

## **TITUS**

**Main Theme:** Paul's Pastoral Instruction to Titus

**Primary Reference Source:** The McArthur Study Bible

**Background:** Paul wrote the pastoral epistles of 1 Timothy and Titus between his first Roman imprisonment (A.D. 60-62) and his second Roman imprisonment (A.D. 66-67). This interlude for ministry between the first and second imprisonment was approximately five years. Paul's letter to Titus was written between A.D. 62-64, while Paul ministered to the Macedonian churches and Titus was ministering on the island of Crete. "Paul's last mention of Titus (2 Timothy 4:10) reports that he had gone for ministry in Dalmatia, the name for modern Yugoslavia." Titus was probably led to faith by Paul before or during the apostle's first missionary journey, since he accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the Council of Jerusalem where the heresy of the Judaizers was the topic (Acts 15, Galatians 2:1-5). After the Council of Jerusalem, Titus most likely served with Paul on both his second and third missionary journeys. After Paul's arrest, and while on his voyage to Rome where he was to appeal to Caesar, Paul briefly visited Crete. Crete is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, measuring 160 miles long by 35 miles at its greatest width. Between his first Roman imprisonment and second Roman imprisonment, Paul returned to Crete to minister there. Paul later left Titus to continue the work while he went to Macedonia. Paul's letter to Titus was most likely written in response to a report from Crete. "Like Paul's two letters to Timothy, the apostle gives personal encouragement and counsel to a young pastor who, though well trained and faithful, faced continuing opposition from ungodly men within the churches where he ministered.

**Overview of the Text:** "Doctrines that this epistle affirms include:

1. God's sovereign election of believers (Titus 1:1-2),
2. God's saving grace (Titus 2:11:3:5),
3. Christ's deity and second coming (Titus 2:13),
4. Christ's substitutionary atonement (Titus 2:14),
5. The regeneration and renewing of believers by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)."

Titus also addresses issues pertaining to the corporate church, including the qualifications for a man to be an elder (Titus 1:5-9), how to handle false teachers (Titus 1:10-16), and the proper conduct of the congregation in the church (Titus 2:1-10).

## **SCRIPTURE VERSES AND SCRIPTURE TEXT FROM THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION BIBLE IN BOLD**

### **Titus Chapter 1**

- 1. Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,**
- 2. in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,**

Titus 1:1-2 Paul begins his introduction to the book of Titus stating that he is a bondservant (slave) of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul functions as a bondservant and an apostle in accordance with the true faith of all who are the elect of God. The central truth of the faith is the gospel message that Jesus Christ saved us from our sins by dying on the cross. Christ's claims of being God and Savior were proven through His resurrection from the dead. Christ's resurrection broke the power of death which entered the world through sin. It is this saving truth that leads to godliness and sanctification.

- 3. but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;**

Titus 1:3 The gospel message is central to the word of God. Paul received the commandment from God to manifest the word of God through preaching.

- 4. To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Titus 1:4 Paul identifies Titus as a true spiritual son and a genuine believer in Christ like Timothy.

- 5. For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you--**

Titus 1:5 Paul left Titus in Crete to correct the wrong doctrine and practices in the Cretan churches. Titus was also commanded by Paul to appoint elders. Elders are mature spiritual leaders of the church, who were to oversee (bishop) and shepherd each city's congregation. Scripture uses pastor, elder, and bishop interchangeably.

- 6. if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.**
- 7. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,**
- 8. but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,**
- 9. holding fast to the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**

Titus 1:6-9 Paul lists the qualifications for a man to be a bishop (overseer). These qualifications also apply to the leadership positions of elder and pastor.

**10. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,**

**11. whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.**

Titus 1:10-11 Appointing qualified elders was particularly important since there were many who were engaging in idle talk and promoting false doctrine. This was especially true of the Judaizers who perverted the gospel by teaching that adherence to some part of the Mosaic Law was a means of justification. The Judaizers taught that a man must be circumcised as a prerequisite to believing the gospel.

**12. One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”**

Titus 1:12 “Epimenides, the highly esteemed sixth century B.C. poet and native of Crete, had characterized his own people as the dregs of Greek culture.” The false teachers were engaging in idle talk and promoting falsehood by quoting this man.

**13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,**

**14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.**

Titus 1:13-14 Because it is true that the false teachers have engaged in this idle dialogue, Paul instructed Titus to rebuke these individuals. Paul’s statement in verse 14 indicates that the false teachers were Jewish, those of the circumcision.

**15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.**

Titus 1:15 Those who have their thinking polluted in perversity, everything that they do or say reflects the perverse mindset. Those who have their thinking right, reflecting on what is good, everything they do or say reflects that mindset.

**16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.**

Titus 1:16 The Judaizers professed to know God, but the way they lived reflected their true spiritual condition. Through their outward conduct false teachers show themselves to be disobedient and disqualified.

## Titus Chapter 2

- 1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:**
- 2. that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;**
- 3. the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—**
- 4. that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,**
- 5. to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**
- 6. Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,**
- 7. in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,**
- 8. sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**

Titus 2:1-8 Paul instructs Titus to teach the church how to behave properly. The older men and older women are to conduct themselves properly so as to be good examples to the young men and young women. The young women are to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet (pure), chaste, homemakers (providing a godly home for her husband and children), obedient to their husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. “When Christians claim to believe God’s Word but do not obey it, the word is dishonored. Many have mocked God and His truth because of the sinful behavior of those who claim to be Christians.” In verses 6-8, believing young men should be characterized by showing a pattern of good works. Such a pattern involves proper doctrine, as evidenced by integrity, reverence, and incorruptibility, and sound speech that cannot be condemned.

- 9. Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be will pleasing in all things, not answering back,**
- 10. not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.**

Titus 2:9-10 Paul instructs Titus to teach that bondservants are to be obedient to their masters. Bondservants are not to pilfer (embezzle), but to show all good fidelity (loyalty).

- 11. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,**
- 12. teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,**
- 13. looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**
- 14. who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

Titus 2:11-14 The grace of God is Jesus Christ Himself, grace incarnate. The primary mission of Jesus Christ in coming to earth was to die on the cross providing a sufficient sacrifice to cover every sin of every one who believes. A person who trusts in (believes in) Jesus Christ alone for salvation evidences salvation through a transformed life. The transformed life shows that the

power of sin has been broken and that there is an outworking of God's grace in the life of the believer. The focus of the believer is the second coming of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our redemption, through which He purifies for himself his own special people, zealous for good works.

**15. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

Titus 2:15 Chapter 2 closes with Paul's admonition to Titus to teach the truths contained in chapters 1 & 2. Paul tells Titus to exhort believers to right thinking and behavior, and rebuke those who are engaged in wrong thinking and behavior.

---

**Titus Chapter 3**

- 1. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,**
- 2. to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.**

Titus 3:1-2 Scripture demands that believers are to be subject to the human authorities. In society, especially those who cross our path (believers & unbelievers), we are to speak evil of no one. We are to be peaceable, be gentle, and be humble.

- 3. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.**

Titus 3:3 We ourselves are not to speak evil of the unbelieving people in society, since we were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

- 4. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,**
- 5. not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**
- 6. whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**
- 7. that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appeared to all men He saved us according to His mercy, and He justified us by His grace. These verses essentially state that our salvation is God's work alone. We contribute nothing to our salvation. God's work to accomplish our salvation was through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins in our place. The central truth of salvation is justification by faith alone through grace alone. "When a sinner repents and places his faith in Jesus Christ, God declares him just, imputes the righteousness of Christ to him, and gives him eternal life by virtue of the substitutionary death of Christ as the penalty for the sinner's iniquity."

**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 to men.**

Titus 3:8 Because God performed the ultimate good work in attaining our salvation through Jesus Christ, we who are believers in the Lord Jesus must be careful to maintain good works so as to live a life worthy of the gospel (Philippians 1:27-28).

**9. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.**

Titus 3:9 Paul instructs Titus that the biblical way to evangelize is to proclaim the truth not argue about error. Titus was not to get embroiled in senseless discussions with the many false teachers, especially the Judaizers.

**10. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,**

Titus 3:10 “Anyone in the church who is unsubmitive, self-willed, and divisive should be expelled. Two warnings are to be given, following the basic pattern for church discipline set forth by Christ.” (Matthew 18:15-17)

**11. knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.**

Titus 3:11 “By his own ungodly behavior, a factious believer brings judgment on himself.”

**12. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.**

Titus 3:12 Nicopolis is a name used for nine different cities. The name Nicopolis means “city of victory”. “This particular Nicopolis was probably in southern Greece, on the west coast of Achaia, which is a good place to spend the winter.”

Tychicus was a friend and co-worker of Paul. This man accompanied Paul from Corinth to Asia Minor (Acts 20:4). This man also carried Paul’s letter to the Colossian church (Colossians 4:7), and probably carried Paul’s letter to Ephesus (Ephesians 6:21).

**13. Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.**

Titus 3:13 Paul instructs Titus to send Zenas and Apollos on their missionary journey promptly. Apollos was converted to Christ through the ministry of John the Baptist. He was instructed more precisely in the faith by Prisca and Aquila.

**14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.**

**15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.**

**Grace be with you all. Amen.**

Titus 3:14-15 Paul closes his epistle to Titus instructing him that all believers should maintain good works. This is the best way to evangelize. People will often look at how you live your life as opposed to your spoken words.