

November 1, 2015 Rev. R. D. Jacobs - Preacher

**Sermon Theme:** THE BOOK OF TITUS: THE APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERS –  
Qualifications and Appointment – (Text: Titus 1:1-9)

No Sermon synopsis submitted by Rev. Jacobs

**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama**  
**Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

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**THE BOOK OF TITUS: THE APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERS**

**November 8, 2015**

**2. Rebuking Those Who Fail to Do Good**

**Titus 1:10-16**

Even though God has made shepherds (or Pastors) competent as ministers (servants of God) of His new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life—(2 Corinthians 3:6, NIV) He expects shepherds of the church to appoint leaders within each local church. This is because leadership is of paramount importance to God in the church; as the church is an organism, yet an organization so that things would be done decently and in order. God is a God of order and so He places the under-shepherd (Pastor) over the local church. The shepherd is then to organize the church by appointing leaders within the local church. When Jesus started the church during His earthly ministers, He ensured that He appointed leaders (Apostles); to whom eventually left the church under their leadership when His work on earth was completed. The church is to follow this example of instituting leadership in the church if the church is to do things the “Jesus Way”. This is because leadership appointment in the church is not about hierarchical power control but establishment of decency and order. The moment there is a power struggle within the church to see who is in control in the church without following the leadership God has put in place, the order and decency of God for doing things are disrupted and confusion sets in.

Paul, in the beginning of the Book of Titus helps us to understand that the Pastor’s purpose as a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ is to further the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to pastors by the command of God our Savior. So Paul wrote to Titus, his true son in the ministry and one who also has our common faith: “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint [Or ordain] elders (leaders) in every town, as I directed you. This is because leaders in the church are the pastor’s helpers and not people that work against the pastor; otherwise God’s order and decency would be disrupted. So like the Pastors, the ordained or appointed leaders in the local church must meet certain qualifications. Reverend Jacobs addressed these qualifications on last Sunday.

But just to remind you, an elder (or leader to be appointed in the local church) must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe [Or children are trustworthy] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who

loves what is good, and who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. In other words, a leader or anyone who desires to be a leader has to be held to these high standards just like the pastor would be held to such standards. If we are do things the Jesus way, every member of Mt Traveler who is chosen to be a leader will be held accountable to these requirements. Any leader who refuses to be held accountable to these qualifications is rebellious and is of cheap or meaningless talk. And Paul advocates that such should be rebuke sharply for their failure to hold to God's high standards of the new covenant.

Thus our text of the day states, "For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." [From the Cretan philosopher Epimenides]. 13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good" (Titus 1:10-16).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember:

- God honors leadership because it helps the church to do things decently and in order
- Leaders in the local church are the pastor's helpers
- Like the pastor, the leaders have specific qualifications to meet before they are appointed leaders of the local church.
- Leaders are to be held accountable according to the high standard of the new covenant (agape love)
- Any leader in failure in adhering or in non-compliance to the high standard of doing things the Jesus Way is to be rebuked (and not necessarily dismissed or slighted) so that he will not become detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

To be an effective leader that would uphold decency and order to do things the "Jesus Way", you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth for God welcome into His kingdom for eternal rest with a great commendation. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

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**THE BOOK OF TITUS: THE APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERS**

**November 15, 2015**

**3. Doing Good for the Sake of the Gospel**

**Titus 2:1-15**

God expects the leader to do good to all kinds of people for the sake of the gospel. The gospel (good news) grants opportunity to whosoever that will to come to Jesus to become saved. The gospel does not discriminate. The gospel breaks barriers! The leader's responsibility then is to ensure that every member of the congregation is disciple in sound doctrine. Sound doctrine is scripturally based group teachings on beliefs and it helps the believer to become mature and faithful in obeying the word of God and fruitful in serving Him. Therefore Paul herein advises, Titus, his son in the Ministry to make sure every member of the congregation is equipped through sound doctrine to minister to others effectively. Paul then ensured that Titus know how to do this by separating the congregation into different categories and showing him the "how to" teach each group the sound doctrine. His advices differed from older men to older women, young men, young women, slaves, etc. But in all categories self-control was a desirable.

Thus our text of the day states, "You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate (moderate, pleasant, calm and self-controlled), worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign (cause harm to) the word of God.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

9 Teach slaves (subordinates) to be subject to their masters (leaders) in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, 10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. 11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you" (Titus 2:1-15).

**Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember:**

- **God honors leadership because it helps the church to do things decently and in order**

- Leaders in the local church are the pastor's helpers
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- Leaders are to be held accountable according to the high standard of the new covenant (agape love)
- Any leader in failure in adhering or in non-compliance to the high standard of doing things the Jesus Way is to be rebuked (and not necessarily dismissed or slighted) so that he will not become detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

To be an effective leader that would uphold decency and order to do things the "Jesus Way", you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth for God welcome into His kingdom for eternal rest with a great commendation. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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**THE BOOK OF TITUS: THE APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERS**

**November 22, 2015**

**4. Saved in Order to Do Good**

**Titus 3:1-11**

What is the purpose of salvation? Why did Christ save you? Was it to continue to be foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasure? Is it to live in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another? The resounding answer to these questions is "NO"! This is why our hearts should be full of gratitude, especially at this season of Thanksgiving. Therefore I pause to wish everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving" celebration on the coming Thursday, November 26, 2015. Take your time and reflect as to why God saved you. Reflect on why God has saved you, given you leaders and why you should be subject to all rulers and authorities, and to be obedient and to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and always gentle toward everyone. God saved you in order to do good just as He expects the leader to do good to all kinds of people for the sake of the gospel.

The gospel does well to everyone who accepts it because Christ came to breakdown all barriers and to unite unto Himself a unique people called by His name. Christ saves people unto good

works, even though salvation is not of works. He saves them through the superior new covenant of love that He came to establish. It is through this covenant that Christians enter into fellowship. This covenant of agape love requires that Christians must be slow to take offense and be quick to reconciliation. Why then do Christians get mad and stay mad or why are Christians always looking for anything to condemn or slight others, and more so the leaders God has place over us? Remember leadership is of paramount importance to God in the church; as the church is an organism, yet an organization where things are to be done, and could be done, decently and in order. God is a God of order and so He places the under-shepherd (Pastor) over the local church. The shepherd is then to organize the church by appointing leaders within the local church. When Jesus started the church during His earthly ministers, He ensured that He appointed leaders (called Apostles); to whom He eventually left the church under their leadership when His work on earth was completed. The church is to follow this example of instituting leadership in the church and have confidence in those leaders if the church is to do things the “Jesus Way”. This is why appoints a pastor (shepherd) in the church to lead it into wisdom, knowledge and understanding for the purpose of ensuring that decency and order are in place. Why then do we always question what the shepherd could and could not do? Is it a lack of trust or is it about control? The moment there is a power struggle within the church to see who is in control, or wherever trust no longer exist, the order and decency of God for doing things are disrupted and confusion sets in. It is foolishness to cause disruption and confusion in order to nullify the decency and order of God. Rather, it is excellent and profitable for all who have trusted in God and are saved to be very careful to devote themselves to doing what is good, so that everything is done decently and in order. Again, why do we receive instructions over and over? It is so that things would run smoothly, without confusion and so that we can get it right and do things decently and in order.

Thus our text of the day states, “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander (insult, smear, defame, slight) no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.” (Titus 2:1-15).

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- Leaders and people are saved to do good.
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

To be an effective leader that would uphold decency and order to do things the “Jesus Way”, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth for God welcome into His kingdom for eternal rest with a great commendation. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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**November 29, 2015**

**5. Final Remarks**

**Titus 3:12-15**

In the final remarks of his letter to Titus concerning the appointment and responsibilities of leaders, Paul wanted him to act as a leader right away on the instructions he had received. Recall the old adage “Practice makes perfect?” This implies that whenever good instructions are received, they need to be adhered to and utilized immediately for them to be of any benefit. This is how wisdom is acquired. The knowledge acquired, first needs to be understood and assimilated, then put into practice to attain wisdom. No matter how much knowledge you have acquired and can recite it word for word, without understanding it and the correct application (or practicing it), amounts to foolishness. Jesus, the greatest teacher and instructor, puts it this way, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Herein in the final remarks of the Book of Titus, Paul wanted Titus to put into practice the instructions received from him and act upon it according as a leader. The emphasis is that since

**Christians are saved individuals to do good, Titus was to practice doing what is good even as he followed Paul's instructions. Sometimes I am truly bothered by the actions of Mt Traveler because we listen to God's word as He instructs through His word and His messengers and yet act contrary to what we have been taught. Have we become like the Israelites of old, whom the Prophets spoke of, that they had ears but could not hear and eyes but could not see? Or have we become like the Pharisees, that Jesus spoke of, that could not hear or see the truth of God that Jesus was teaching?**

**Paul in this final remark desired that Titus put into practice everything he had been instructed. More so, Paul wanted Titus as a child of God to practice the goodness of God. So he asked him to ensure he is good to everyone especially those who are ministers of God's word. He was to do all within his capacity to help those ministers that Paul was sending to him and to ensure that the Christians in Crete learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.**

**Thus our text of the day states: "As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. 13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. 14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. 15 Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all" (Titus 3:12-15).**

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- Like the pastor, the leaders have specific qualifications to meet before they are appointed leaders of the local church.**
- Leaders are to be held accountable according to the high standard of the new covenant of agape love**
- Any leader who fails to adhere, or who is in non-compliance, to the high standard of doing things the Jesus Way is to be rebuked (and not necessarily dismissed or slighted) so that he will not become detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.**
- Leaders and people are saved to do good.**
- Christians and leaders must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs, and not live unproductive lives**
- And let the church say, "Amen!"**

**To be an effective leader that would uphold decency and order to do things the "Jesus Way", you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth for God welcome into His kingdom for eternal rest with a great commendation. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us**

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