

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Paul ordered Titus to remind the Cretans believers of what was expected of living the Christian life (hupomimnesko/ p.a.impv).

Paul outlined seven things expected of the Cretans believers regarding living the Christian life on the Island of Crete (3:1-2).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of what Paul expected of the Cretan believers regarding Living the Christian Life.

1. Paul outlined seven characteristics of Living the Christian Life on the Island of Crete that he felt were important.

If I ask each of you to list seven doctrinal things important to living the Christian life what would you list? There would probably be a variety of doctrinal things listed.

The one common factor that each list would contain would be those doctrinal things that each felt impacted people's lives.

Paul listed the seven things by the following five present infinitives.

- To be subject (hupotasso / p.m.infin) to rulers and authorities
- To be obedient (peitharcho / p.a.infin)
- To be (eimi / p.a.infin) ready for every good deed
- To malign (blasphemeo / p.a.infin) no one
- To be (eimi / p.a.infin) uncontentious, gentle, showing (endeiknumi / p.m.ptc) every consideration for all men.

“The reason why Christians should exhibit such exemplary deportment is that, but for the grace of God (verses 5-7) we would still be as we were before He saved us, as described in 3:3.” (Renaissance of NT, pg.40)

2. These seven things were especially important to the Cretans to live the Christian life because they were intended to correct cultural problem areas of worldly thinking.

All people are converted to the CWL out of the world system of thinking (John 3:16; Acts 26:18; Col.1:13-14).

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19)

This world system of influential thinking can come from several sources: culture, ethnic, religion, parents, peer, and education. Whenever worldly thinking stands in opposition to the word of God, we refer to it as cosmos diabolicus (1 Cor.2:6-10; 1 John 2:15-17).

3. Whenever areas of worldly thinking stand in opposition or in hindrance to the function of the word of God in the life of a believer, we refer to it as old man cosmos diabolicus (OMCD).

It is a major hindrance to reaching and maintaining spiritual growth maturity in CWL (Heb.5:13-14). This is why Paul is commanding Titus to teach on these seven specific doctrinal things.

Whenever “living” the word of God becomes conflictual within the believer, this believer is at conflict with divine norm and standards of BD residing in the soul. This is OMCD at conflict with NMDV (new man divine viewpoint).

This believer is caught in the proverbial “dam if I do and dam if I don’t “ of Rom.7: 15-25. Paul himself struggled with OMCD as a spiritual mature believer (Phil.3: 3-4- note that he identified his OMCD struggle as “confidence in flesh”).

4. Paul explains that the spiritual advancing mature believer must put off OMCD and put on NMDV by the “renewing of the mind.” (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

Paul illustrates this doctrinal principle in Phil3: 5-10 by profit to loss to gain.

- Profit -
- Loss -
- Gain -

5. Now let’s return to the seven characteristics that Paul felt was important to believers living the Christian life on the Island of Crete.

I reduced these seven into the following three areas.

- Divine delegated authority - (to be subject and to be obedient)
- Divine production - (to be ready)
- Divine relationships with the Church – (to malign no one and to be uncontentious and to be gentle and showing every consideration for all men).

[Did you note the two negatives and the two positives? Do you see take off OMCD and put on NMDV?]