

April 8, 2018

Titus 1.1-4

Firmly Rooted: Purpose

Overview

In these first four verses Paul clearly states the purpose of his apostleship and service for Christ. It serves as the “why” behind “what” he does for Christ. His “why” is also our “why” because it is ultimately God’s “why.” As a church we can be excited about why we do what we do. We serve as a (1) pointer to faith in Christ, (2) a center for transformation, and (3) a haven of hope.

Introduction

Participating in church life can become mundane. By going through the motions week after week we can begin to wonder why even go at all? To combat this we must remind ourselves of why our commitment to church life is so important. We should be part of a church to be changed and to help change the world.

1. We serve as a pointer to faith in Christ

See Luke 16.19-31 – The Word we proclaim is more potent than the message of a dead man who has come back to life and speaks to us.

We are Christians today because someone proclaimed God’s Word to us. We should also lovingly do so for others around us. See Romans 10.14-15.

2. We serve as a center for transformation

Knowledge doesn’t equal transformation. Trust equals transformation. Transformation begins with knowledge but it can’t end there. As we invest in God’s Word and grow in our faith real and lasting change takes place.

Titus 1.16 shows an example of knowledge without transformation. Titus 3.8 shows an example of knowledge with transformation. Belief is key and belief drives behavior.

3. We serve as a haven of hope

Life doesn't always go the way we want it to. But we look forward to the day when God reverses all the pain in the world. See Revelation 21.3-4.

Even now, though, while waiting for the "yet to be" we have a taste of heaven. We can change the world by inviting those outside to come in and taste a bit of it now.

Reflection Questions

1. Who was most instrumental in helping you understand and put your faith in Christ?
2. Who are those around you who don't know Christ whom you could point to Jesus in some way? What next step could you pursue?
3. What drew you to make Kossuth your church home? How has it been a pointer to Jesus, a center of transformation, and/or a haven of hope for you personally? How could it grow in those areas? How could you help it improve?
4. There are organizations in the secular world that help people change and that give hope. How does what the church offers differ from those opportunities? Should we utilize those secular opportunities? If so, how? If not, why not?
5. How can you specifically invite your Care Group or other circle of Christian relationships to help you pursue transformation and maturity in Christ? Is there an area where you are most struggling with which someone could help?
6. Spend time in prayer for Kossuth that we would be more fruitful as a pointer to faith in Christ, as a center for transformation, and as a haven of hope.