

Straight Talk

Straight

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior, To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. The reason I left you in Crete was so that you might straighten out what was left unfinished.” (Titus 1:1–5a, NIV)

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- ⇒ God wants us to be his s_____ and a_____.
- ⇒ Serving Jesus means serving those whom Jesus l_____.
- ⇒ Our salvation was at God’s i_____.
- ⇒ We really ___ know the truth!
- ⇒ We can expect the truth to __ form AND _____ form.
- ⇒ We can c_____ on the promises of God.
- ⇒ God a_____ tells the truth.
- ⇒ We can invite others to s_____ in our common faith.
- ⇒ T____ and l_____ grace & peace come from God alone.
- ⇒ Each of us is still a w_____ in p_____.

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GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH US YET

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DISCUSSION STARTERS

You can use the following questions and statements in your LIFE group, around your dinner table, with friends to help you more thoroughly apply the Scriptures to your life.

Talk about the differences and similarities in servants and ambassadors. In what way are we to be like each of them?

Discuss the idea that we serve others not because they deserve it but because Jesus loves them. Is there anyone you find hard to love even for Jesus' sake?

Compare the phrase "the faith of God's elect" to Romans 8:28-30 and Ephesians 1:3-14. How do these truths enhance our appreciation for salvation?

Read John 8:31-32 and discuss the possibility of knowing the truth. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15 and talk about the church's role in proclaiming the truth.

In what ways does our society question the statement, "God does not lie"?

Is there any area of your life (deed, word, thought, attitude) that is a carry-over from pre-Christian days? How can the truth help overcome such things?

What is the promise of God that you find most meaningful right now?

When it comes to influencing people toward the faith, what can you do as an individual? What can your family do? What can we do as a church?

In what ways does the world offer counterfeit grace and peace?

Compare the phrase "straighten out what was left unfinished" to Philippians 1:3-6, 2:12-13. What is God's commitment to us? Our responsibility to him?

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- ⇒ Serving Jesus means serving those whom Jesus loves.
- ⇒ Our salvation was at God’s initiative.
- ⇒ We really CAN know the truth!
- ⇒ We can expect the truth to inform AND transform.
- ⇒ We can count on the promises of God.
- ⇒ God always tells the truth.
- ⇒ We can invite others to share in our common faith.
- ⇒ True and lasting grace and peace come from God alone.
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