

*1 Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. 2 They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. 3 Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. 4 But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.a 6He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. Titus 3:1-7*

The Word of God is always a measure of how in tune our hearts are with the heart of God. In the upper room Jesus told the disciples in the upper room, *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.* We tend to say, Yes Lord, but you don't know the situations I am facing. But He does. When Jesus made this statement, *Let not your heart be troubled*, the apostles were about to go into uncharted territory, their Master was about to be taken from them and brutally murdered. How could they keep from being troubled? It seemed an utter necessity, they had to let their souls be troubled. Don't the situation in our life so often produce fear? Jesus seems to say we must manage our fears.

This isn't limited to a Christian worldview but is true of what we must do to be truly human. Here are a few quotes, *Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear. Mark Twain I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Nelson Mandela* If men of the world can resist fear how much more we who claim worship Creator God, *God who made heaven and earth, the sea and everything that is in them; Who keeps faith (truth, remains faithful forever) forever; Who executes justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners. Ps 146:6,7* We claim to know this God, this God *who made heaven and earth, who made the world and everything in it (Act 17:24)*. Consider what Jesus said to the disciples, when they were in a boat and being swamped in a might storm. *He said to them, "Where is your faith?"*

*22Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. 23But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. 24They came up to Jesus and woke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. 25And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" Luke 8:22-25*

When the sea is calm we can be strong but when the boat of our lives looks like we are sinking does Jesus say to us, *"Where is your faith?"* Peter told Jesus in the upper room, *I will lay down my life for Your sake.* When the time came in the priests courtyard he wasn't able to lay down his life because he wasn't able to keep his heart from being troubled. That would have taken the work of God's Spirit. So just because Jesus had told them to not let their *hearts be troubled*, they lacked the power to *believe God, to believe Jesus for peace*. Just before this in the upper room Jesus gave the disciples a special command. He called it a new commandment, *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34,35 This was to be the great mark of early Christians, they loved each other, but they also had great love for the world they lived in.

Paul wants Titus to be an example of good works to the believers, *be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. He was to reflect the integrity and seriousness of his teaching. Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us.* Titus 2:7,8 Paul knew that it is vital for the leader to *reflect the integrity of God and thus bring glory to God.* This is in line with Jesus own teaching, *How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye?* Luke 6:42

This is in line with how Titus was to instruct slaves and servants, *Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.* Titus 2:7-10 The Christian's godly behavior is to *make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.* Peter explains that God looks on us with favor if we suffer for doing good. *For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.* 1 Peter 2:20 Good behavior is not just for the home and the workplace but also needs to manifest itself in our relationship to those in governmental authority, *submit to the government and its officers.*

*1 Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. 2 They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.* Titus 3:1,2

The Christians was to be full of *good works of every kind, always ready to do what is good.* We must remember that the Jews of this period were still looking for a messiah that would deliver Israel. But the entire known world had been forced into subjection to Roman. It was called Pax Romana, (Latin: "Roman Peace") and state of comparative tranquillity throughout the Mediterranean world from 27 BC-180 AD). There was wisdom in submitting to the authorities even though they were hard masters, it kept you from open rebellion against a mighty power. But more than that as Jesus stated, *all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.* It was a mark of believers, *they loved one another.* And not just for our families or the Church but for all God's creations. *7Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.* 1 John 4:7-9

Paul had in mind what he had written to the Corinthians, *God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.* 2 Cor 5:19 As believers, we don't know which ones that Christ is yet calling. The promise is to *all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.* Peter pointed this out in his first public sermon in Acts.

*38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.* Acts 2:38,39

We can have this attitude because we remember wher we came from, we to *were foolish, disobedient and misled.* Paul the fallen states we were in before we were saved.

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*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds. Titus 2:*

*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:19*

*We all are saved not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. Now here is the Gospel, the Good News. We must remember that God desires that all men would come to a knowledge of Him. As Isaiah wrote, All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the wrongdoing of us all To fall on Him. Is 53:6*

*1 First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim 2:1-3*