

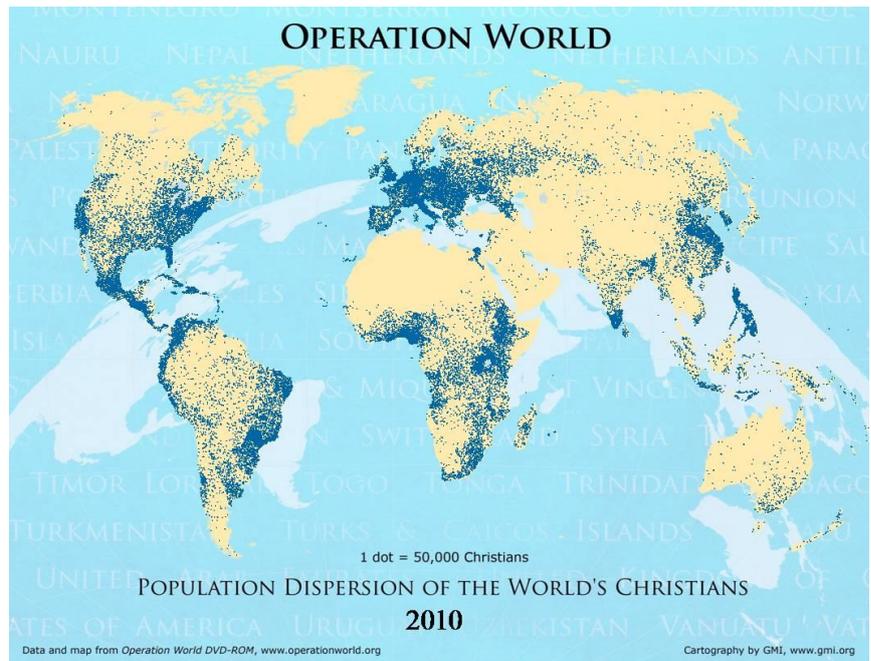
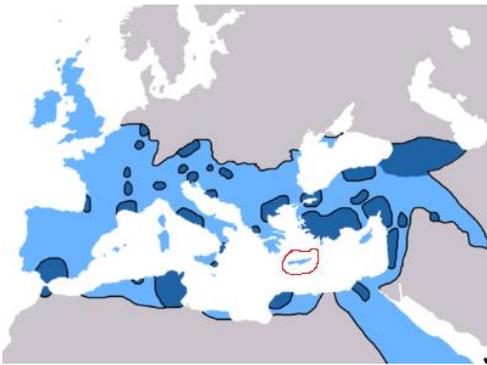
Titus 3.9-15 From Everywhere to Everywhere: Opposition and Advance

Chapter 1 - Doctrine and Duty in the Church

Chapter 2 - Doctrine and Duty in the Home

Chapter 3 - Doctrine and Duty in the World

2000 yrs after Letter Written – Christian Faith is GLOBAL – Growing Stronger



Final Command of our God and King still our Responsibility – Go into all World

Now SPREAD of Faith is from EVERYWHERE to EVERYWHERE! > ZGC

Prophet's Vision fulfilled: Earth full of Knowledge of Lord // Waters cover Sea

1. Opposition Within

Unfortunately, many times GRAND Everywhere Task – Never gets Started

Many Christians / Christians still SITTING on Sidelines of God's Mission

Paul addresses 2 Opponents to our Full Obedience...

a. Unprofitable Distractions

v. 8 ...those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

NOW Paul warns these CRETAN Christians about things UNPROFITABLE...

v. 9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Remember had LOUSY Cell Phone coverage on Crete – SADLY for Them
 Could Not Fill time w Profitable things we Moderns do on our Phones Today
 CLEVER STORIES, FABLES, LEGENDS, MYTHS to fill their MINDS
 Rabbi's Popular Article > Babylonians have Roundheads, SMALLER BRAINS
 Minutia about MOSES – How to PRONONOUNCE or SPELL Hebrew Words

They were MORE EXCITED about SPECULATION than SALVATION

Like Paul Placed TITUS on Crete, he had DEPUTIZED Timothy in EPHESUS
 ...remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any
 different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies,
 which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.

1 Timothy 1.3-4

THESE People without CELL PHONES too – No Internet, Web Sites, You Tube

The PULP FICTION of their Day > Books about OT MYTHS, info Not in OT

The DA VINCI CODE of the First Century – Causes CONFUSION and STRIFE

They may have been allegorizers. They were certainly speculators. They treated
 the law as a happy hunting-ground for their conjectures. To Paul the whole
 approach was frivolous; God had given his law to his people for a much more
 serious purpose...The ultimate criteria by which to judge any teaching are
 whether it promotes the glory of God and the good of the church. John Stott

Today we can be MORE EXCITED with Books ABOUT the BIBLE than Bible

One Conference people asked to Raise Hands if read any of Left Behind Books

Most Hands went UP – Then, asked if READ book of Revelation?? FEW Hands

Favorite BLOGS – SERMONS by Great Preachers – Christian FICTION Books

May be GOOD Things – If KEEP you from BIBLE - Unprofitable Distractions

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but
 not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his
 neighbor... So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory
 of God.

1 Corinthians 10.23,24,31

Is it Based: **Word of God?**, Motivated: **Love of God?**, Result: **Glory of God?**

b. Ungodly Divisions

v. 9 PERSON wasting their OWN Time / vs. 10 Wastes Everyone's Time

SOME of SAME Timewasters – Some Good Things – Like to Fight about Them

v. 10 As for a person who stirs up division

Not Sure what were Fighting about in 1st C – but lots of Silly Fights in 21st C

25 Silly Things Church Members Fight Over

Arguments over the appropriate length of the pastor's beard...whether to put dividing stalls in the women's restroom...whether to have clock in worship hall

...which picture of Jesus to put in the foyer...type of coffee served...

whether to have gluten-free communion bread > NOW days Gluteny is a Sin

1) Character

v. 10 a person who stirs up division – v. 11 such a person is warped and sinful

There is a difference between needing to divide and loving to divide. A divisive person loves to fight...A person who loves the peace and purity of the church may be forced into division, but it is not his character Bryan Chapell

Sometimes HARD STANDS need to be TAKEN – but Speak the Truth in Love the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. 2 Timothy 2.23

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12.18

SADLY, sometimes even for SINLESS JESUS – it was NOT POSSIBLE

2) Correction - Titus is to discipline contentious people

v. 10 after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him

3 Stages Discipline 1 & 2 - Clear Warnings 3 - Nothing to Do // Jesus words...

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Matthew 18.15-17

Jesus wants us to face our brothers, not Facebook them! directly, quickly, kindly
rarely we'll need mutually trusted friends to help us make peace
very rarely, we may need arbitration from church leaders

Nothing can be more cruel than that leniency which abandons others to sin.
Nothing can be more compassionate than that severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one's community back from the path of sin.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Life Together"

3) Consequences v. 11 he is self-condemned

TREAT them Like UNBELIEVER because ACTING like UNBELIEVER

Choice they have made to REFUSE to REPENT – Unless Repent > will PERISH

CUT YOURSELF off from ONLY Hope of Salvation: Jesus – Self Condemned

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment

Hebrews 10.26,27

Jesus has BLOCKED every PATH to HEAVEN but HIMSELF

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14.6

2. Advance Beyond

NORMALLY Not think that TIME of Trouble in church is Time of Mission

DIVISIVE Person WARNED – Serious Problem needs to be SORTED OUT

CHALLENGES in Ministry show that GOSPEL is Working! Challenging SIN

a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries
1 Corinthians 16.9

COUNTER-Intuitive > Adversaries – Time to Rest or Retreat, Not Advance

“Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.”
G.K. Chesterton

our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you
2 Corinthians 10.15,16

I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named...“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”
Romans 15.20,21

Paul working in CONTROL TOWER of God’s Global Mission Launch
Sending One Here and Another There to Advance the Kingdom of God

a. Friendships – Jesus taught that Gospel Advance was 2 X 2 - Partners

v. 12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

We know NOTHING about Artemis – Tychicus mentioned Several Times
With Paul while he was IMPRISONED, Carried Paul’s Letters to Eph, Colossae



One of them would REPLACE Titus and
Continue Ministry on CRETE

Titus to join Paul at Nicopolis

9 References about Titus in 2 Corinthians –
All w/ Affection and CONFIDENCE

When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 2.12,13

God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus

2 Corinthians 7.6

PAUL WAS A FATHER AND A FRIEND - NEEDED PEOPLE

Last Paragraphs of Paul's Writings – Eager for Timothy's Companionship

Do your best to come to me soon...Do your best to come before winter.

2 Timothy 4.9,21

We are NOT MACHINES in MINISTRY, Need Love & Support like All People
 GOD uses FRIENDSHIP to Support Us in Ministry & OPEN Doors for Ministry
 Christian Friends that Encourage Us – Pray for Us – Support Us in Many Ways

Sem. Student friend from UGANDA – Invited Me there with him in 1980 > 8 yrs
 Pastoring had Sabbatical > Friend said go to KZ – 1997, never Heard! > 11 yrs
 Friends in China - Dayna & Mahi went to HS, Husband 1st pastor ZGC, I am 2nd
 God will USE Friendships you're Making here to Advance His Global Kingdom

b. Foundation

Titus is not Indispensable / Church in Crete NOT TITUS TABERNACLE

If anybody ever says ZGC is Mark Blair's church – ZGC is in BIG TROUBLE

Be NIMBLE and Ready to Move when the Lord leads you to Next Appointment

Or be Ready to Stay and Endure Difficulty if He has Fixed you for a Season

To the DIVIDED Corinthian church – Some follow Paul, Peter, & Apollos

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3.11

c. Funding - Titus is to send Zenas and Apollos on their way

v. 13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. > **Apollos the Preacher, Zenas the Lawyer!**

Cannot SPEED without some SUPPORT > Takes MONEY to do MINISTRY

Lacking NOTHING – If Lacking SOMETHING – gotta PAY for IT!

Same Way Paul and Barnabas were SENT OUT and SUPPLIED from Antioch
 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13.2,3

Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.
 3 John 5-8

d. Fruitfulness Titus is to ensure that “our people” are dedicated to good works
 v. 14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

God’s PRIMARY INSTRUMENT of Global Mission is the Local Church
 Men, Women, Boys, Girls – Gathering, Growing, and Going – in Power of Spirit
 FAITHFUL to Scriptures and FRUITFUL in their SERVICE

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you Titus 1.5

Paul tells Local Church in COLOSSAE

...the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth Colossians 1.5,6

ENGLISHMAN who worked in CHINA...

“The soul cannot be God's and the life not God's at the same time. The soul cannot be recreated and the life remain unchanged.” Roland Allen

People need to SEE GOOD FRUIT before they want to hear our Good News

“We evangelicals must accept that our beliefs are now in conflict with the mainstream culture. We cannot change ancient doctrines to adapt to the currents of the day. But we can, and must, adapt the way we hold our beliefs - with grace and humility instead of superior hostility. The core evangelical belief is that love and forgiveness are freely available to all who trust in Jesus Christ. This is the good news...Instead of offering hope, many evangelicals have claimed the role of moral gatekeeper, judge and jury.”
John S. Dickerson

e. Family GLOBAL FAMILY – Hand Shakes and High Fives all Around

v. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

ZGC DEPOSITORY of Mercy – Your Home Churches send Greetings/Blessings
We are THRIVING Here because God’s People in Many Lands Pray for Us here
When we GO we Carry that BLESSING and to BE that Blessing to OTHERS

v. 15 Grace be with you all. - Paul BEGAN this Letter with GRACE

To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
Titus 1.4

AND – Fittingly this Letter ABOUT God’s Grace – Ends with words of Grace

“One half of the world is always in the light, while the other half is always in darkness. When one part of the world is going to bed, another part is just getting out of bed. While one part is hard at work, the other part is fast asleep. While some of God’s servants are carrying forward their mission, others are resting in preparation for the new day that will soon dawn. Somewhere, twenty-four hours a day, God’s message is being spoken; his Word applied; people are being saved. The sun never sets on the work of God and the witness of his people.”

Roger Greenway

Titus 3.⁹But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. ¹²When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. ¹⁴And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. ¹⁵All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.