

The Church: God's People, God's Purpose
Today: *Why the Church?*
Titus 1.1-4

Canon City EFC

9-16-18

MAIN IDEA: God's intent for His people, the Church is to stir & sustain lives of daily, lifelong faith & surrender to the truth of His gospel, that will carry into eternity.

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

BACKGROUND: One of 3 letters, called the Pastoral Epistles – to Timothy & Titus, about Church Life
Likely written between 62-67 AD, by Paul to Titus

A part of the next generation of leaders being raised up to follow Paul & the other apostles
One of Paul's *partner and co-worker* (2 Cor 8:23), & highly trusted

The CHURCH IS GOD'S PEOPLE

The church is PEOPLE, not a building, or a program, or a religious event

GOD'S PEOPLE – & that's the emphasis of these verses – it's on God, not us

When it refers to us, we're called *God's elect* (cf. 1 Cor 6.19-20 '*bought at a price*')
ELECT – God's Chosen, those He has brought to Himself (Rom 8.33; Col 3.12; Eph 1.4; 1 Pet 2.9)

Not a badge of our merit or a sign of our worth

Emphasis on HIM, not us – God's people, for God's purpose, by God's grace

His elect, His promise, v.2; His keeping that promise, v.3; at His time, v.3; & His blessing, v.4

The Church is God's People for GOD'S PURPOSE, v.1

God's intent for His people, the Church: To stir & sustain lives of surrender to the truth of His gospel

For the faith of God's people

Starts when 1st believe the good news; Continues all through life

& our task as the church is to stir & sustain that dependence on our Savior

For their knowledge of the truth

Truth must be known, but it's more precisely **acknowledge**, assent to the truth

a response of submission to that truth of who Jesus is & what He has done

That faith/ that acknowledgment **leads to godliness**

life lived as an expression of that faith as evidence of my assent to His truth

we don't just know about truth – we LIVE that truth, here & now, then into eternity

& so, our task as His church is to stir that sort of lived out faith and surrender

this is HIS work, but amazingly, He chooses to **use people** to do that work: Paul, Titus, us today

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

Why is it important to remember that the church is people, specifically God's people? Why is it significant that we are "God's elect"? what should that stir in us?

According to these opening verses of Titus, what is God's purpose for us? How does that play out for someone coming to Christ for the 1st time? Why are faith & assent to His truth necessary all through our lives as believers? Why is knowledge about the truth inadequate?

Why does genuine faith & assent to His truth lead to changed lives ('godliness')? How can we stir that in each other as His people?

God promises that His work in us extends into eternity, v.2. Why can we trust that to be true (vs 3-4)?