

Week 29  
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**Transforming Daily**  
“... set in order the things that are lacking...”  
*Titus 1:5*

Titus, like Timothy, was a young minister that Paul nurtured and served with. Titus is mentioned many times in association with Paul's missionary work. It was Titus who was with Paul against the Judaizers in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1). In his epistle to Titus, Paul challenges Titus to establish and maintain order within the church. He emphasizes the need for Titus to institute scripturally qualified servants to help in the work of the ministry as well as the importance of right doctrine, and in turn, righteous living.

Order in and of the church is the message for Titus from Paul. Godly order and godly organization is from the leadership for the church to be exercised by the believers. The bottom line here is for the believer to live his or her life in such a way as to influence on-lookers to follow after Christ. Salvation is the beginning of the spiritual journey. The spiritual journey is to honor God, develop saints, and evangelize the unregenerate sinner. Paul says that the process includes preaching, teaching, instruction, exhortation, correction, admonition, and rejection (rebuke).

One of the best demonstrations of this in book form is the *Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren. Not necessarily from the perspective of the end justifying the means or for all churches and pastors everywhere to repeat or reduplicate Saddleback Valley Community Church's history, but from their point of view as to how God moved specifically on their behalf. The book, after all, was dedicated to by-vocational ministers as a means of encouragement that God has a purpose, a plan, for every ministry. Warren's philosophy which demonstrates the admonition of Paul to Titus for order and organization is that the church buildings define and confine the church. That's why it took Saddleback Valley Community Church 13 years of growing before they built their first facility. Whether one totally agrees or not with his church growth ideology, Rick Warren had an orderly approach to the planting, establishing and growing of Saddleback Valley Community Church.

What about your individual spiritual development, is there any order or planning on your part? Do you ask specific direction from God on who to speak to about Christ or where to serve in His church? Are you actively ministering to others in the name of Christ, or are you just sitting on the sidelines? Is your ticket punched (you're saved), bags packed, and you're just waiting on the return of the Lord? You need to read Titus again if that's your approach because the message from the book of Titus for the believer is to set in order the things that are lacking.