

From the Garden to Glory

Titus

Author: Paul the Apostle

Written to: Titus

Timeline: c. 64 - 66 A.D.

Theme: Setting the Church in Order

Purpose of writing: Paul instructed Titus to *set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city* (1:5).

Introduction:

Titus was a Greek whom Paul had won to Christ. Titus traveled with Paul to Crete. After a brief stay Paul left Crete while Titus remained to help provide leadership for the Cretan churches. Paul subsequently wrote Titus to instruct him in appointing leaders, to warn against false teachers, and to remind the believers *to be ready for every good work* (3:1). Paul emphasized that we are not saved by our good works (3:5) but that our salvation should be translated into a life of good works (3:8).

As we begin our study of the book of Titus consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. Paul wrote to Titus, a young pastor, instructing him about how a church should be run. Put yourself in Titus' place. What is one area or situation you would have wanted Paul to address? Why?
2. Titus was a Gentile, a Greek. What would have been some advantages and disadvantages he would have faced as a result of not having been raised in the Jewish faith?

3. Paul's letter to Titus was written about the same time as his first letter to Timothy and dealt with many of the same subjects. Although we studied some of these subjects in the last lesson, why do *you* need to hear some instructions more than once or in a slightly different way? Can you describe a circumstance or situation when instruction really *sunk in* and impacted your life after hearing it for the second (or maybe even the tenth) time?

Church Offices

Read Titus 1:1-9

1. With what two titles or callings did Paul introduce himself to Titus in verse 1? If *you* had received this letter, which of these would have meant more to you? Why?
2. Look at verse 2. What did Paul say that God cannot do? Write your response to this great truth. With this truth in mind, write out one promise from the Bible that is important to you today.
3. In verse 5 Paul instructed Titus to *appoint* elders. What qualifications are listed in verses 6-9 for those who would be appointed? Why do you think these men were to be *appointed* rather than *elected*?

Church Enemies

Read Titus 1:10-16

1. Look at verses 10-11. How are those who are *insubordinate* described? Why did they need to be stopped?

2. What did Paul say Titus needed to do in verse 13? Why did he need to do so? The word *sharply* carries with it the idea of cutting away with a knife or an ax. Can you describe a time when you were rebuked in such a way that it caused you to *be sound in the faith*? What was your initial reaction to the rebuke? Did your reaction change over time? If so, in what way(s)?

3. Look at verse 14. What would be the equivalent of *Jewish fables* and *commandments of men* today?

Church Influence

Read Titus 2:1-8

1. Look at verses 1, 7 and 8, and define *sound doctrine*. What did Paul say would be the result of sound doctrine? Why is sound doctrine essential in a church?

2. In verse 3 Paul listed four things that the older women were to be. What does it mean to be an *older woman* in the body of Christ? To whom are you an older woman? List one specific way you can be each of the following.
 - reverent in behavior

 - not a slanderer

 - not given to much wine

 - a teacher of good things

3. In verses 4-5 Paul listed several things that the older women were to teach the younger women to do. Define each of these and list one

specific instruction you could give a younger woman concerning each one.

- love her husband
- love her children
- be discreet
- be chaste
- be a homemaker
- be good
- be obedient to her own husband

Why did Paul say it was important for the older women to teach these to the younger women?

Church Rule

Read Titus 2:9-15

1. Look at verses 9-10. What were Paul's instructions to bondservants? Paul said that the reason bondservants were to do these things was so that they might *adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things*. The word *adorn* means to *make beautiful*. How does being submissive and obedient make the doctrine of God beautiful? Is there a relationship in your life where you need to be more submissive? If so, which one of Paul's instructions will you follow this week? How will you do so?
2. In verses 11-12 Paul said that God's grace not only led to salvation but also gave men the ability to live a different life. In response to God's grace, how did Paul say that believers were to live? Select one of these and describe what this looks like in your life.

3. Read verses 13-15, and make a note of everything you learn about who the Lord is and what He has done and will do. Make time to sit at His feet today, *praising* Him for who He is and *thanking* Him for all He has done and will do for you.

Church Works

Read Titus 3:1-15

1. In verses 1-2 Paul exhorted Titus to *remind* his congregation of several things. Give at least one situation in which you could exhibit each of these behaviors today.

- be subject to rulers and authorities
- obey
- be ready for every good work
- speak evil of no one
- be peaceable
- be gentle
- show all humility to all men

2. Look at verses 3-7. We receive a *fresh start* when we become followers of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to make the best of that *fresh start*. Describe how this has been true in your own life.

3. Read verses 8 and 14. Paul stressed the importance of *good works* in this epistle to Titus (see also 2:7 and 2:14). Christians are not saved *by* good works but we are saved *unto* good works. What is a *good*

work? In verse 14 Titus was to direct the people to *learn to maintain good works*. What does this mean? How do you do this?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Titus consider the following questions and write your answer:

- 1.** What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.

- 2.** What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?