

I. My Notes ... WWC message 2/28

II. Series: Finding Rest in a Restless World

- Title: The Architecture of Rest
- Text: Titus 1:5-15
- Quote: You will never find God's Rest in a life you intentionally leave in disorder. (something I have learned)

III. Introduction

- My parents had a very good friend named Virgil. He was a man who loved cars, but there was one car that lived in his heart above all others: the 1963 Split-Window Corvette. To Virgil, that wasn't just a car; it was a masterpiece. It was his dream ride.  
Now, imagine Virgil finding that car—the one he'd waited for his whole life—hidden away in a dusty, forgotten barn. The tires are flat, the engine is silent, and it's buried under decades of 'unfinished business.' He signs the papers, he gets the title, and the Great Exchange is complete. The car is legally his. But Virgil knows something we often forget: Receiving the title is just the beginning of the story. He doesn't want the car just to say he owns it; he wants to hear that engine roar. He wants to feel it on the open road. He wants to see the masterpiece restored to the order it was designed for.
- Last week, as I was preparing to share the message of The Great Exchange, this thought came to my mind. I rarely begin writing another message before I have given the one I am focused on (I just make notes) but this hit me deeply. We are celebrating the 'Title Deed' of our faith—the moment Jesus took our brokenness and gave us His righteousness. But as we turn to the Book of Titus, we're moving into the 'Restoration Shop.'
- Many of us are living with the Title, but we're still sitting in the dust of the barn. We're restless because our lives feel like that 'unfinished' project. We have the grace that saves us, but we haven't yet surrendered to the grace that restores us.
- In Titus 1:5, Paul tells Titus to 'straighten out what was left unfinished.' He's inviting us to move beyond just 'owning' our faith and into the Rhythms of Grace that actually set our lives in order. Because, like Virgil's Corvette, you were designed for the road, not the barn. And you'll only find true Rest when the Masterpiece is finally in sync with the Master's design."
- The moment Virgil got the title to that Corvette, the 'Great Exchange' was complete. He was the owner. But Virgil didn't want a trophy for his files; he wanted a car for the road. He knew that the beauty of the 1963 Split-Window wasn't just in the name — it was in the design, the power, and the ride.

- The Apostle Paul describes our walk with God in the exact same way. In **Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)**, he says: *'And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.'*
- Paul is saying: 'You've got the title. You've accepted the Lord. Now, let the restoration move from the paperwork into the very engine of your life.' When we try to 'clean up our own barn' or fix our own 'unfinished business' through our own restless striving, we are like a man trying to push a Corvette down the highway by hand. It's exhausting, it's painful, and it was never the design.
- We find Rest in a Restless World when we realize that the same Grace that gave us the 'Title' is the same Grace that 'Builds us up.' As we open Titus 1:5, we're going to see that 'straightening out what was left unfinished' isn't a chore we do for God—it's the Master Mechanic invited into the barn to get us back on the road."

#### IV. Making Sense Out of Life

- After a warm and deeply personal greeting, the Apostle Paul makes clear the purpose of this instructive and encouraging letter that he wrote to Titus. The circumstances were difficult. Chaos and disorder were commonplace. People were confused and acting out. They needed leadership, they needed truth, they needed relief from their difficulties and suffering.
- Paul writes to **Titus** and says, *"The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished..." (1:5 NLT)*. He tells Titus that he left him in Crete for a reason. Now, Crete wasn't a retreat center; it was a rough, chaotic, 'restless' culture. In fact, Paul says later in the chapter that the people there were known for being 'lazy gluttons' and 'liars.'
- But here is the spiritual reality: We all have a 'Crete' inside of us. It's that corner of our soul where the old habits still live, where the noise of the world is loudest, and where things have been left in a state of 'unfinished' chaos. You might have the 'Title' to a new life, but if your internal Crete is still in shambles, you're going to feel the friction.
- Tying this together with what we have already talked about ... Before we can 'straighten anything out,' we have to remember the platform we're standing on. Jesus invited us into the Great Exchange when He said, **'Take my yoke upon you.'** (Matthew 11:29). This is the 'Restoration Shop' floor. A yoke is designed for two. When you step into that yoke with Jesus, the weight of the work shifts to His shoulders. He isn't standing over you with a clipboard, demanding you fix the car; He is standing in the yoke with you, providing the steady rhythm and the strength to move. The 'Easy Yoke' is the only place where 'Hard Work' doesn't lead to 'Hustle.'

- Hear me on this ... Character isn't about "checking the boxes" or completing that to-do list that is running throughout your mind. It's about anchoring yourself to the One who is willing and able to complete the task that you were made for.

## V. The Blueprint

- Paul now gives Titus the blueprint—the architecture—for restoring order in a restless world. And it begins with leadership, not in the sense of titles, but in the sense of lives that model the order of God's kingdom.
- Paul's direction and instruction weren't about control but about creating an environment in which grace would flourish.
- Rest comes through integrity. At least, that is what I see Paul telling Titus. Paul says that an elder (a leader, a mentor) must be "blameless" (vs. 6). It's hard to find rest when you are carrying a bunch of secrets, leading a double life, and not wanting to get caught.
- And sometimes, to get to this point, we (believers, mentors) are put on a path that seems out of the ordinary. But by walking it, with integrity, and honoring the Lord, we find a way to point others to Jesus.
- The blueprint shows us that when we "yoke" (remember last week?) ourselves to Jesus, we live in a way that reveals what self-control looks like. Paul explains these characteristics in verses 7-9. There are the "nots" ... self-control is not arrogant, hot tempered, a drunk, a bully, or greedy. Most of these traits jump right out at others. And they don't reveal a person of trust or integrity.
- Then there are the characteristics that show how grace has touched one's life. These characteristics are about caring for others, being invested in their lives. And treating them with kindness and compassion, not making it about yourself but about the way that God loves.
- When Paul tells Titus that a leader must hold "... *to the faithful message as taught ...*" (**Titus 1:9 CSB**), he isn't describing a person trying to hold a heavy weight up; he's describing a person clinging to a rock in a storm. In life today, we usually try to find "rest" by rowing harder — trying to manage our reputation, fix our circumstances, or outrun our anxieties. That is the exhaustion of the "oar."  
 "Holding fast" is the shift from the oars to the anchor. **Hebrews 6:19** reminds us, "*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, sure and strong. It enters behind the curtain in the Most Holy Place in heaven ...*" (**NCV**). When you hold fast to the Word, you aren't providing the power; you are tethering yourself to the One who is unmovable. You rest because you've stopped trying to keep the boat still with your own strength and started trusting the Anchor to do its job.

- The "trustworthy message" Paul refers to is the Gospel—the fact that you are loved, chosen, and redeemed regardless of your performance.
- Much of our restlessness comes from "Identity Drift." We drift into thinking our value depends on our latest success or failure. When we hold fast to what God says about us, the "identity work" stops. You can rest because the verdict is already in. As Jesus said in John 8:31-32, *"If you hold to my teaching... the truth will set you free."* Freedom is the prerequisite for rest.
- There is something that I have listened to recently. My son is having a house built. In many ways it sounds like it is controlled chaos. With many different people doing different things to accomplish the one goal – getting the home built. It's the blueprint that keeps them all able to focus on the goal. When they drift from the place it causes anxiety, disruption, and sets the timeframe back. Then the second guessing comes in. And going back to have to "redo" things that could have been done right if the blueprint had been followed. Following the plan allows all to go on and be completed with peace and simplicity because there is a clear understanding of the goal.
- When we hold fast to Scripture, we are holding the "Architecture of Rest." We don't have to wonder if God is good, if He is in control, or if He will provide. We hold the blueprint.
- Listen to the psalmist ... *"Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble."* (Psalm 119:165 ESV).

## VI. Silencing the Noise

- Noise is the demolition crew, it breaks us down through chaos, striving, and identity drift. Silence is the blueprint. Through it we find clarity, grace, and rest.
- Let me read verses 10 and 11 again. *"10 For there are many rebellious people who engage in useless talk and deceive others. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation. 11 They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money."* (Titus 1:10-11 NLT). This hits me hard. Because the noise can be distracting, it can get in the way of my focus, my blueprint. The voices outside contribute to the voice inside that tells me I'm not doing enough or doing it right. I'm not good enough or capable enough to walk the path that is laid out before me.
- The people of Crete were known in the ancient world for being undisciplined, deceptive, and morally chaotic, a culture so restless that even their own poets said they were "liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons." In today's world, Crete looks less like a location and more like the internal disorder we all battle—the habits we haven't surrendered, the noise that shapes us, and the places in our lives where chaos still competes with God's design.
- Paul's instruction to Titus was blunt: 'They must be silenced' (v. 11). In the restoration of our souls, silencing the noise isn't about being 'closed-minded';

it's about being 'peace-minded.' It's the moment we decide that the opinion of the Designer matters more than the chatter of the onlookers. When I stop trying to answer every critic and satisfy every 'religious' demand, I finally create the silence (quiet) necessary to hear the heartbeat of Grace. We don't find rest by winning the argument with the world; we find rest by walking out of the argument and back into the Restoration Shop, where the only voice that matters is the One saying, 'It is finished.'

## VII. Let's Finish

- **Titus 1:15 (NLT)** - *Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted.*
- Rest isn't just about the "bodywork" of our external behavior; it's about the "interior" of the heart. When our hearts are set in order by Grace, we stop seeing the world through the lens of chaos and start seeing it through the lens of God's sovereignty.
- Virgil's Corvette was designed for the road, not the barn. You were designed for the "Rhythms of Grace," not the "Striving of the Barn". Virgil didn't restore that 1963 Split-Window just to let it sit in a garage. He restored it so he could take it out on the road and let it do exactly what it was designed to do.
- You were designed for the 'Rhythms of Grace,' not the 'Striving of the Barn.' If you feel restless today, maybe it's because there is 'unfinished business' in your life—a corner of your 'Crete'—that you haven't handed over to the Master Mechanic yet. Don't just settle for the Title Deed today. Don't be content just knowing you're 'legal.' Step into the Restoration Shop. Let Him straighten out what is unfinished. Let Him silence the noise of the world with the whisper of His finished work. And then, let's get out of the barn and onto the road, walking in the rest that only a restored life can know."
- Let's Pray
- Grace First, Grace Always