



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

November 08, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 44

### THE DISCIPLE AS EVANGELIST

#### The Evangelist's Spiritual Leadership

by Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

Please read: Titus 1:1-4,2:1,7-8,15

I want to start with a very human question for each of us - How can I stand before God? Paul, in the Epistle written to Titus styles himself as a slave (Greek: *doulos*) of God, joining a great line of prophets in the Bible who served God and God alone unreservedly. So how do you stand before God?

Martin Luther found only one answer to the question- how can I stand before God – and it is by believing in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. We must determine the state of our soul in the midst of the battles of life and relationships, in the midst of the raging and roaring, in the midst of life and death. If we are to stand before God, what will give us credibility? It will only be the love of God in Christ Jesus which has wrought our salvation. Knowing that we are loved by God therefore enables us to give our life completely -as a slave to God.

**In the Epistle to Titus**, Paul emphasized the importance of good works, good deeds in the life of the Christian and although the book is very brief -three chapters- Paul provides an excellent discipleship process which the Church today needs to adopt and use.

Paul uses his writings to provide Titus with the spiritual insight into how to organize the Church, how to be a responsible leader and how to create fellowship within the Church. One of the serious side effects of the COVID-19 has been the isolation and hence the lack of fellowship and camaraderie among members and adherents in churches. The emerging church needs to place emphasis on pastoral care and fellowship so that persons can experience anew the meaning of Christ's love for them. This means that the need for good works, good deeds is even more necessary today in the life of the individual and the church.

We need to underscore that salvation is not based on good works or by living a good life, we are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ, but the gospel of salvation and being saved is life transformative, and based on being saved, we can then do good works. 'Our good works will not save us, but we are saved to

do good works'. We put our faith into action by serving others and importantly giving the glory to God.

#### A. What do we know about the Epistle of Paul to Titus?

1. Paul wrote this Epistle between his first and second imprisonment in Rome. Paul identifies himself as slave (*doulos*) of God and an envoy of Jesus Christ. Paul's life had been totally submitted and committed to God.

2. Epistle addressed to **Titus**. His name means 'pleasing'. Paul describes him as

- a loyal child – Paul's convert and child in the faith
- brother and sharer in the work and toil
- walking in the same spirit
- a model for Christians – not just talk but a living example.

We note the following: "Titus was with Paul and Barnabas at Antioch, and accompanied them to the council at Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1-3; Acts 15:2), although his name nowhere occurs in the Acts of the Apostles. He appears to have been a Gentile/Greek, and to have been chiefly engaged in ministering to Gentiles; for Paul sternly refused to have him circumcised, inasmuch as in his case the cause of gospel liberty was at stake. We find him, at a later period, with Paul and Timothy at Ephesus, whence he was sent by Paul to Corinth for the purpose of getting the contributions of the church there in behalf of the poor saints at Jerusalem sent forward (2 Corinthians 8:6; 12:18). He rejoined the apostle when he was in Macedonia and cheered him with the tidings he brought from Corinth (7:6-15). After this his name is not mentioned till after Paul's first imprisonment, when we find him engaged in the organization of the church in Crete, where the apostle had left him for this purpose (Titus 1:5). The last notice of him is in 2 Timothy 4:10, where we find him with Paul at Rome during his second imprisonment. From Rome he was sent into Dalmatia, no doubt on some important missionary errand. We have no record of his death. He is not mentioned in the Acts."

3. **Crete**- the people were known for 'laziness, gluttony, lying and evil' (Titus 1:12). Christians are however called to be self-disciplined individuals and must live as orderly people who form one body, the church.

4. **Paul had been a strong leader in Crete** –educated, articulate, motivated, and filled with the Holy Spirit. He had faithfully proclaimed the gospel and lives had been transformed. However, it was very easy for persons to return to their old forms and habits if there is lack of consistency when the strong leader departs. (Peter went back to fishing once Jesus was crucified).

5. **Paul knew the Church has to be built on Christ**, not on human leaders but there needs to be the presence of leaders who will encourage, teach, and discipline the flock. When we join the Church, we do not join a lifeless organism, but we join an active, living breathing organism that require each of us to take on our role and responsibilities.

6. **Paul knew that we share in the life of God on earth** and will do so in eternity if we remain faithful. God exchanges our frustration with love and our disquiet with serenity, our moral failure with good and our sorrow with joy.

7. Paul also knew that to enter into that life, two things must happen. **Faith must be awakened in people** – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17) Secondly, persons must be **equipped with knowledge**. **Evangelism must be accompanied with discipleship. Faith and knowledge informs how we live our lives. A truly religious live is one that is lived in a right relationship with God, self, and others. We must each live in such ways that persons will see our Master in us.**

**B. What do we learn about leadership in the Epistle?**

When we are anchored in Christ, we can offer the good deed of spiritual leadership in our homes, community, work, business and in the society. We know the obvious qualities of a poor leader. “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” (Proverbs 29:18)

**C. Characteristics of a good leader**

1. Not obstinate and self-willed – self pleasing
2. Not intolerant, condemning everything they cannot understand - contemptuous and arrogant
3. Not quick tempered
4. Not given to outrageous behavior
5. Not violent
6. Must not be an empty talker
7. Must be pure in heart
8. Must be hospitable
9. Lover of all things good
10. Prudent
11. Just
12. Pious
13. Self-controlled
14. Proclaim a reliable message
15. Encourager - move people along God’s agenda and not their own agenda

**Your gifts are not about  
Your leadership is not about YOU  
Your purpose is not about**

**A life of significance is about**

**SERVING**

**Those who need your gifts,  
leadership and purpose.**

*Kevin Hall*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 07. (Saturday)  
**Men’s Fellowship Breakfast** – 7:30am at Elmslie UC  
**‘Built to Bend’ webinar** via Zoom – 10:00am-12:00 noon

**November 08. (Sunday) 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

November 09. (Monday) **REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
**Public Holiday**



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**November 08, 2020**  
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

**COVID-19**  
**The fight is not over!**

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

*POINTS FOR PRAYER*

- \* A stop to the spread of the disease.
- \* Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- \* Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- \* Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- \* That persons will draw closer to God during this time.
- \* That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- \* Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- \* Safety of all elderly persons and those with co-morbidities.
- \* Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- \* Our local and world economies.

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