

# A Purposeful Preamble

Titus 1:1-4

# Major Themes

- There is an essential connection between sound doctrine and sound living.

*Biblical truths should be visible truths in the lives of God's people.*

# Major Themes

- There is an essential connection between the grace of God that has saved us, our godly living in the present, and our future glory.

*The grace of God is His undeserved favor toward us. This favor is manifestly seen in the way that God saves us on account of Christ, and in the way that favor extends to practical help in our lives.*

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# Main Idea

The authority of the Word, the hope of eternal life, and our confidence for obedience are all grounded in the faithfulness of God.

## Titus 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

## A Purposeful Preamble

1. An authoritative introduction
  - a. The authority of Paul thoroughly established

<sup>1</sup> Paul, **a servant of God** and an apostle of Jesus Christ

By calling himself a “servant of God”, Paul was demonstrating that he was constrained to do the will of God, and that he also had the authority to speak on behalf of God.



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<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and **an apostle of Jesus Christ**

By calling himself “an apostle of Jesus Christ”, Paul claims that he holds a specific and authoritative office whereby he has been commissioned to communicate and minister the infallible word of God.

## Servant of God & Apostle of Jesus Christ

“I belong to God the Father, in order to do His will, and I have been sent by Jesus Christ, in order to deliver His word.”

## A Purposeful Preamble

1. An authoritative introduction
  - a. The authority of Paul thoroughly established
  - b. The authority of Titus conferred

<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith...

## Titus 2:15

<sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke **with all authority.**  
**Let no one disregard you.**

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<sup>4</sup> To Titus, **my true child** in a common faith...

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<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child **in a common faith...**

Paul deliberately confers authority on Titus by establishing that he is a genuine convert who shares the faith of the elect.

This contrasts with the false teachers that Titus was commissioned to refute.



Christ commissioned Paul to speak God's word for Him to His people.

Paul wrote God's word to Titus and commissioned Titus to speak God's word to the Cretans.

When Titus teaches the content of this letter to the Cretans, he is teaching God's own words to them.

If we obey Titus as he teaches these things, we are obeying Paul.

If we are obeying what Paul wrote, we are obeying The Lord.

Therefore, if we obey Titus as he applies what Paul wrote, we obey  
the Lord.

If we reject Titus' teaching and application of this letter, we are  
rejecting Titus, Paul, and the Lord.

Since the scriptures we have are the very words of God, they come to us with an authority that places a moral obligation on us to understand and obey what they say.

## A Purposeful Preamble

1. An authoritative introduction
  - a. The authority of Paul thoroughly established
  - b. The authority of Titus conferred
  - c. The nature of saving faith: an authoritative standard

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of **the faith of God's elect** and the knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

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“For the sake of the faith of the elect of God, *that is*, the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness.”

The “faith of the elect of God” comprises:

1. The acknowledgment of the truth
2. A response to that truth of godliness

“godliness” (eusebeia) = devotion, piety

The “faith of the elect of God” involves an inner response to the truth, which shows itself in pious devotion to God.

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<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior



Paul can have confidence in the authority of his ministry of the Word because God is faithful to His eternal promise and plan.

Likewise, we can have confidence to preach and minister the Word because God is still faithful to His eternal promise and plan.

# A Purposeful Preamble

## 2. A promise kept

- a. God chose a people

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of  
**God's elect**

## A Purposeful Preamble

### 2. A promise kept

- a. God chose a people
- b. God made a promise “before time eternal”

<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which **God**, who never lies, **promised before the ages began**

## 2 Timothy 1:9

*(God)* who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus

**before the ages began**

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- a. God chose a people
- b. God made a promise “before time eternal”

<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which **God**, who never lies, **promised before the ages began**

## John 17:6

6 “I have manifested your name **to the people whom you gave me** out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

## John 17:9

9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but **for those whom you have given me**, for they are yours.

## John 17:24

**they also, whom you have given me**

Because our hope of eternal life is grounded in the indefatigable faithfulness of God, we can speak of the promise as if it's already fulfilled.

God keeps His promises... always.

## A Purposeful Preamble

### 3. A plan fulfilled

- a. God's promise was manifested at the proper time

<sup>3</sup> and **at the proper time manifested** in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted



## A Purposeful Preamble

### 3. A plan fulfilled

- a. God's promise was manifested at the proper time
- b. God's promise is manifested through the preaching of the gospel

<sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested **in his word through the preaching** with which I have been entrusted

Because our hope of eternal life is grounded in the indefatigable faithfulness of God, we can speak of the end result of the plan as if it's already done.

God fulfills His plans... always.

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