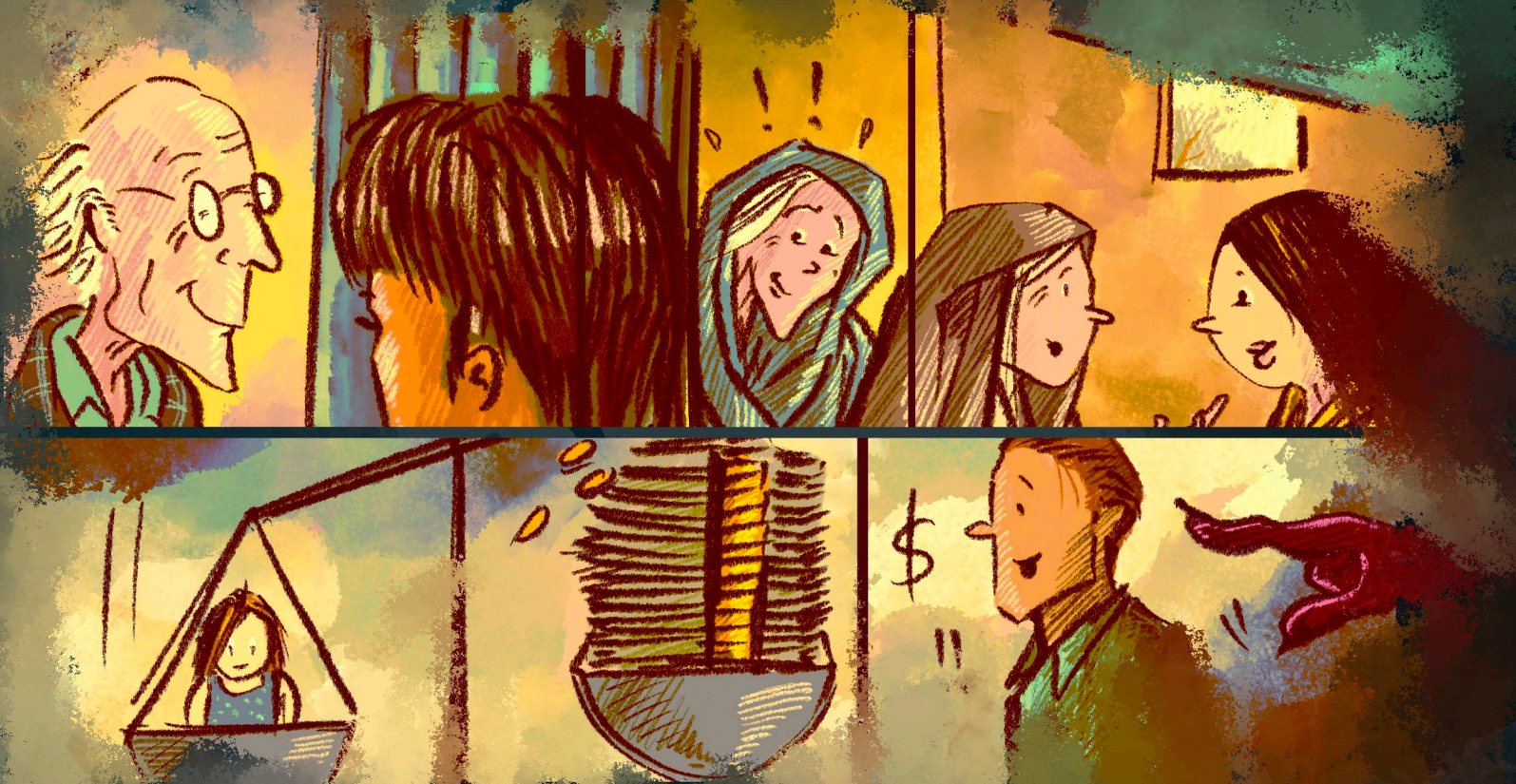


Through the Bible

TITUS

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA

Letter to Titus

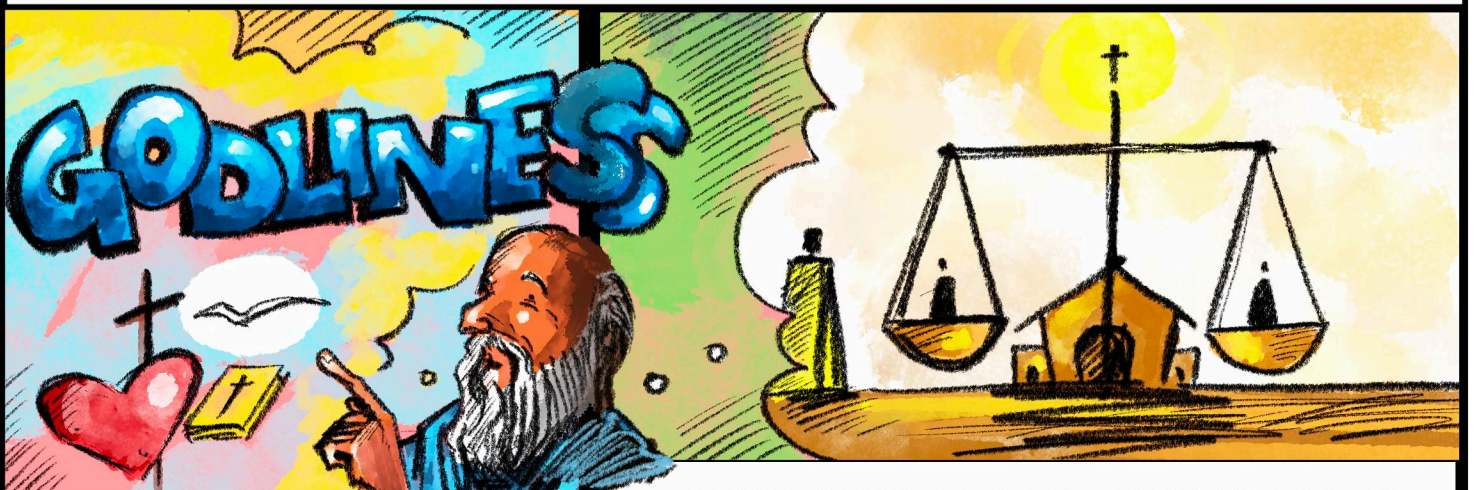
THE FIRST THING PAUL SEEKS TO DO IS TO ESTABLISH ORDER IN THE CHURCH. IN CHAPTER 1, PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT APPOINTING GODLY ELDERS WHO CAN LEAD THE CHURCH AND SILENCE REBELLIOUS PEOPLE; IN CHAPTER 2 HE SPEAKS ABOUT SOUND DOCTRINE AND IN CHAPTER 3 ABOUT DOING GOOD WORKS.



SOME OF PAUL'S CLOSE WORKERS LIKE TITUS WERE NOT JEWS. TITUS, TIMOTHY AND LUKE WERE GREEKS. WE MUST GET OUT OF THE SECTARIAN, COMMUNAL, NARROW WAY OF THINKING THAT MAKES US COMFORTABLE ONLY WITH PEOPLE OF OUR OWN NATIONALITY AND TEMPERAMENT AND WE MUST LEARN TO WORK WITH ALL WHO ARE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.



ONE OF THE CRETAN RELIGIOUS PREACHERS HAD SAID, "CRETANS ARE LIARS, EVIL AS BEASTS, LAZY AND GLUTTONOUS" (1:12). THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE. BUT WHEN SUCH A CRETAN COMES TO CHRIST AND IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE WON'T BE THIS WAY. SO WE MUST NEVER JUDGE A PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS NATIONALITY OR COMMUNITY.



WE NOTICE, AS PAUL APPROACHES THE END OF HIS LIFE, HIS LETTERS CONTAIN A GREAT EMPHASIS ON GODLINESS OF LIFE. (1:1)

PAUL TELLS TITUS THAT HE LEFT HIM IN CRETE TO "SET IN ORDER THE THINGS THAT ARE WRONG, AND APPOINT ELDERS IN EVERY CITY" (1:5). THERE MUST BE AT LEAST TWO ELDERS LEADING EVERY CHURCH -- SO THAT CHURCH-LEADERSHIP IS BALANCED.



UNDER THE **OLD COVENANT**, **LEADERSHIP** WAS ALWAYS EXERCISED BY **ONE MAN** -- **ONE HIGH-PRIEST**, **ONE KING** AND **ONE PROPHET**. BUT AS SOON AS **JESUS** STARTED HIS MINISTRY, HE SENT HIS **DISCIPLES** OUT **TWO-BY-TWO**.

THE **ELDERS** IN A **CHURCH** MUST BE THE MOST **SPIRITUALLY MATURE** PERSONS IN THAT **CHURCH** AND **NOT NECESSARILY** THOSE WHO ARE **OLDEST** IN AGE.



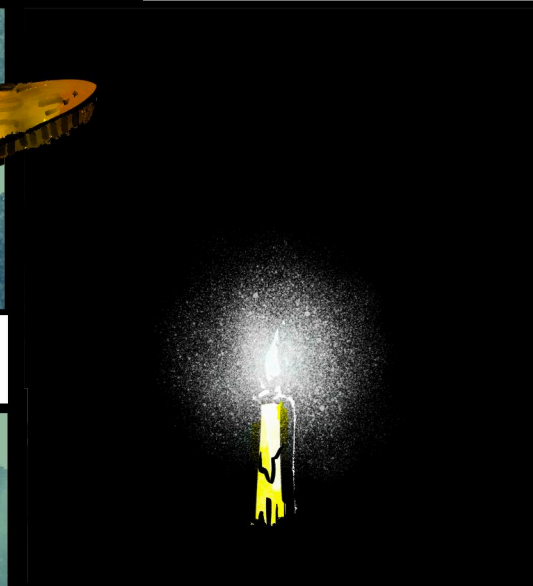
MATURITY IS NOT DETERMINED BY **PREACHING** ABILITY OR BY **GIFT**. **MATURITY** COMES THROUGH **FAITHFULNESS** OVER **MANY YEARS**.

THOSE WHO SEEK TO HAVE **RESPONSIBILITY** IN THE **CHURCH** MUST **FIRST** LEARN TO BE **GOOD LEADERS** IN THEIR **OWN HOME**.

"HE MUST **NOT** BE ONE WHO IS **QUICK TEMPERED** AND **ANGRY**" (1:7).



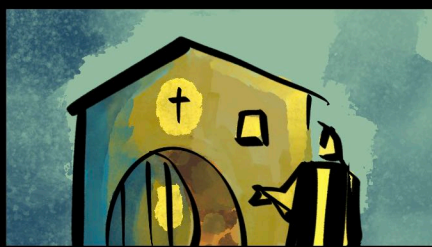
"THEY MUST **NOT** BE **GREEDY** FOR **MONEY**" (1:7, 11).



IN **OUR SOCIETY**, THE **SINS** MAY BE **DIFFERENT**. BUT IN EVERY AREA OF **SIN** THAT **OUR SOCIETY** SPECIALISES IN, THE **CHURCH** MUST STAND OUT AS **DIFFERENT** -- AS A **LIGHT**.



IF FOR EXAMPLE, IN **OUR SOCIETY**, THE **HUSBAND** IS LIKE A **KING** WHO NEVER DOES ANY **DIRTY JOBS** IN THE **HOUSE**, THEN **CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS** MUST BE **DIFFERENT**.



"THEY MUST BE **HOSPITABLE**" (1:8). THEIR **HOME** MUST BE OPEN TO PEOPLE WHO NEED **SPIRITUAL HELP**.



IN 1:15, PAUL SAYS, "IF YOU ARE PURE, ALL THINGS ARE PURE TO YOU. BUT IF YOU ARE **DEFILED**, YOU FIND THAT NOTHING IS PURE, EVERYTHING IS **DEFILED** TO YOU." SOME PEOPLE SEE FILTH EVERYWHERE, BECAUSE THEIR MIND IS **FILTHY**.

WE MUST NOW ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO **PURIFY** OUR MINDS SO THAT WE DON'T SEE SOMETHING DIRTY WHERE THERE IS **NOTHING** DIRTY

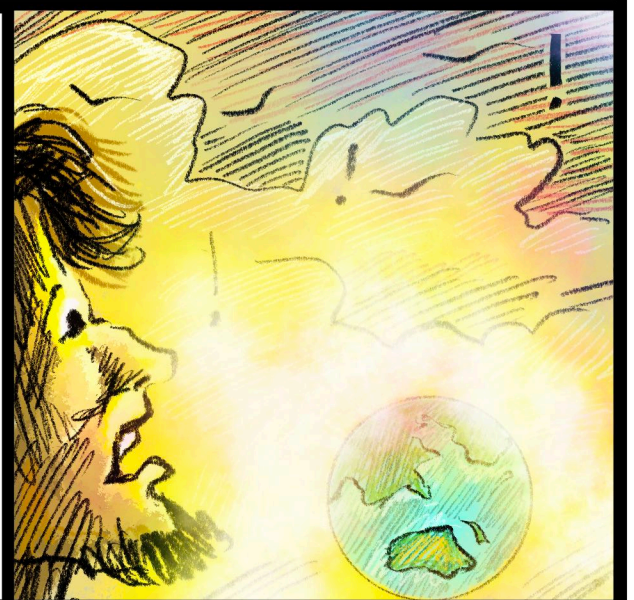


PROVERBS 27:19 SAYS, "AS IN WATER FACE REFLECTS FACE, SO THE **HEART** OF MAN REFLECTS MAN". WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT YOU SEE IN OTHERS THE EVIL LURKING IN YOUR **OWN** HEART.

JUNIPER BELONGED TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI IN THE 13TH CENTURY, THAT HAD DECIDED TO LIVE IN GREAT **SIMPLICITY**. ONE DAY WHEN JUNIPER SAW ONE OF HIS BROTHERS DRESSED IN A **RELATIVELY EXPENSIVE** DRESS, HE SAID TO HIMSELF, "PERHAPS UNDER THAT EXPENSIVE DRESS HE HAS A **HUMBLER** HEART THAN I HAVE UNDER MY **SIMPLE** DRESS."



WHEN ISAIAH SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, HE HEARD THE **SERAPHS** SAYING, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD. THE **WHOLE EARTH** IS **FULL** OF HIS **GLORY**?" (ISAIAH 6:3). THEIR MINDS ARE **PURE**. THEY SEE THE **GLORY** OF GOD IN **MANY** THINGS, SUCH AS IN THE BEAUTY OF **CREATION**, AND IN **GODLY** BELIEVERS HERE AND THERE. THEY ALSO **PROPHETICALLY** SEE THE **FUTURE** DAY WHEN THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE **GLORY** OF GOD.



WHEN WE LOOK AT THE EARTH, WE DON'T SEE IT FULL OF GOD'S GLORY BUT FULL OF CORRUPTION. ☠ ☠



THE OLDER MEN MUST BE TAUGHT TO BE **DIGNIFIED, SENSIBLE, SOUND** IN FAITH, FULL OF LOVE AND PATIENCE. OLDER PEOPLE SHOULD LOVE **YOUNGER** PEOPLE WHO ARE IGNORANT, IMMATURE AND FOOLISH.

OLDER SISTERS MUST NOT BE **MALICIOUS GOSSIPS**

BUT BE THE **TEACHERS** OF THE **YOUNGER** SISTERS (2:4) TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THEIR HOMES.



WIVES ARE INSTRUCTED TO BE WORKERS AT HOME **FIRST**. OUR **CHILDREN** ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR **STANDARD OF LIVING**. MILLIONS WE EARN CAN NEVER BE A **SUBSTITUTE** FOR **GODLY CHILDREN**.

PAUL URGES TITUS TO BE A **GOOD EXAMPLE** -- IN GOOD DEEDS, IN PURITY, IN PURE DOCTRINE, DIGNIFIED AND SOUND IN SPEECH -- SO THAT THE **DEVIL** CANNOT POINT OUT ANYTHING IN HIM THAT WILL BRING **DISGRACE** TO THE NAME OF THE LORD.



CHRISTIAN **SERVANTS** (AND THIS INCLUDES THOSE WORKING IN **OFFICES** AND **FACTORIES** TODAY) MUST BE TAUGHT TO BE **SUBJECT** TO THEIR **MASTERS** IN EVERYTHING. THEY MUST **NOT ARGUE** WITH THEIR **BOSSSES**.

I AM **NOT** SAYING HE SHOULD **NOT STAND UP** FOR HIS **CONVICTIONS** WHEN HE IS ASKED TO DO SOMETHING **WRONG**.

"**DON'T PILFER**" (2:10). **STEALING** REFERS TO **EXPENSIVE** ITEMS THAT ARE TAKEN UNRIGHTEOUSLY FOR ONESELF. **PILFERING** REFERS TO **MINOR** ITEMS -- SUCH AS TAKING A SHEET OF **OFFICE-PAPER** TO WRITE A **PRIVATE** LETTER. JESUS SAID, "IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL IN **LITTLE** THINGS, YOU WILL BE FAITHFUL IN **MUCH**."



IF WE HAVE **PILFERED** THINGS IN THE **PAST** FROM SOMEWHERE, YOU SHOULD **CALCULATE** THE **APPROXIMATE COST** OF WHAT YOU **PILFERED** AND **GIVE BACK** THE **MONEY**. THAT IS **TRUE CHRISTIANITY**. THAT IS WHAT **ZACCHEUS** DID.



CHAPTER 2:11--13 IS A PASSAGE THAT SPEAKS ABOUT WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE FOR US IN THE **PAST** -- HE BROUGHT **SALVATION**; WHAT HE IS DOING FOR US IN THE **PRESENT** -- ENABLING US TO LIVE LIFE **DENYING** ALL **UNGOPLINESS**; AND WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE **FUTURE** -- THE **RETURN** OF OUR **LORD**.



HERE WE ARE TOLD **CLEARLY** WHY **CHRIST** GAVE HIMSELF FOR US (2:14). SO THAT HE MIGHT **PURIFY** FOR HIMSELF A PEOPLE FOR HIS **OWN POSSESSION**, **ZEALOUS** FOR **GOOD WORKS**.

THE GREAT NEED IN **CHRISTIAN HOMES**, **CHRISTIAN CHURCHES** AND **CHRISTIAN PULPITS** IN OUR DAY, IS, "**GODLY AUTHORITY**." (2:15)

REGARDING **EARTHLY RULERS** AND **AUTHORITIES**, WE MUST "**BE SUBJECT** TO THEM, **OBEDIENT** TO THEM AND **READY** TO DO **EVERY GOOD DEED**" (3:1).



THERE IS SO MUCH OF **GOSSIPING** THAT GOES ON IN **CHRISTIAN HOMES**. IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN **SMOKING**. I WOULD RATHER HAVE SOMEONE **SMOKE** THAN **GOSSIP** IN MY HOUSE.

3:2,3 TELLS US THAT ONCE WE ALSO WERE **FOOLISH**. OUR SALVATION IS NOT THE RESULT OF OUR **GOOD DEEDS**. GOD RENEWED US THROUGH THE **HOLY SPIRIT**



PAUL THEN URGES TITUS TO PREACH ALL THIS "**CONFIDENTLY -- WITH ASSURANCE AND CONVICTION**" (3:8). AN ACTOR ONCE SAID "**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US ACTORS AND PREACHERS IS THIS: PREACHERS TALK ABOUT REAL THINGS AS THOUGH THEY WERE UNREAL, WHILE WE ACTORS TALK ABOUT UNREAL THINGS AS THOUGH THEY WERE REAL!!**"



SOME PREACHERS TALK ABOUT **ETERNAL THINGS**, ABOUT **ETERNAL LIFE** AND ABOUT A **HELL** WHERE PEOPLE BURN FOREVER -- IN SUCH A **SLEEPY, SLUGGISH** WAY.



3: 9,10,11 SAYS - AVOID **ARGUMENTS** OVER **UNANSWERABLE** QUESTIONS AND **CONTROVERSIAL THEOLOGICAL IDEAS**. IF ANYONE IS **ARGUMENTATIVE** AND CAUSING **STRIFE** AND **DIVISIONS**, HE SHOULD BE GIVEN A **FIRST** AND A **SECOND** WARNING. AFTER THAT WE MUST HAVE **NOTHING** MORE TO DO WITH HIM.