

The Epistle To Titus



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, Outlines, And Review Questions**

STUDENT EDITION

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The Epistle To Titus

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This study guide was developed in preparation for teaching adult Bible classes.

- ♦ The objectives for each section are usually things I plan to emphasize during the class.
- ♦ I have found that summarizing and outlining helps me to better understand the Word of God. It is a practice I highly recommend to others.

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The outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style. To God be the glory!

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The Epistle To Titus

Introduction

AUTHOR

The apostle **Paul**, as stated in the salutation (**1:1**). The testimony of church history also provides overwhelming support that Paul is the author.

RECIPIENT

Titus, Paul's "true son in common faith" (**1:4**). There is no mention of Titus by name in the book of Acts, but we can glean much about him from the epistles of Paul. He was a Gentile by birth (**Ga 2:3**), and accompanied Paul to Jerusalem during the controversy over circumcision (**Ac 15:1-2; Ga 2:1-5**).

During Paul's third missionary journey, Titus became his personal emissary to the church at Corinth, seeking to learn how they received his first letter. When Titus did not return to Troas as expected, Paul anxiously went on to Macedonia (**2 Co 2:12-13**). It was there that Paul and Titus finally connected, much to the relief and comfort of Paul when Titus reported how well he was received by the Corinthians (**2 Co 7:5-7,13-15**). Paul then sent Titus and two others back to Corinth, bearing the letter we call Second Corinthians, and exhorting the brethren to complete their collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem (**2 Co 8:16-9:5**).

At the time of the epistle to Titus, he had been left on the island of Crete by Paul to "set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city" (**Ti 1:5**). If Paul's plans as expressed in this epistle materialized, then Titus left soon after the arrival of Artemas or Tychicus, and met Paul at Nicopolis in northwest Greece (cf. **Ti 3:12**). We last read of Titus that he had gone to Dalmatia (in modern day Yugoslavia) during the final days of Paul's life (**2 Ti 4:10**).

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

The general consensus is that following his first imprisonment in Rome the apostle Paul was released and allowed to travel for several years before being arrested again. The following itinerary has been proposed by the Ryrie Study Bible:

- ◆ Paul was released from his house arrest in Rome (where we find him at the end of Acts), probably because his accusers did not choose to press their charges against him before Caesar (**Ac 24:1; 28:30**). Their case, therefore, was lost by default, and Paul was freed.
- ◆ Paul visited Ephesus, left Timothy there to supervise the churches, and went on to Macedonia (northern Greece).
- ◆ From there he wrote 1 Timothy (**1 Ti 1:3**).

- ♦ He visited Crete, left Titus there to supervise those churches, and went to Nicopolis in Achaia (southern Greece, **Ti 3:12**).
- ♦ Either from Macedonia or Nicopolis, he wrote this letter to encourage Titus.
- ♦ He visited Troas (**2 Ti 4:13**), where he was suddenly arrested, taken to Rome, imprisoned, and finally beheaded.
- ♦ From Rome, during this second imprisonment, he wrote 2 Timothy.

It cannot be established with certainty, but it possible that Paul wrote this letter from **Corinth**, sometime around **63-66 A.D.**

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

Like his first epistle to Timothy, this letter is written to a young preacher assigned a difficult task. Evidently the churches on the island of Crete were in need of maturation, and this letter is designed to assist Titus in that work. Therefore, Paul wrote to encourage Titus:

- ♦ To see that qualified elders were appointed in every city (**1:5-9**)
- ♦ To preach things befitting "sound doctrine" (**2:1**)
- ♦ To exhort the brethren to be "zealous for good works" (**2:14; 3:1,8,14**)

THEME OF THE EPISTLE

The key phrase in this epistle is "good works" (**1:16; 2:7,14; 3:1,8,14**). An appropriate theme for this epistle might therefore be:

"MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS!"

KEY VERSE: Titus 3:8

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable for men."

OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (1:1-4)

I. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING CHURCH ORGANIZATION (1:5-16)

A. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS (1:5-9)

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS (1:10-16)

II. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING CHRISTIAN CONDUCT (2:1-3:11)

A. FOR THE OLDER MEN AND WOMEN (2:1-3)

B. FOR THE YOUNGER WOMEN AND MEN (2:4-8)

C. FOR THE SERVANTS (2:9-14)

D. FOR THE BRETHREN IN GENERAL (3:1-11)

CONCLUSION (3:12-15)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE INTRODUCTION

- 1) **What were the circumstances in which we first find Titus and Paul together? (Ga 2:1-5)**
- 2) **Why was Paul adamant in not allowing others to compel Titus to be circumcised? (Ga 2:3-5)**
- 3) **With what church did Titus serve as Paul's messenger? (2 Co 7:6-7,13-14)**
- 4) **Why did Paul send Titus along with the second letter to Corinth? (2 Co 8:16-9:5)**
- 5) **From where and when was this epistle to Titus possibly written?**
- 6) **Where was Titus when this letter was written to him? (1:5)**
- 7) **In this epistle, what three things does Paul exhort Titus to do? (1:5-9; 2:1; 3:1,8,14)**
- 8) **What is the theme of this epistle, as suggested in the introductory material?**
- 9) **What is proposed as the key verse?**
- 10) **According to the outline above, what are the main points of this epistle?**

The Epistle To Titus

Chapter One

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To review the qualifications for elders in the church
- 2) To examine the work of elders related to the Word of God

SUMMARY

Paul begins by identifying himself as a servant and an apostle whose service is according to the faith of God's chosen people and the truth which is according to godliness. It is also in hope of the eternal life promised by God before time began, and whose word is now being manifested through preaching. He then greets Titus as his "true son in the common faith", bestowing upon him grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Jesus our Savior (**1-4**).

Paul quickly addresses the reason he left Titus in Crete, to set in order what things were lacking and to appoint elders in every city. To assist him in that task, Paul reviews the qualifications necessary for those who would be appointed as elders (**5-9**).

The last qualification for elders (being able to convict those who contradict) leads right into the final section of this chapter, in which Titus is told to sharply rebuke those of the circumcision who through insubordination and deceit had been subverting entire households, acting just like the characterization made by one of the ancient Cretan prophets. Motivated by dishonest gain, giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, they became defiled even in their mind and conscience. These false teachers may have professed to know God, but by their works they denied Him and proved themselves unfit for every good work (**10-16**).

OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION (1-4)

A. FROM PAUL (1-3)

1. A servant of God and apostle of Jesus Christ (**1a**)
2. According to... (**1b**)
 - a. The faith of God's elect
 - b. The acknowledgment of the truth which is according to godliness
3. In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie... (**2-3**)
 - a. Promised before time began
 - b. In due time has manifested His Word
 - 1) Through preaching
 - 2) Which was committed to him according to the commandment of God

B. TO TITUS (4)

1. His true son in their common faith (**4a**)
2. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Savior (**4b**)

II. CONCERNING ELDERS (5-9)

A. THE REASON TITUS WAS LEFT IN CRETE (5)

1. To set in order the things that are lacking (**5a**)
2. To appoint elders in every city as Paul commanded him (**5b**)

B. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS (6-9)

1. Positive qualifications
 - a. Blameless
 - b. The husband of one wife
 - c. Having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination
 - d. Blameless as a steward of God
 - e. Hospitable
 - f. A lover of what is good
 - g. Sober-minded
 - h. Just
 - i. Holy
 - j. Self-controlled
 - k. Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught
 - l. Able by sound doctrine to exhort and convict those who contradict
2. Negative qualifications
 - a. Not self-willed
 - b. Not quick-tempered
 - c. Not given to wine
 - d. Not violent
 - e. Not greedy for money

III. CONCERNING FALSE TEACHERS (10-16)

A. THEIR CHARACTER (10-13a)

1. Insubordinate (**10a**)
2. Idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision (**10b-11**)
 - a. Whose mouths must be stopped
 - b. For they subvert whole households
 - c. For they teach things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain
3. They live up to the estimation of one of Crete's own prophets: "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." (**12-13a**)

B. THEIR CONDEMNATION (13b-16)

1. They are to be rebuked sharply (**13b-14**)
 - a. That they may be sound in the faith
 - b. That they not give heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men

2. To the pure all things are pure... **(15)**
 - a. But to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure
 - b. But even their mind and conscience are defiled
3. They profess to know God... **(16)**
 - a. But in works they deny Him
 - b. Being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?**

- 2) In keeping with what two things was Paul a servant of God and apostle of Jesus Christ? (1)**

- 3) What is said about eternal life and God's Word? (2-3)**

- 4) How does Paul describe Titus? (4)**

- 5) What were the two reasons Titus had been left in Crete? (5)**

- 6) What are the positive qualifications for elders? (6-9)**

- 7) What are the negative qualifications for elders? (6-9)**

- 8) Who especially in Crete were insubordinate, idle talkers, and deceivers? (10)**

- 9) Why must their mouths be stopped? (11)**

- 10) What had one of the Cretan prophets said? (12)**

- 11) What was Titus to do with these false teachers? (13)**

12) What two reasons are given for extending such rebuke? (13-14)

13) What is said of the pure? Of those who are defiled and unbelieving? (15)

14) How did some who professed to know God actually deny Him? Why? (16)

The Epistle To Titus

Chapter Two

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To note the various instructions pertaining to proper Christian conduct
- 2) To observe how the grace of God does not give us license to sin, but is designed to produce sober, righteous, and godly lives

SUMMARY

Having reviewed the qualifications of elders and their work, Paul exhorts Titus to "speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine." Such things include the proper conduct expected of Christians, both male and female, young and old, and of those who are servants. Even Titus was to present himself as a pattern of good works for others to follow, which would also serve to silence any opponents of the faith (1-10).

Paul then writes of the grace of God that brings salvation to all men. This wonderful grace instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, choosing instead to live soberly, righteously and godly. It also encourages us to look forward to the blessed hope we have related to the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself to redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a special people who are zealous for good works. These things Titus was to teach with all authority, allowing none to despise him for doing so (11-15).

OUTLINE

I. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING CHRISTIAN CONDUCT (1-10)

A. THE OLDER MEN (1-2)

1. Titus is to speak things proper for sound doctrine (1)
2. The older men are to be... (2)
 - a. Sober, reverent, temperate
 - b. Sound in faith, love, patience

B. THE OLDER WOMEN (3-4a)

1. In similar way they are to be reverent in behavior (3a)
 - a. Not slanderers
 - b. Not given to much wine
2. They are to be teachers of good things, and admonish the young women (3b-4a)

C. THE YOUNG WOMEN (4b-5)

1. They are to love their husbands and their children (4b)
2. They are to be... (5)

- a. Discreet, chaste, homemakers
 - b. Good, obedient to their own husbands
- ...that the word of God may not be blasphemed

D. THE YOUNG MEN (6-8)

1. In a similar way they are to be sober-minded (6)
2. In all things Titus is to be a pattern of good works (7a-8)
 - a. In doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility
 - b. With sound speech that cannot be condemned
 - 1) So that any opponent may be ashamed
 - 2) Having nothing evil to say of him

E. THE SERVANTS (9-10)

1. They are to be... (9-10a)
 - a. Obedient to their masters
 - b. Well pleasing in all things, not answering back
 - c. Not pilfering, but showing fidelity in all things
2. So they can adorn the doctrine of God in all things (10b)

II. THE INSTRUCTION OF THE GRACE OF GOD (11-15)

A. THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED (11)

1. That which brings salvation (11a)
2. It has appeared to all men (11b)

B. THE GRACE OF GOD TEACHES US (12-14)

1. To deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (12a)
2. To live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (12b)
3. To look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (13)
 - a. Who gave Himself for us (14a)
 - b. That He might...
 - 1) Redeem us from every lawless deed (14b)
 - 2) Purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (14c)

C. TITUS' RESPONSIBILITY (15)

1. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority (15a)
2. Let no despise him (15b)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- 2) **What was Titus expected to speak? (1)**
- 3) **What was expected of the older men? (2)**
- 4) **What was expected of the older women? (3-4)**
- 5) **What was expected of the younger women? (4-5)**
- 6) **Why were the younger women to behave this way? (5)**
- 7) **What was Titus to exhort the young men? (6)**
- 8) **What was Titus expected to do? (7-8)**
- 9) **What was expected of those who were servants? (9-10)**
- 10) **By behaving this way, what were the servants actually doing? (10)**
- 11) **What does the grace of God teach us? (11-13)**
- 12) **Why did Jesus give Himself for us? (14)**
- 13) **How was Titus to speak these things? (15)**

The Epistle To Titus

Chapter Three

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To review responsibilities Christians have toward those in authority and others in general
- 2) To consider how one is saved by God's mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
- 3) To notice the emphasis on being careful to maintain good works, while avoiding things that are unprofitable and useless (including some individuals)

SUMMARY

In this final chapter Paul instructs Titus to remind the brethren concerning their duties toward those in authority and men in general (1-2). Exhortations to gentleness and humility toward all men is made with a reminder that we too were once like those in the world (3). We have been saved, not by our own works of righteousness, but by the mercy of God who saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (4-5). The Spirit has been poured out abundantly on us, so that we who are justified might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life (6-7). Paul also wants Titus to affirm constantly that those who have believed in God should be diligent in their good works (8). At the same time, foolish disputes and divisive men are to be avoided, for such are unprofitable and useless (9-11).

The epistle closes with personal remarks and greetings. Titus is encouraged to come to Nicopolis as soon as Artemas or Tychicus have arrived, for Paul has chosen to winter there (12). In the meantime, Titus is to send Zenas and Apollos on their journey with haste (13). Yet another exhortation is given to have the brethren learn to maintain good works, meeting urgent needs, so they may not be unfruitful. Paul then passes along greetings to Titus from those with him, and sends similar greetings to those who love the brethren (13-14). A final benediction regarding grace ends the letter (15).

OUTLINE

I. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BRETHREN IN GENERAL (1-11)

A. CONCERNING PROPER CONDUCT (1-2)

1. Toward those in authority (1)
 - a. Be subject to and obey rulers and authorities
 - b. Be ready for every good work
2. Toward all men (2)
 - a. Speak evil of no one
 - b. Be peaceable, gentle, showing humility to all

B. REASONS TO HEED SUCH EXHORTATIONS (3-11)

- 3) **How should Christians conduct themselves toward men in general? (2)**

- 4) **What should help us to be gentle and humble toward others? (3)**

- 5) **What else should remind us to be humble? (4-5)**

- 6) **How has God in mercy saved us? (5)**

- 7) **Why has God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us? (6-7)**

- 8) **What faithful saying did Paul want Titus to affirm constantly? (8)**

- 9) **What was Titus to avoid? Why? (9)**

- 10) **Who was Titus to reject after two admonitions? Why? (10-11)**

- 11) **Where did Paul want Titus to join him? (12)**

- 12) **Who was Titus to send along on their journey with haste, lacking nothing? (13)**

- 13) **What did Paul want Christians to learn? (14)**

- 14) **Who sent greetings to Titus? Who did Paul send greetings to? (15)**

- 15) **What prayer did Paul offer as he closed this letter? (15)**