***Pursuits, Perspectives, Parameters & Provisions***

**Titus 2+3 - July 28, 2019**

*In each generation, what does the local church need to be aware of, and aligning itself toward?*

**Titus 2:11-15**

1) The Local Church Needs To Be Aware Of Our Blessed Hope, While Aligning Itself To Be Understood As A People Of His Own Possession

**\*Vs.13, Vs.12, Vs.14**

It's knowing what's coming that helps us with our shunning, as we don't want to engage in ungodly and worldly desires.

**1 Peter 2:9**

We need to align ourselves in this way because we forget who we are. Oftentimes the problem is that we have so many other identities that we tend to forget what our truest identity is.

We weren't created to feed-off of "chicken scratch", living in cages or dirt. Nor are we to merely lay low + not achieve our full potential as God's own possession - which He created us for, in Christ.

Will you recognize, believe and develop into who God has created you to be in Christ?... As His child, His heir, and His friend.

**\*Vs.15**

Someone who "disregards" a pastor(s), is a person who disregards (dishonors) themselves to their own detriment.

It's one thing to disagree or not like a pastor's personality or preaching style, or his leadership (or lack thereof), but when Scripture says to "let no one disregard you" - It is a serious matter.

If there is moral failure or if there are issues at home, or if they are consistently not lining-up with the scriptural qualifications, then yes, there will be disappointment, frustration or a lack of respect, perhaps; and depending on the situation, they may need to be asked to step down.

To go against what God says here, will lead to one's own loss or, depending on the involvement, a church may experience loss.

As a pastor "speaks, exhorts and reproves (corrects)", with "all authority (command)", let's pursue God's will in such things.

**Titus 3:1-7**

2) The Local Church Needs To Be Aware Of Our Life-Change, While Aligning itself To Be Both Under & Understanding Toward Mankind

When it comes to those above us and those next to us (Verses 1-3), we're to be under the former, while being understanding toward the later.

We're to empathize with those 'next to us' because we once were them! (Perspective)

People can cause us to want to malign them and not show peace or gentleness because they rub us the wrong way.

When someone's agitating us, oftentimes we focus on their condition/situation, as opposed to the person.

We were once like them - and we forget that the kindness, love, mercy and grace shown to us (from God), is what has changed us.

We also see that the local church needs to maintain awareness of our life-change. What was it that changed us?

God regenerated us in Jesus - He made us new and poured-out His Spirit on us, giving us hope as heirs of eternal life. So we have perspective in that, He's done this out of His love for us - in grace and mercy.

God's love has changed us and we've never been the same, nor have we ever gotten over it.

**Titus 3:8-11**

3) The Local Church Needs To Be Aware Of Doing Good Deeds, While Aligning Itself To Avoid Unprofitable Matters & Factious People (Parameters)

Let's not ever underestimate the "profit" that comes from doing good deeds.

Engaging in good deeds is at the heart of God. But why?... They reveal Who God is - A good, benevolent and caring God. We best represent Him as we display His character and qualities. **Matthew 5:14-16**

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."* - John Wesley

*"Good works arise out of true faith; true faith in Jesus Christ is what produces proper works. Saving faith is what connects us to Christ - and so when we're connected to Christ, He's living in us and is doing the works."* - Anonymous

**\*Vs.'s 9-11**

We are to avoid unprofitable matters and factious people as God would have us to... They don't want to follow God's ways but their own, religious, traditional and spiritual systems/structures.

Each one of us wants to buck authority and resist something we don't want; and we can become a factious people - bringing others along with us, as 'misery loves company'.

It was the 'Judaizers' back then; but every denomination, church or group at some point, becomes factious - not wanting to change but remain the same as it's 'always been'... Even if God Himself is making the change.

**Titus 3:12-15**

4) The Local Church Needs To Be Aware Of Helping Those In Kingdom Causes, While Aligning Itself To Engage In Good Deeds & Meet Pressing Needs

Whether it's missions or Kingdom ministries/causes, or those who have pressing needs - we are to diligently help and engage... Otherwise, we will be "unfruitful".

*"The young executive never did fix the dented side door of his Jaguar; he kept it to remind him not to go through life so fast, that someone has to throw a brick to get his attention."*

Maybe God has caused a 'dent' in your life - a means by which to get your attention, and out of the comforts, out of the 'fast lane' so you would help, so you would get involved.

If not, be on the lookout - as it will be for your good and the good of others, especially as it relates to the church.