Devotion #279

**Be A Christian**

**Titus 3:1-2 (NASB)** *“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.”*

I don’t have to tell you that the day in which we live is becoming more and more hostile to those who profess Christ as Lord. Although we still enjoy many spiritual freedoms, the pressure is mounting. And we shouldn’t be surprised. The Lord clearly told us this would happen. (Matthew 24:9-14) So the problem is not that we are unaware, but that we didn’t think it would happen in our time or to us.

The saints in the New Testament days didn’t think that would be the case either, yet they found themselves living in the midst of growing persecution. At times they were greatly challenged to live according to the Spirit and not let their sinful thinking get in the way. But often it did which prompted the Lord to give instruction on how a child of His was and is to live in an ever-darkening world. Peter wrote on the subject and so did Paul to Titus.

If you remember, Titus was a young man who Paul used greatly in ministry. Often Titus followed Paul to various locations doing the work of ministry, always sharing Christ and leading others to a greater knowledge of Him. But then Paul saw fit to leave Titus in Crete to help establish the church that was in need of instruction. The letter entitled Titus is a record of those instructions.

One of the main things Paul wanted Titus to pass along to the church was to remind them that their role was first to worship God and then to live as godly examples to the society. First, Paul reminds Titus to teach the people that they are to live in submission to the governing authorities, much like he had instructed the church in Romans. But secondly, Paul told Titus to focus their inner selves - to guard their hearts and not let their fleshly way of thinking cloud their spiritual thinking. They were to be a people who were different from the world. Different in just about every way. They were to do what the authorities told them. They were to be obedient to the authorities and those they worked for. They were to be examples of good deeds, even to those who treated them poorly. They were to have no ill will to anyone and never do anything that would cause friction. They were to be examples of peace - people who lived in peace with all those around them so they could be a display of their God of peace. They were to have a gentle or controlled spirit, not flying off the handle when things didn’t go their way or even when the culture didn’t follow the ways of God. Paul’s instruction was basically saying that this life is not about what you want, but about being an example of Christ in every situation.

Sometimes in our zeal to want a godly culture we have a tendency to resort to ungodly practices. For example, we push on the ungodly world biblical principles that they don’t understand or have the capacity to understand. We have a tendency to think the world should respond to holiness and righteousness because it makes sense to us. But that will never happen. The world doesn’t have the Holy Spirit living in them so they will only be able to operate on what they think from a sinful mind.

You and I were never instructed to force Jesus or His teachings on anyone. Instead we are called to live His teachings in front of the world. We will never change our society by political change or making executive mandates or by having a godly man in the White House. That would be helpful in many ways, but none of those things are mandated by God and neither will they change an ungodly soul. We are called to share the message of salvation - that everyone is a sinner in need of saving by Jesus. If we will stop focusing on the issues and focus on the need of every unredeemed soul, we will find that culture will change. It will become godly simply because the Holy Spirit will guide in all righteousness. So, let us be careful to live our lives as Christians and look for opportunities to help others see their need of Christ.