



Titus 1:10-16

Truth #3 - The Gospel transforms culture

Doctrine #3 - The doctrine of Soteriology

Principle #3 - The Leader's exemplary private life

The late Dr. J.I. Packer, who wrote the best-selling *Knowing God*, was once asked to sum up the Bible. Remarkably he did so in just *three* words: God saves sinners. The story of the Bible is the story of God's plan of redemption of mankind. *Redemption* means rescue, deliverance, to buy back.

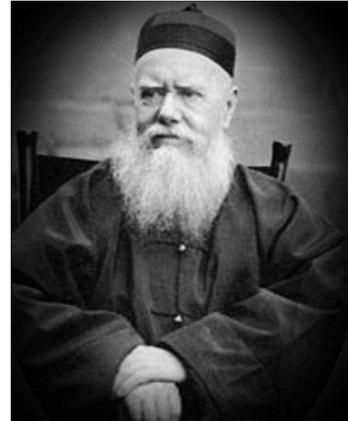
1. How does Paul describe those who claimed that salvation required certain human effort in order to be saved — and especially who does he take aim at? (Titus 1:10)
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Some people have suggested that we should just preach the truth of the gospel and ignore the arguments of those who oppose it.

2. Based on Titus 1:11, did Paul agree with this approach and what were his reasons?
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The Cretan Culture

The gospel not only transforms individuals, it transforms a *culture* (the way a people think about important issues, how they treat each other—especially the most vulnerable, and how they express themselves in *art*). In some circles, a people’s traditional culture is viewed as *sacrosanct* (“not to be interfered with”). People who hold this view have long regarded Christian missionaries as *interfering* and *disrespectful* to a foreign culture. To be sure, many Christian missionaries *did* confuse Christianity with their own culture and then innocently imposed aspects of their European culture onto their foreign mission field. But, there have been missionaries who have enculturated into their new culture (they learned and spoke the language, adopted their diet and their national dress) and then challenged those aspects of the culture contrary to the *Natural Law*. Examples of this include British missionary, Hudson Taylor, who went to China (pictured above) and became known as ‘the father of modern missions’. Some years earlier, British missionary, William Carey went to India and challenged their cultural practice of *sati* (burning of the live widow of a deceased husband upon his funeral pyre, depicted below) which eventually led to it being outlawed.



3. Read Titus 1:12. How then would the teaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God be a challenge to Cretan culture? If the witness of Cretan Christians became increasingly influential, how would it effect Cretan culture?

4. Paul seems to suggest that Pastor Titus was going to have to confront this culture - even within the church. How, in Titus 1:13-14, does he advise Titus to do this?
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5. Why was Titus' task going to be a difficult one based on what Paul tells us in Titus 1:16?
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The Doctrine of Soteriology

The Greek word for *salvation* is 'soterias' which is why the study of salvation is called *soteriology*. The doctrine of salvation is unique to Christianity.

6. How does Ephesians 2:8-9 reveal why this doctrine of salvation is unique to Christianity?
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7. Select which things are a true result from salvation -
- (a) Forgiveness of sins (b) Adoption by God (c) Justified by Christ
(d) The promise of receiving a glorified resurrected body (e) a new nature
(f) The abiding presence of God (g) The illumination of Scripture
(h) admission into the family of God (the Church) (i) No more problems

The Principles for Our Growth

8. If you were helping a new believer to understand salvation, what would you point out to them?
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Prayer

Father,

We thank You for our salvation. Thank You Lord for Your forgiveness and mercy. Please help us to share Your love and grace with others. Give us a fresh love for others and a desire to serve our brothers and sisters with the gifts Your Holy Spirit has given us. In Jesus' Name we pray,

Amen.