

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

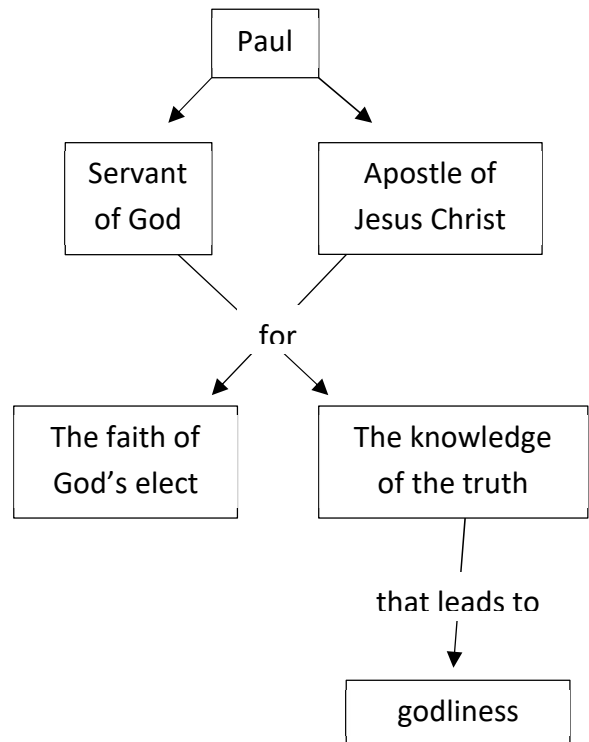
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

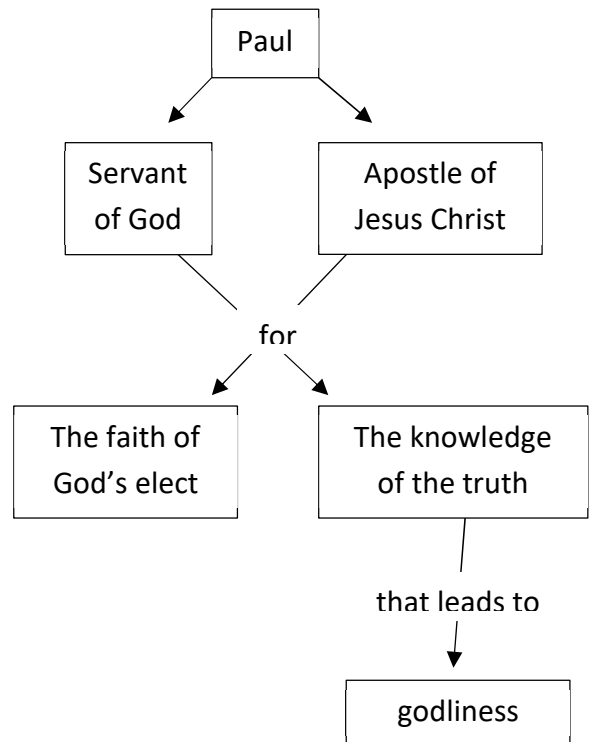
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?



**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging one for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

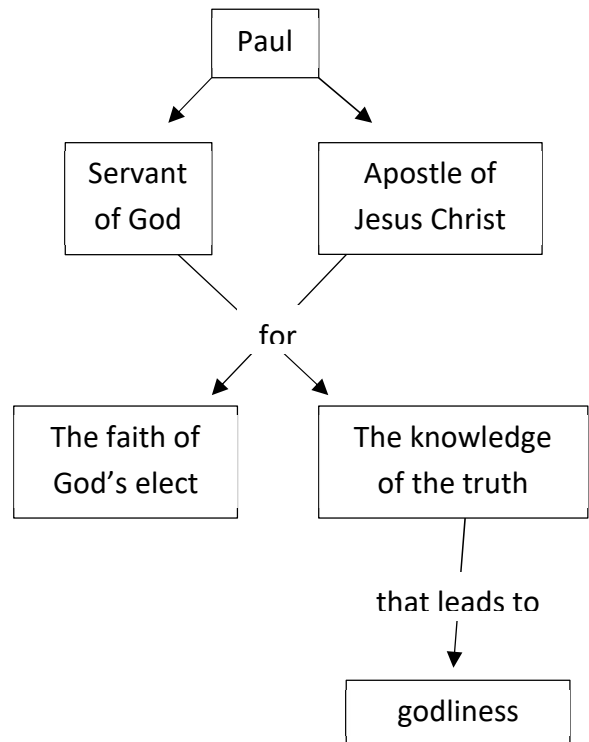
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging one for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?



**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

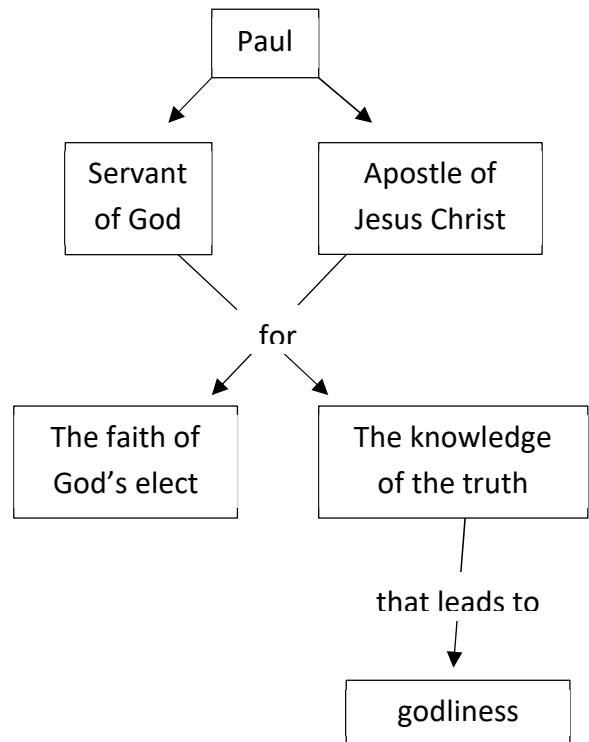
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “*liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,*” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

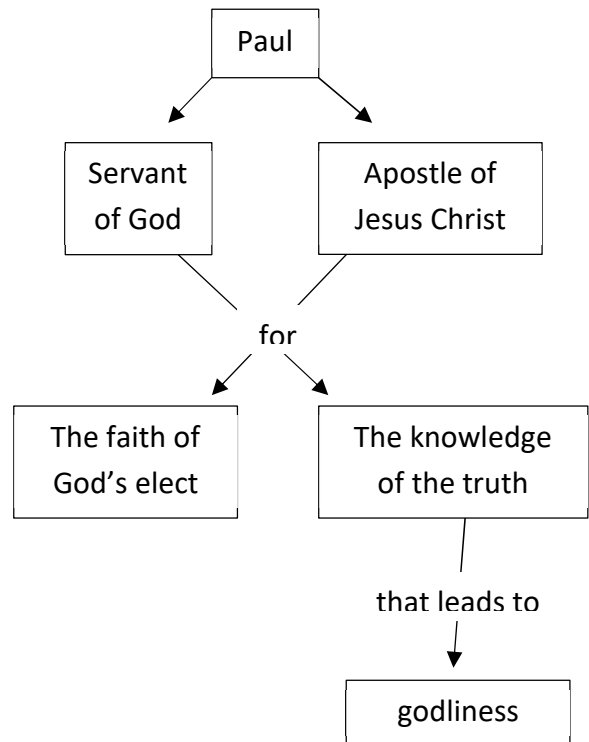
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging one for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.



**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

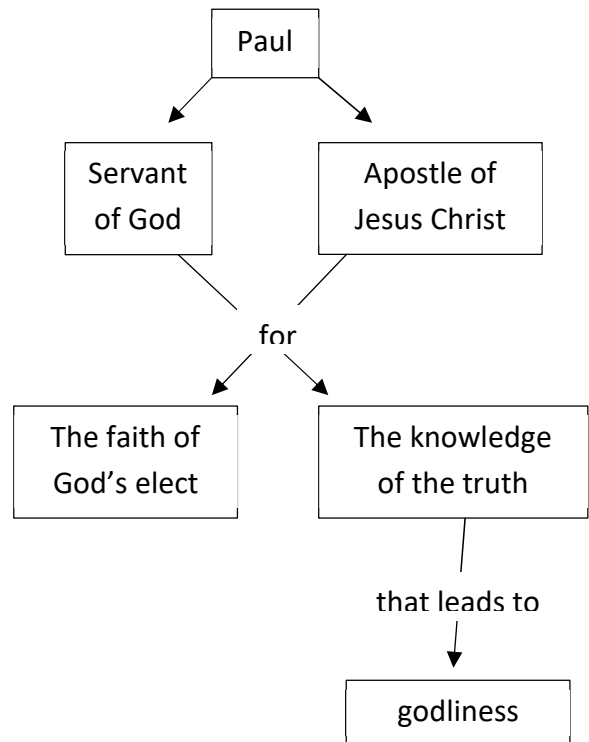
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging one for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

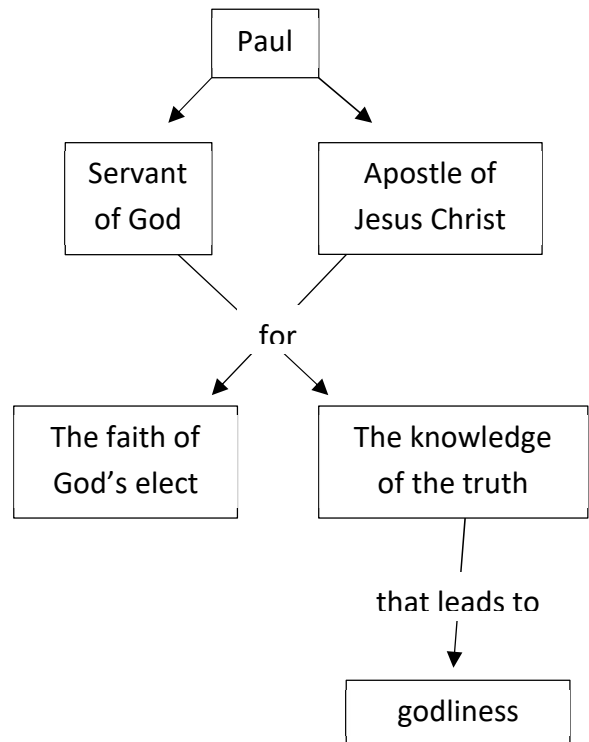
**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.



## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging one for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

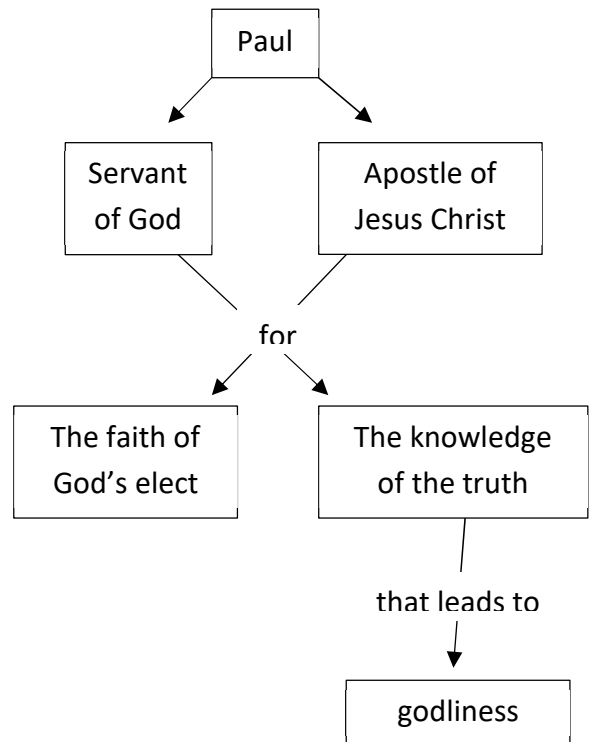
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.



## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

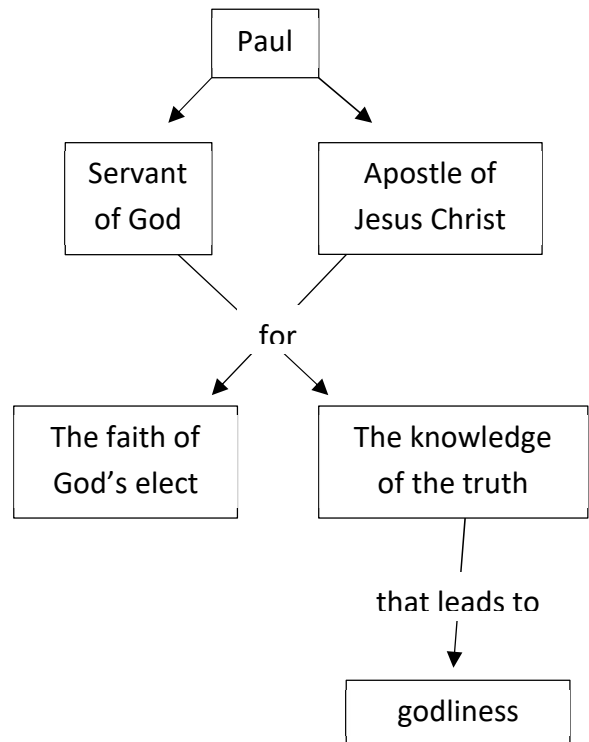
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging one for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

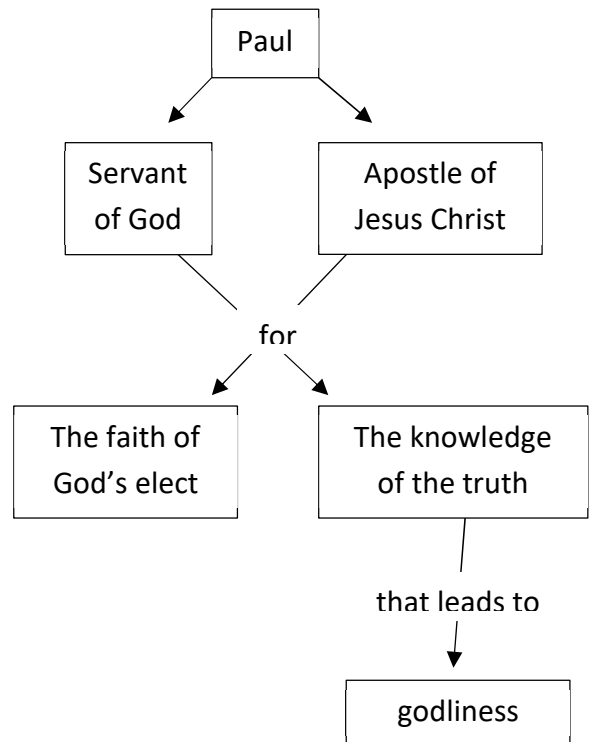
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?



**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “*liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,*” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?

**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

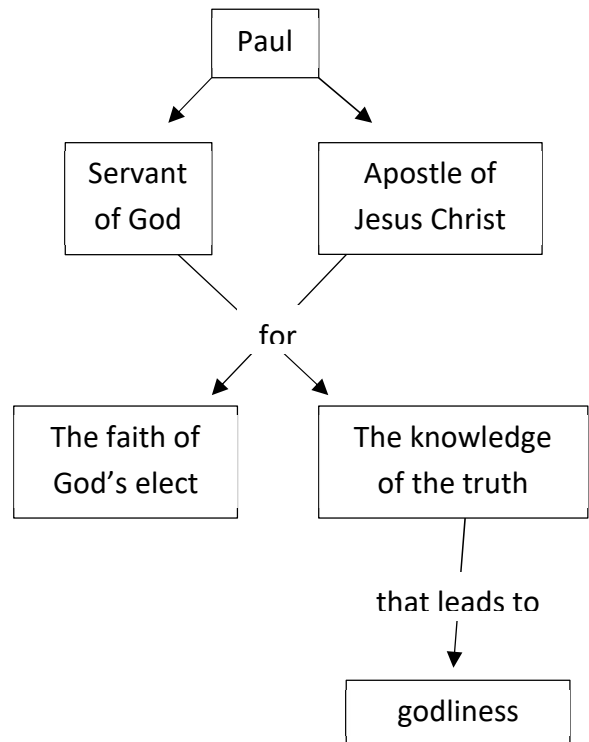
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.

## Week 2: Written for a Reason

**Scripture Passage:** Titus 1-5:, 12-13, 3:14

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May 7

*1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

*5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

*1:12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith.*

*3:14 Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

**Theme:** Paul writes to Titus to encourage him to encourage others to devote themselves to good.

### Icebreaker:

How would you describe a typical Mainer? What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who was moving to Maine on how to build relationships with others?

### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen.

**Summary Review:** In week 1 your group created a one sentence summary for Titus. Have someone share this summary with the group.

**Quick Overview:** Read Titus 1-5, 12-13, 3:14 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

- Who wrote the letter? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Who was the letter written to? What do we know about him, based off of these verses?
- Why was the author writing this letter to the recipient?
- Who was the letter written about? What do we know about them, based off of these verses?
- What does the author want to encourage the recipient with those he is writing about?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this section?



**Sermon Discussion Guide:** Take some time to review last Sunday's sermon, discussing them major themes of the sermon, questions you may have, and ways to apply the message into your lives.

- What was the major theme of this Sunday's message? What were key points in the message that connected with the overall theme?
- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message tough on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
- What were some questions or concerns you had from this week's message? Was there anything said that you did not understand or disagreed with?
- How were you encouraged to apply the advice given to Titus into your own life and spiritual development?

**PAUL:** Paul, the author of the letter, is the focus of the first verse. He is not simply describing his ministry, he is providing a model for Titus' ministry, and for ministry in every time and place, including ours. Paul is setting Christian ministry in its proper context. What Paul does, and what Titus is to do, and what we do is set in the context of eternity (vs 2). (Tim Chester)

**Titus 1:1** *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.*

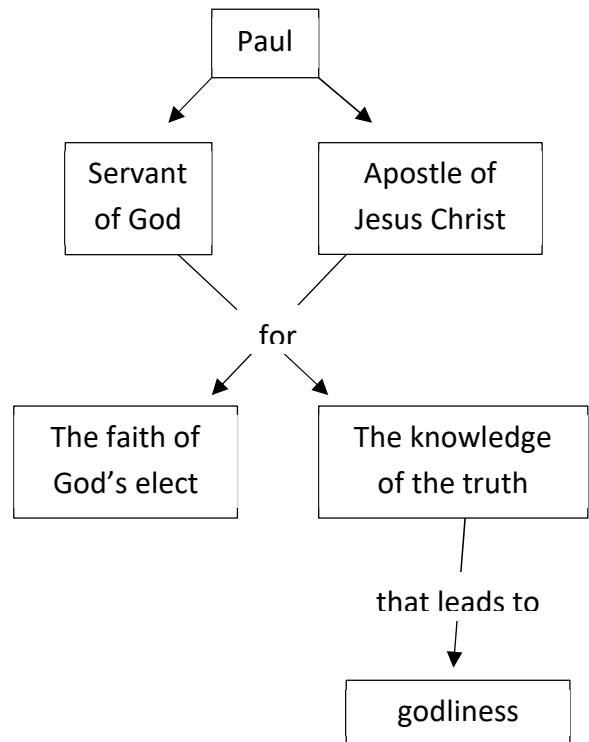
- What two titles does Paul use to define himself?
- What is the purpose of these titles? What are these roles for?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself?

**Apostle:** This word means, "one who is sent" or "one acting with full authority of another." In the New Testament this term is used in two ways. It can refer to a pioneer church planter or as a primary witness to Jesus whose testimony is the foundation of the church. Paul embodies both roles.

Paul is known for using complicated, run-on sentences that can leave modern readers confused. Some scholars suggest diagramming these sentences in order to gain a deeper insight. Using this diagram (on the next page) you may understand the logic and flow of Paul's thoughts. This diagram helps us determine how Paul sees himself, his two titles and their purpose.

## TITUS: Devoted to Good

- Does this diagram help you understand Paul better?
- What do you think Paul wants to communicate to Titus by the way he describes himself.
- Why do you think Paul's servitude and apostleship are important for this letter?
- How does Paul's introduction show his authority for writing to Titus?
- How does it provide validity for modern day readers?



**GODLINESS:** Godliness is a recurring theme in this letter. Godliness is a personal action toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. It is faith in action, continuing to grow in knowledge and understanding.

- Paul suggests that the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. How can knowing the truth about God and shape our behavior?

Tim Chester writes, "The more we understand what God has done for us in Christ, the more we will love him and live for him."

- How have you seen that in your life? How was your understanding of God shaped your behavior?

**Titus 1:2-3:** *In the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior.*

Paul stresses that our understanding of God leads to godliness (faith/devotion in action).

- As you read verses 2-3, what are some things that Paul helps us understand about God?
- How does God make his purposes and promises known? How does God help us understand his purpose?
- Why are these important truths about God, how does understanding them shape your faith? How should understanding them change your actions?

**TITUS:** Paul is writing to Titus, a young man he has mentored in the faith and nurtured into ministry. While not much is known about him, it is clear that he and Paul have a deep and personal relationship which is centered around their common faith. The use of the term “true son” instead of “brother” implies a personal hierarchy in their relationship, built on mutual trust and respect.

**Titus 1:4:** *To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

- Why does Paul call Titus a “true son?” What might this familial term suggest about their relationship?
- How does knowing that they have a strong relationship provide understanding and depth to Paul’s authority in Titus’ life and ministry?
- Have you ever experienced a Paul & Titus type of relationship in your faith journey? Is there someone you might call a spiritual parent or child? How has God used those types of relationships to help you grow in faith and godliness?

**CRETANS:** Paul continued on his missionary journeys but has left Titus on the island of Crete. The people of Crete had a very bad reputation, they were known for being lazy liars, which they often wore as a badge of honor. This made it a very difficult mission field and a challenging for Titus.

**Titus 1:12-13** *One of their very own prophets said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true.*

While the people as a whole may have had a bad reputation, that does not mean that it should be abandoned, in fact the church in Crete was growing and Paul wanted to make sure that the church did not fall back into their sinful ways.

- How might the understanding of the Cretan reputation be a discouragement for Titus in his mission?
- How might this understanding be helpful for Titus?
- Knowing these things about Cretans, they are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons,” how could Titus use that information to advance the call of the Gospel to the people of Crete?
- What would you say is the true reputation of people in our area?
- How can we use that understanding to advance the call of the gospel in our community?

**TITUS’ MISSION:** Titus is charged with the responsibility, which Paul started, to appoint elders (pastor and leaders) in all of the churches throughout Crete. These churches were most likely house churches in villages and the elders were the spiritual leaders of these churches.

**Titus 1:5:** *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.*

Though out this letter Paul will stress the importance of a leader's character over their skills and knowledge.

- Why does having the right leaders in a church matter?
- Why might a leader's character supersede their skills and knowledge?
- How can leadership make or break a church and its witness in their community?

**TITUS PURPOSE:** While Paul knew the mission would be difficult, it would not be impossible. While the Cretans had a bad reputation, they could also learn a new way of living and leading.

**Titus: 3: 14:** Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

- What does Paul say that the Cretans need to learn?
- Why does he want them to be devoted to good works?
- Why would the church be unfruitful if they were not devoting themselves to good works?
- How can the devotion to good bring vitality to a church?

**Make it personal:**

- How can a personal devotion to good strengthen your faith?
- In what ways can you use your time, resources and talents to serve God and others?
- What might this devotion look like this week? This month? This year?

**Wrap-up:** Take a look back at the questions you created from lesson one to see if any of these questions have been addressed and answered in this week's study.

- Were any of the questions addressed in this week's lesson or sermon?  
Has your time in Titus this week help you discover any answers to these questions?

**Conclusion:** How has your study this week guided you in your faith and inspired you toward being devoted to good? How can the small group encourage you to remain devoted to godliness?

**Close in Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from the groups and spend time praying for ways to encourage each other to be devoted to good.