

Your Saving Package

Titus 2:2-14

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Amidst the call to intentionally draw closer to each other, discover our giftings to serve the church, and abide in Christ, we might question what part we have to play.

Do I really have a part to play?

1. The Vision

Paul writes to Titus, a young pastor of a young church on the island Crete. The vision that Paul lays out in the letter of how Titus's church ought to behave and function is a general vision of how our church should behave and function.

5 Principles from verses 2-10

i) No one is left out

Paul addressing people of different age-groups and status is a reminder that no one should be left out. Every member belongs and matters to the body; no one should be excluded from getting involved. Whatever your age, state of health, or status in life, you are part of the vision of the church!

ii) Everyone has a role to play

While the roles we play may change as our lives change, we never graduate from serving the vision of the church. Your role may change, but you will always have a role.

iii) 'Being' comes before 'Doing'

Paul focuses on the 'being' more than the 'doing'. Much of what Paul desires of the church boils down to the fruit of the spirit. The 'being' that Paul calls us to can only take place as we abide in Christ! Abide! Actively belong to be abundantly fruitful!

iv) Consider the culture

Paul, being aware of the culture of Crete (Titus 1:12-13a), called for the people to reject the excesses of culture, but to affirm the cultural value of self-control

(vv. 2, 5, 6). Paul envisions a church that is able to discern between what is helpful and hurtful in the culture.

v) Flourishing is the goal

The church is called to pursue flourishing in the various contexts that it is a part of. *As an Every-Member Church, Agape must become a body where every member utilises his/her God-given gifts for the flourishing of the church, the family, the community, the city, and the nations.*

2. The Resource

vv.11-14 - The resource behind the vision is the grace of God (v.11). The grace of God refers to the gospel of Jesus Christ! It is the resource that brings salvation for all people (v. 11). But not only does God's grace save us, it also trains us (vv. 11-12). It trains us to...

a. Say "No!" (v.12) - It trains us to turn away and reject ungodly values of the culture.

b. Say "Yes!" (v.12) - It trains us to turn to God, keep His commandments, and affirm the noble aspirations of the culture.

c. To keep saying "No!" & "Yes!" (v. 13) - It trains us to wait, hold on, and persevere for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Resource: Your Saving Package

i. It's not about you! It's about the grace of God.

ii. It's not about what you can do! It's about what you are willing to trust God to do through you.

iii. It's not only about peace! It's also about passion.

The gospel not only comforts and gives us peace, it also sets us free to passionately and zealously do good works (v.14). Let the gospel add passion to peace.