

Faith Talk

Sunday. October 18, 2026

Series. Titus: A Healthy Church in a Chaotic Culture

Sermon. The Anchor: The Gospel of Hope

Scripture. Titus 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, ² in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

Sermon Summary

Paul's letter to Titus was written to a young pastor trying to bring order to a church in a chaotic culture on the island of Crete — a place with a rough reputation, false teachers, and disorganized congregations. But before Paul tells Titus to fix a single thing, he drops an anchor: the gospel of hope rooted in a God who cannot lie, whose promises are eternal, and whose Word is completely trustworthy.

That anchor is the foundation for everything else in the letter; blameless leadership, sound doctrine, and godly living all grow out of this one unshakeable truth.

Paul identifies himself first as a servant and second as an apostle. Before his title, Paul grounds his **identity** in belonging to God and his **purpose** in serving Him.

He calls Titus his true son in the faith, a Greek Gentile who is living proof that the gospel crosses every ethnic and cultural boundary. The three-chapter letter moves in a clear direction: appoint qualified leaders, teach sound doctrine, and live in a way that reflects the gospel. The churches in Crete were disordered and drifting, looking a lot more like their culture than like Christ, and Paul's answer was a return to the anchor.

The question for us is the same one Paul posed to Crete: Does your life look more like the chaos around you, or like the Christ who anchors you?

The Three A's and Three O's of Titus

- **Author:** Paul, a servant of God and apostle of Jesus Christ, a seasoned saint writing between his two Roman imprisonments, investing in the next generation of church leaders.
- **Audience:** Titus, Paul's trusted coworker and true son in the faith. A Greek Gentile left on the island of Crete to finish unfinished work in the churches there.
- **Association:** A spiritual father and son on gospel mission together, bound not by blood but by a shared faith and commitment to spread the gospel and strengthen the churches.

- **Occasion:** The churches in Crete were disordered, drifting from truth, and troubled by false teachers. Paul writes to guide Titus in appointing qualified leaders who can restore order and confront false teaching.
- **Overview:** Establish blameless leadership that promotes and protects sound doctrine, which produces godly living — moving from qualified elders (ch. 1), sound teaching grounded in grace (ch. 2), and good works rooted in God’s mercy (ch. 3).
- **Outcome:** Churches in Crete that are well-led, sound in faith, resistant to false teaching, and fruitful in good works — lives that visibly reflect the gospel they have received.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. Paul drops the anchor of the gospel before giving Titus a single instruction about fixing the church. Why do you think he does that — and what does it tell us about the right starting point when things feel disordered in our own lives or churches?
2. Paul describes the gospel as producing truth that leads to godliness — not just information to know but direction for a life to live. Where do you see the biggest gap between what you believe and how you actually live day to day?
3. The churches in Crete looked more like their chaotic culture than like Christ. In what ways do you think the church in America today faces the same temptation — and what does it look like to hold the anchor rather than drift with the culture?

Conversations with Youth

1. Paul says God cannot lie — it’s literally against His nature. How does knowing God cannot break His promises change how you relate to Him when life feels uncertain or out of control?
2. Titus was a young leader sent into a really hard situation. Have you ever been asked to do something for God that felt too hard or too messy? What did you do?
3. The sermon asked: does your life look more like Crete or like Christ? Be honest — what does your everyday life look most like right now (culture or Christ), and what would need to change?

Conversations with Kids

1. The pastor said God cannot lie — God cannot lie because He is truth. What’s the difference between trusting someone who tries to be honest and trusting someone who literally cannot lie?
 2. Paul called Titus his “true son in the faith” even though they weren’t related. Who outside your family has helped you grow in your faith, and what did they do that made a difference?
 3. An anchor keeps a boat from drifting even in a storm. What does it look like for a person to have the gospel as their anchor when things get hard or scary?
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Prayer

*Father, **thank You** that You are the one thing in our lives that cannot fail, cannot change, and cannot lie — that when everything else feels unstable, Your promise of eternal life through Jesus is an anchor that always holds. Thank You that the gospel is not just the way we got saved but the foundation we keep coming back to every single day.*

***We ask** You to show us honestly where we have been drifting with the culture instead of anchored to Christ — where our lives look more like Crete than like the gospel we say we believe. Give us leaders, teachers, and friends who hold firmly to Your truth and help us live it out.*

***We commit** to returning to the anchor whenever we start to drift — to say out loud and mean it: Your promise is eternal, Your Word is trustworthy, You cannot lie. In Jesus' name, Amen.*