

Sermon Title: “What is the Church?”

Primary Text: Titus 1:1-4

There are many terms we use to describe the Church, but what *is* the Church? In Colossians earlier this year we recognized it’s more than a building and this week as we began our study in Titus we saw that the Church is gathered people whose **mission** is the **proclamation** that the *true* Gospel is our **eternal hope** and the **foundation** of our **faith** and **Godly living**. As we spend the coming weeks in this short but significant epistle that message will run alongside every passage!

In Paul’s introduction he gives us information about himself – that he is an apostle, set apart for the preaching of the word for the benefit of the faith of God’s chosen people. Titus, as his “true son in the faith” should share that vision, even if Titus doesn’t share the apostolic role. In the same way, churches throughout the generations share that same vision – one that has a hope in the eternity promised us by the God who does not lie, a mission for reaching the lost, and a commitment to the faithful preaching and teaching of God’s Word.

Our series in this book will not only encourage but challenge us as we consider how the church works and orders itself as well as how we fit into this gathering of believers, the bride of Christ, the Church. As your pastor, it is my firm belief that through this study in Titus we will experience the blessing that Paul prayed over Titus: May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace! (NLT)

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

1 Peter 2:9-10 Ephesians 1:3-4 John 14:1-3 Romans 10:14 Matthew 7:16
Galatians 5:22-23 James 2:18-19

Questions to Consider this week:

- When you think about the “Church,” what do you think about? How would you define its *Purpose*?
- Think about the mission and commission for Paul. Other than being an apostle, have you considered that you **personally** as well as the church **corporately** should share that call?
- Pastor Zach said that preaching and teaching wasn’t just limited to the pulpit, and that all of us should be committed to sharing the Gospel. Is this something you are comfortable doing? If not, can you think of ways to practice (such as with someone in the church)?
- Preaching truth has a “feel” in today’s culture as something negative and judgmental. How can you speak truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**) to someone this week in a way that displays the love and patience Jesus has with you?

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, just as Titus was to emulate Paul, we know we are supposed to emulate **You**. Just as You spoke truth and lived a righteous life for the sake of the faith of the church, help me do the same in the places You have placed me. I confess the times that I didn’t share how you’ve changed my life when You gave me opportunities to, and ask that You will work in my heart so that I can joyfully obey and share the Good news of who You are and what You’ve done . -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship

“O Church Arise” (Kristyn Getty, Sing!)

https://youtu.be/lqtoBTg425k?si=Gm_tCklayTqQO7Ny