



MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016

SERIES: TITUS

Read: Titus 1:1-4

### **Plug In...**

For the next three weeks The Lakes will work through the book of Titus.

Look at the reason Paul exists in his role as an apostle: *"to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness in the hope of eternal life"* (vv.1-2). As an apostle he preaches (v.3). There is a cause and effect relationship. For those who take on the knowledge of the truth (cause), godliness follows which ends in eternal life (effect).

### **Chew It Over...**

How often do we try to be godly, aim to be wise, desire to do good but side step reading God's word? The opening of Titus argues that reading the word of God (even that delivered by Paul) is what will transform you and change you. Review the regularity with which you come face to face with God's word. Is it enough? Regular reading and absorbing God's word does stuff to us.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask for grace and peace from God and the Lord Jesus. Ask that He will further drive the truth that leads to godliness into our lives as we wait for eternal life. May He transform us!



The Lakes

TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2016

SERIES: TITUS

## Read: Titus 1:5-7 & Psalm 1

### **Plug In...**

Anyone with the task of furthering people's knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness *has* to have a godly life. This connection vv.2-3 established. If a person's life is characterised by ungodly behaviour then that is proof-positive they do not know the truth.

### **Chew It Over...**

At The Lakes anyone entrusted with leading God's people, be it at Kids Church, SALT, Growth Groups, and the pastoral staff (even the parents of children), are expected to have the qualities of eldership listed here. If you find yourself in a role where you are teaching others then a good question to ask is: *are you a student of God's word?* The path to honesty, faithful marriages, controlling your temper, and avoiding bullying and cheating is loving and absorbing God's word. Jesus is the prime example of being a student of God's word; Jesus is the one that Psalm 1 talks about.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask the Lord to help you carve out time to listen to his word, to absorb it, to make you someone who recalls it throughout the day. Ask Jesus for his Spirit which drives us to meditate on God's word then bringing forth godliness within each and every day.



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WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016

SERIES: TITUS

## Read: Titus 1:8-9

### **Plug In...**

The flip side to negative leaders/eldership is provided. Paul lists positive attributes. Again, they are not a merely list as though it is a fitness test to enter the army. The list of qualities flows out of a firm hold to the trustworthy message. The fitness test is a lifetime of keeping hold.

### **Chew It Over...**

If you aspire to lead others in ministry (a worthy aspiration, *cf.* 1 Timothy 3:1), or are currently in a role where you lead, how do you get fit? Are you fit? Get fit by being devoted to reading Scripture. If you exercise your physical body daily but neglect the reading of God's word you are probably not as fit as your body might lead you to believe.

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Thank the Lord for the many opportunities given through The Lakes to get fit. Thank Him for your Growth Group, Sunday teaching, and the community that encourages one another. Ask that we will not waver from sound doctrine; ask that we devote ourselves to letting God's word weave godliness through us.



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THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016

SERIES: TITUS

## Read: Titus 1:10-14 & Proverbs 27:6

### Plug In...

Paul provides insight to spot risky people that could become elders if Titus doesn't carefully select and appoint. They seem to be Jews who have become Christian in the region of Crete. They are messing with people's heads and hearts by teaching things that distort the gospel Paul preached. Paul doesn't pull any punches at this point. He commands Titus to rebuke this group sharply (v.13). Keep in mind that this is not Paul talking to people in general society, but to a group within the church who are threatening other people's faith. Even then, this is not point-scoring, but an action taken in the hope the distorted teachers will become *sound in the faith* (literally 'to be *healthy* in the faith'). Paul wants them strong, healthy, and included in the hope of eternal life through the gospel (1:2).

### Chew It Over...

Have you felt that politicians of all persuasions in this election campaign have held back what they really think on some issues? If they were to speak as sharply as Paul you can bet the next day party colleagues will be 'distancing' themselves from the comments. To speak sharply in politics can damage your popularity. We fell the same potential damage to our own reputations. Often it is hard to speak straight to a Christian brother or sister, or even take a stand in church, because of the 'popular' fallout (even if it is with only a

few close friends). However, we need to have such a love for the health of people's faith. If stuff is going on that is damaging to their faith, our love for the truth and them will lead us to count the cost, stand up, and speak straight (Proverbs 27:6).

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask for such compassion and love for other people that we will indeed escalate the conversation where need be. May God give us the wisdom to hold to both speaking the truth, and speaking it in love.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 01 JULY 2016

SERIES: TITUS

## Read: Titus 1:15-16

### **Plug In...**

Paul is most likely referring to a Jewish group who considered themselves 'pure' because they still followed some of the original cleansing rituals. They've clearly been thinking something warped, where they believe these actions are what actually get you cleaned up before God. It is warped because the original ritual was meant to point to Jesus. The ritual was to remind people that 'nothing in me is clean, I need something more' – i.e., Jesus. They might walk around saying they know God, they may visibly be seen doing these cleansing rituals, but Paul says look at what else can be seen: dishonesty etc. Probably the list of negative things in vv.6-7 is in view. Again, the connection between what you do reveals what you know and believe.

### **Chew It Over...**

Yesterday was the end of the financial year. A perfect time to stocktake, or take stock. We should profile our actions. What we do leaks out what we believe. Are there places where you do certain actions, say certain things, or behave in a particular way, which for the person watching concludes you are probably not really that keen on Jesus?

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Repent if you need to. Ask for godliness to flourish in this area. Pray for commitment to God's word so that this godliness will flourish.



The Lakes

## WEEKEND 02-03 JULY 2016

SERIES: TITUS

## Read: Psalm 14

### Plug In...

As we've looked at Titus chapter 1 this week, we've seen the connection between knowing the gospel and how that knowledge inevitable flows out to behaviour. So often in the Bible 'knowledge' does not just mean intellectual content, or even doctrinal content. It really means a relationship with the truth of the doctrine. To *know* God is not just to know about God, but to be in relationship with Him.

Earlier we saw Psalm 1 teaches everything Titus 1 teaches. Titus 1:16 ends with the same logic but in reverse, negative actions inevitably deny a relationship with God. It is hard to imagine ever describing a person (at least to their face) with the language of Psalm 14, but God's evaluation is scathing and it is directed to the God-denier.

### Chew It Over...

How does Psalm 14 likewise keep the connection between what you know and what you do? Looking at what we do (looking for patterns across our day to day life) are a good indication as to how deep in relationship we are with the Lord.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

May we *know* the only true God and His son Jesus Christ and therefore attain eternal life. May God help us to *know* Jesus Christ more deeply.