you Lightly.
This Parallels (2 Tim 4:2) *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

(2 Tim 4:1) is interesting in that Paul reminds Timothy that he, (All Pastors) will give and account to God for their Pastorship.

(2 Tim 4:1) *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

Paul gave a similar command to Timothy

(1 Tim 4:12) *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

Our Manner of life should not contradict our Message.

Our Message is a Preserving Message

(Matt 5:13-16) *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Our Message is to be delivered in love & concern for them.

(John 13:34-35) A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.