

PAUL the SLAVE: QUALIFIED TO SPEAK INTO YOUR LIFE

Sunday, January 28, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 2 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

Titus 1:1-4

English Standard Version (ESV)

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 with godliness, 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;*

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

'Titus' is one of three 'PASTORAL EPISTLES' in the New Testament.

Calling it an epistle simply means it is a letter... 'Paul's letter to Titus' Same thing.

Three Pastoral Epistles (or Letters): 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy and Titus.

'Titus' begins with a very formal SALUTATION or GREETING. (vs. 1-4)

- 1) The greeting is 91 words long in English.
- 2) Absolutely packed with significance. (Don't skip!)
- 3) The author's name: *Paul* or *Paulos* (remember that he was formerly 'Saul' (Acts 9)
- 4) The author's two cited credentials: '*I am a servant of God*' '*I am an apostle of Christ*'

1st Credential: ***Paul, a servant of God***

Doulos or δούλος is usually translated servant, bond servant, rarely slave

Doulos occurs 150 times in the Greek NT (original language).

Translation controversy between 'servant' vs 'slave'

Since Calvin and Knox translated the Geneva Bible in 1560 it has often been translated 'servant' or 'bond-servant' when it should be rendered 'slave'.

Why? They thought 'slave' was too belittling, too harsh to refer to Christians.

Problem 1: Fact: ***doulos*** means slave in koine Greek. (see Kittel Greek Dictionary)

Problem 2: There are six other Greek words for servant.

Problem 3: While a ***slave*** is always a ***servant***, a ***servant*** is not necessarily a ***slave***.

Problem 4: Using ***servant*** when ***slave*** is more accurate dilutes/reduces the meaning.

Consider the RELATED TERMS of 'Master' and 'Lord'. Rom. 10:9; 1 Cor. 12:3; Matt. 6:24

The Holy Spirit inspired *doulos* which clearly means 'slave'.

There were 12 million slaves in the Roman empire when Paul wrote to Titus.

The master/slave context of the Roman era was far more intense than that of the 1500's. The stark reality of the 1st century should be no different for any other century.

Two GREAT REALITIES seen throughout the New Testament:

1) JESUS IS LORD -- Romans 10:9

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2) CHRISTIANS ARE SLAVES -- Jude 1:4 (*despoten* = Master; *kurios* = Lord)

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Consider the RADICAL CONTRAST of John 15:12-17

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants,^[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you

and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

ESV Footnotes:

John 15:15 Or **bondservants**, or **slaves** (for the contextual rendering of the Greek word *doulos*, see Preface); likewise for **servant** later in this verse and in verse 20.

Two GREAT REASONS to embrace slavery to Christ:

1) TRUE FREEDOM! Romans 6:15-23; [also John 8:34-36]

17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

2) OUR LORD'S OWN EXAMPLE. Philippians 2:1-11

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[c] being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Just consider the imagery of a slave in the chains of sin on an auction block...

-- the Master Redeemer comes and purchases him with His own blood

-- the Master breaks of chains of sin and frees him to righteousness and eternal life

-- now the Slave has been made a friend of the Master!

How does this affect your motivations to know, follow and obey Christ?

Think about the metaphor of SLAVERY or being a SLAVE.

An actual slave is...

- 1) Captured or born in captivity.
- 2) Chosen from among others.
- 3) Bought/paid for.
- 4) Owned.
- 5) Provided for.
- 6) Protected.
- 7) Instructed/trained.
- 8) Used.
- 9) Disciplined.
- 10) Rewarded.

How/why was this a hard sell in the FIRST century?

How/why is this a hard sell in the 21st century?

How does 1 Corinthians 12:3 relate to this?

Think about the IMPLICATIONS of being a SLAVE:

Romans 6 and 1 Corinthians 6

What are some realities of being a slave to sin?

What are some realities of being a slave to Christ?

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

John 8:34-36

*34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.***

ROMANS 6:15-23

*15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves,^[a] you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? **17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.** 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

*12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. **19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.***