

BELIEVER'S PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE (Titus 1:1-4)

The Apostle Paul had left Titus in Crete to preach, minister and teach them the ways of the Lord. It was not an easy task as this letter indicates in **1:10-14**. However, Paul sent this letter and in the first chapter and first few verses gave Titus five guiding principles that had guided his own life and service to the Lord. These principles are the same ones that should guide each believers walk in the Lord.

COMMITMENT TO GOD'S AUTHORITY

Titus 1:1a; 3:3 Paul begins his letter identifying himself as “a servant of God.” Why is that important? Because before his conversion like all of us, Paul was a servant of sin and was only interested in the pleasures of the world and the flesh.

Romans 12:1 Once we are saved by the grace of God we are exhorted by the scriptures to put ourselves at God's disposal to be used as He sees fit.

Romans 6:19-2 I Corinthians 6:19-20 The application of Paul to Titus is that we as believers are all suppose to be bond servants of God due to the fact of His redemption through Christ towards us.

COMMITMENT TO GOD'S MISSION

Titus 1:1b-2a Paul's message to Titus and to all believers is to preach the gospel to everyone so that people (the elect) will come to Christ and be saved. - **see I Peter 1:2**.

Romans 10:17; II Timothy 2:10 The only way for people to be able to obtain salvation is to hear the gospel. Paul was exhorting Titus to preach and teach the word of God even though it would be hard.

I Peter 2:2; I Thessalonians 5:11 Paul knew that he not only was to preach the gospel and help people get saved, but he and Titus and all of us are responsible to help the brethren grow in the Lord.

COMMITMENT TO GOD'S MESSAGE

Titus 1:2b-3a; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9 God is truthful in everything He says in His word, He cannot lie. He promises eternal life to those who will trust Christ by faith through grace.

John 8:44; II Timothy 1:8-10 The Devil is a liar and wants people to believe in a works salvation. God has put in His word dozens of promises and statements of truth concerning grace verses works.

COMMITMENT TO GOD'S WAY

Titus 1:3 Paul tells Titus that it was “God my Saviour” who commanded me to preach His word.

Matthew 4:17; John 1:23; Acts 5:42; I Corinthians 9:16 John the baptist came preaching. Jesus came preaching. The Apostles preached daily. Paul was driven to preach the gospel.

Acts 8:26-37 Philip the deacon and evangelist teaches and preaches the word of God to the eunuch gives a great illustration as to how believers are to win people to Christ through the word.

COMMITMENT TO GOD'S PEOPLE

Titus 1:4 Paul was affectionate in his writing to Titus as he was in all his Epistles. Paul truly loved other believers and many scriptures tell us to do the same.

Rm. 12:10; 13:8, 15:14; Gal. 5:13; 6:9-10; Eph.4:32 We are commanded to love one another, serve one another, forgive one another , prefer one another, comfort one another, be kind to one another, etc.