Reformation Sunday: Titus

***31 October 2021***

# Opening

# The inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior, to be seen in church leaders and the church, and the defence against the threat to the Gospel

## ‘above reproach’, ‘dignified’

# Why the overseer is key – he must be a man devoted to the Word (1.9)

## Keep teaching what you should – sound doctrine – which as defined in 1 Timothy is a godliness taught by the Gospel – in conduct, speech, love, teaching and so forth

# The sequence and structure of Paul’s command for godliness:

# ‘I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.’ (3.8)

## The source and foundation of this Gospel and the Christian life which we must fight for and be prepared to die for, is God’s Revelation, His authoritative Word

### ‘believed in God’

#### And rejecting the opposite

### ‘good works’, ‘what accords with sound doctrine’ (2.1) – the godliness Paul is speaking of detailed

#### The Reformers and holiness

#### Unfortunately, the church has always needed semper reformanda and Luther’s teaching needed more reforming – and that is what we still see today.

##### Predestination – the common understanding and teaching of all Protestants in the Reformation

## The church structured thus to achieve all of God’s plan and purpose in Christ

# Final words

## ‘to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people’ (3.2) - Self-control in those with leadership and potential for leadership, submission from those in positions of servanthood