

Series: Order in The Church (11/23/16)

Title: Remember and be Thankful

Text: Titus 3:3-5

(John 8:31) *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

(John 13:35) *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

(John 15:8) *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

Being a Christian is something more than what we do.
Being a Christian is a Change in Nature, manifesting as a
Change in Character.

A Change in the Disciple's Character led to others remarking of it and labeling the disciples with a new Name: Christian.

(Acts 11:26b) *The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

The message of Jesus had made it out of Jerusalem and Galilee to the city of Antioch.

Oh, wouldn't it be Wonderful if the message of Christ could travel as far as our city?

This message is seen in Christians now living with some rather obvious distinctions. *Are we Standout Christians?*

Much of the Letter of Paul included what believers were to be doing, but also a reminder of how they were to be living in contrast to what they used to do.

Dredging up the Past:

(Titus 3:3) *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

“For” A connective conjunction which reminds them why they should treat non-believers with kindness, love, humility, and courtesy.

It wasn't that long ago, you were in the same condition as them.

Think back to the days before you were saved.

Remember the pit God dug you out of.

Remember the sin you wallowed in.

Remember the sinful acts that dragged you through the filth, and how you were loved by God the entire time.

Remember what makes us so Remarkable, by remembering what made us so Despicable.

Biased:

“For we ourselves also were sometimes Foolish,” Titus 3:3a
Paul never forgot his past.

Getting over our past doesn't mean we forget why we needed conversion.

Too many Christians have gotten over their past and forgot their conversion.

Paul is not talking about intelligence but biased against God
(Ps 14:1) *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.
They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is
none that doeth good.*

(Eph 4:18) *Having the understanding darkened, being
alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in
them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

Paul wants Titus to remind us that this is WHO we once were.
Christians all have a tendency to lean on our own
understanding.

(Prov 28:26) *He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but
whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.*

Even though we are saved, we need a daily reminder to trust
in God, and in all our ways acknowledge him. (Prov 3:5-6)

The Unbeliever can't put God **FIRST**, because he already has
himself set as **FIRST**.

Not Just Biased, but.. Belligerent:

“For we ourselves also were sometimes Disobedient,”

A Person who deliberately decides to Rebel.

Rebels against the concept of God.

Rebels against the idea of a moral standards created by God.

Rebels against the Authority of God.

As a Person rebels, so does the society and culture as a whole.
A **Personal Bias** against God develops into **Cultural Bias**.
A **Cultural Bias** develops into a **Personal Belligerence**
against God's Boundaries.

A **Personal Belligerence** develops into a **Cultural
Belligerence** against God & God's Boundaries.

This leads to a **Culture wide** spirit of disobedience, literally
chafing under any kind of moral or ethical authority.

*Illus: Brazil recently had a Notary approve a 3way civil
marriage. She argued in court that she had broken no laws
that were on the books, Gay marriage has been approved, so
the definition of marriage was obviously flexible.*

Apart from the **Moral Lawgiver**, there is no **Moral Guidelines**
Dismiss God, and anything is possible.

Biased, Belligerent, & Blind:

“For we ourselves also were sometimes Deceived,”

Blind, describes our fallen condition, because of which, we
are easily duped or deceived.

The World thinks its found its answers, Paul says they have
been deceived.

God is not the only spiritual voice.

Satan, a fallen angel, that is more interesting to non-believers.

Where God speaks truth, Satan only speaks lies. (John 8:44)
*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye
will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode
not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he
speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the
father of it.*

He is called an Angle of Light: (2 Cor 11:14) *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

Satan deceives the whole world: (Rev 12:9) *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:...*

(2 Tim 3:13) *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

(Matt 15:14) *Blind Leaders of the Blind.*

The world is following the wrong spiritual leader and are being duped toward destruction.

As Paul dredges up the past regarding our **Bias, Belligerence, Blindness, he reminds us that we were...**

Bound:

“For we ourselves also were sometimes Serving Divers lusts and pleasures,”

Serving ~ Servant to - Slave to them.

This is Paul’s reminder that what is in our heart, eventually comes out our hands, feet, and mouth.

(Prov 4:23) *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

This is why Porn is wrong.

“I am not actually sinning, its all in my head.”

Paul contends that the partaker are enslaved to it.

Hedonism is simply the pursuit of self-satisfaction.

Paul uses the adjective **Divers**.

Divers Means: It comes in carious Forms, Fashions, Disguises, and Allurements.

Illus: *Going to the store to get Blue paint w/o your wife.*
There are so many shades of blue.
Passion, Baby, Ocean, sky, powder, etc.

There are so many types of lusts & pleasures as can be imagined

The World thinks its free to do anything, pursue anything.

Paul says they are actually a slave to it.

Our Spiritual Liberty in Christ is our freedom to OBEY!

Not Freedom to SIN!

Bound in Sin represents our OLD Life, not our NEW life in Christ.

Bitter:

“For we ourselves also were sometimes Living in Malice and Envy,”

It makes sense, if we nurse our lusts, Malice & Envy will be the driving factors in our lives. (James 4:5) *“lusteth to envy”*

Envy of others who have what we lust for.

Illus: *Parents in Tennessee complained that posting the Honore Roll embarrassed the kids who were not on it. so on the advice of school counselor, the Honor Roll in that school was eliminated.*

The kids who failed to make the grade were not complaining, it was the parents who were envious of the other parents who's kids were on the list.

Malice is a chilling word to understand.
The willingness to make someone suffer to fulfill my lust.
This is IDOLATRY at its BEST!

We are FIRST! Our desires is all that matters.
You didn't get your way, so you are happy to make everyone
around you suffer to satisfy your anger.
*"They won't ever make the mistake of not giving me my own
way again!"*

Road Rage stem from Malice and Envy.
Angry parents at sporting events stems from Malice & Envy.

Bad-Tempered:

*"For we ourselves also were sometimes ... hateful, and
hating one another."*

People today are at each other's throats:

Not just at political rally's, School, Work, Playground.
Backbiting and scheming on the job.

You can see the progression in this verse.

1. Our Attitude toward God: **Foolish** (Biased) & **Disobedient** (Belligerent)
2. Our Attitude toward Ourselves: **Deceived** (Blind) & **Serving** (Bound)
3. Our Attitude toward Others: filled with **Malice & Envy** (Bitter) and **Hatred** (Bad-Tempered).

Right about now, the reader is sick at the description of who
we were, and what we battle; Paul interjects a **"But"**.

Now that we have Dredged up the past, lets start

Paul has us Look Toward the Future:

(Titus 3:4-5) **But after that the kindness and love of God our
Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of
righteousness which we have done, but according to his
mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and
renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

"But" - Contrary to Expectations

Contrary to what we might think God would have done to us
as guilty sinners deserving judgement, **"He saved us"**.

Biased, Belligerent, Blind, Bound, Bitter, and Bad-Tempered,
BUT in His kindness and Love, **"He saved us"**.

What an incentive to Love Jesus.

What an incentive to BE THANKFUL!

What an Incentive to Make Him our Master.

What an incentive to Serve Jesus.

Our Service should directly mirror our Thankfulness.

Illus: Maybe that's the problem, it does.

If the world got close enough to us, would they hear our
gratitude to the God who saved us from the record of vile sin,
the wreckage of a meaningless life, and a horrible future?

What an incentive to leave our old life an pursue the new one
Tonight, take a moment and tell the Lord in Prayer....

Lord...

*I Remember **WHO** I used to be: & want to say Thank You!*

*I Remember **Where** I was headed, & want to say Thank You!*

*I Remember **Why** I needed a Saviour, & want to say Thank
You!*