

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Titus: Paul's Partner

(Jerry Fite)

Tomorrow, the Lord willing, Parkview will begin our 2018 Vacation Bible School. The theme of taking the good news into the world will concentrate on Paul and his companions. We have planned classes for all ages, concentrating on the same topic each day. Therefore parents, you will be studying the same companion of Paul in your class as your children are in their classes. At the end of the week will have become more familiar with the lives of Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, Silas and the married couple, Aquila and Priscilla. Hopefully, their examples in the work of the Lord will inspire us and guide us as we strive to spread the Good News in our world.

One of Paul's companions was Titus. While never mentioned by name in the Book of Acts, Titus accompanied Paul, and was sent out by Paul in the work of the Lord. Paul commends Titus to the Corinthians as “my partner and my fellow-worker to you-ward...” (2 Corinthians 8:23).

By the time Paul takes Titus with him to Jerusalem to discuss circumcision as it relates to the Gospel, Titus is already a Christian. He is chosen by the

church in Antioch to accompany Paul and Barnabas. He apparently was among “*the certain among them*” (Acts 15:2).

While we do not know the “when” Titus became a Christian, we do know “what” he believed to become one. Paul, writing to Titus, identifies him as “*my true child after a common faith*” (Titus 1:4). Titus was, like all Christians, begotten by the word of the Gospel (1 Peter 1:23). Paul probably converted Titus through the Gospel (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:15), making Titus Paul's true child, spiritually. Before Titus was a partner with Paul in the work of the Gospel, they shared the same faith of the Gospel.

Titus was a partner with Paul in their uncompromising defense of the truth of the Gospel. When Titus accompanied Paul to the Jerusalem conference, Paul says, “...not even Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised...” (Galatians 2:3). Paul and Titus were united in not giving in to pressure from the Judaizing teachers... “to whom we gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you” (Galatians 2:5) Demanding Gentiles be cir-

cumcised to be saved is an unauthorized addition to the Gospel's plan of justification by faith. Any addition or subtraction is a perversion of the Gospel (Galatians 1:6-7). Titus was a partner with Paul in an uncompromising spirit.

Titus was a strong, trustworthy partner of Paul in the work of the Lord. Paul sent Titus to a troubled church in Corinth, to see how they had received a previous letter of rebuke and instruction. Paul was comforted when Titus met him in Macedonia with good news regarding the spiritual progress of the divided church (2 Corinthians 2:13, 7:5-7, 13-16). Later, Paul sent Titus to Corinth, as his partner, to complete the work preparing for Paul's coming to gather funds for the poor saints in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:16-24). Paul leaves Titus in Crete to “set in order the things that were wanting” by appointing “elders in every city” (Titus 1:5). His uncompromising spirit would be a source of strength to the elders as they confront false teachers, and his exemplary character would be an asset for good works among all (Titus 2:7). Paul had confidence in Titus to get things done. Titus shared with Paul a common faith, an uncompromising spirit and a dedication to accomplishing the work of the Lord.