***Perspectives, Parameters & Provisions* (Part 2)**

**Titus 3 - August 4, 2019**

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

**Titus 3:1-7**

1) 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**

2) 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.

We are to reject a factious person after a first and second warning, while avoiding matters of strife or dispute regarding the former ways, trying to take us back.

**Titus 3:12-15**

3) 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.