

TITUS

Notes by Peter Downs

TITUS CHAPTER 1

Titus, along with Timothy, was one of the young men who accompanied Paul on his travels, who he instructed in all things the Lord God revealed to him. Reference 2 Timothy 2: 2 as follows, '**And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**

Concerning the truth regarding His Person.

Concerning the truth regarding His purpose for men.

Concerning the truth regarding His purpose in sending His Son into the world.

Concerning the truth regarding the Church, its order, and authority. Its command to teach the truth as revealed by the Apostle Paul by verbal instruction, and then in letter form inspired by the Lord.

One of the most important instructions that the Apostle Paul practised was the preaching of the Gospel that all men everywhere may hear the message of God's love for sinful man, expressed in the Crosswork of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that man might by repentance be gathered into the fold of God.

TITUS was a Gentile (Greek) Gal. 2:1-3. We have seen that Timothy was given the care of the Ephesian Church, while Titus was given the care of the Corinthian Church 2Cor. 7:6,7 and 8: 6,16.

In the year A.D 63 - 64, we read that Timothy and Titus are again on their travels with Paul with the purpose to leave Timothy at Ephesus and Titus at Crete to provide leadership in the Church. Titus 1: 5 being a disorganised Church.

The purpose of the letter was to inform Titus that Paul was sending Artemas or Tychicus to replace him at Crete with the instructions to come to him at Nicopolis having set in order the things that were wanting. The last mention of Titus is in 2Timothy 4:10, when we read Titus had left Paul to go to Dalmatia.

From the above Titus had visited Paul in prison, then left to continue a work for the Lord in Dalmatia.

Titus' character was one of an outgoing nature.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:-

Introduction - Chapter 1:1-4

Personal Greetings to Titus v4

Directions concerning Elders v5-9

Directions concerning false teachers v10-16

False teaching identified v10-12

The duty of Titus v13-14

False teachers denounced v14-16

CHAPTER 2

Direction regarding members in the Church v1-10

Aged men and women v1-5

Young men v6-8

Servants v9-10

The basis of the Godly life v11-15



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Directions concerning the godly life v1-11

Christian conduct towards the heathen v1-8

Christian response to heretics and heresy v9-11

CHAPTER 1

v1-3 - Paul, a servant of God, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, obedience marking Paul's life as a bond-slave, having no rights of his own, like his Lord Paul could say, Thy will is my delight. Paul did all things according to the will of Him that had appeared to him on the Damascus road. Acts Ch. 9. One who was sent with a commission, having two concerns.

1. The faith of God's elect. i.e. to preach the Gospel to all men in order to call out the elect of God.
2. Teaching the truth that leads to godliness.

v4 - To Titus mine own son after the common faith. What a loving bond and caring statement! United together, in the everlasting bond in the Lord Jesus. What encouragement to his devoted follower, who Paul had left at Crete to supervise the Church.

A man of high qualities of leadership. His work demanded wisdom, tact with strength of character.

Paul addresses Titus, 'My true son of the common faith' could mean that Paul was instrumental in his salvation.

v5-9 - QUALIFICATION OF ELDERS

Titus' work was to set in order the things that were wanting. To appoint elders in every City.

Timothy also was given the same instructions. In 1Timothy 3:2-7. See the notes on Timothy for detailed list of qualifications of elders.

ORDER IN THE ELDERS HOME v5-9

Elders children must be believers v6.

Not given to wasting money on one's own pleasure. The home is the training ground for Christian elders.

Titus was to take care over appointing elders as the Cretans were known to be unstable.

An elder is one who has the following qualities -

Holds firmly to the truth with understanding.

Encourages others by teaching the truth.

Refutes those who oppose the truth.

NOTE; - There are seventeen qualities listed for position of an elder.

WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS v10-16

v10 - Paul points out the presence and dangers of enemies, false teachers.

The nature of these enemies are as follows -

1. Unruly, rebelling against restraint or authority both inside and outside the Church.
2. Empty talkers with no solid truth, only nonsense.
3. Deceivers, just like their father the devil. John 8:44.
4. Many were Judaizers, that is Jews who wanted Gentiles to become Jews before they could become Christians.



v11 - The deeds of these enemies

5. Overthrowing whole households and families of believers, as in 2Tim. 2:18 and 3:6. Their mouths must be stopped or muzzled. This word also was used for plugging a pipe to keep it from spouting polluted water.
6. Grasping at dishonest gain for money.
7. Lying, misleading, careless ones.

v12 - Now Paul quotes from Native Cretan poet and philosopher, namely Epimenides who lived around 600 B.C., the Cretans honoured him highly and called him their prophet. He described the Cretans 'of those days as - liars, evil beasts (with evil passions) lazy, gluttons, who ate too much and were always greedy for more food.

v13 - Paul says this picture of self-indulgence was a true one. So he commands Titus as follows

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Rebuke them sharply, both the evil teachers and all who follow their ways. Paul again uses a medical term - that of cutting with a sharp knife, as a surgeon cuts away a deadly cancer to save the patients life.

God's Word is like a sharp sword. Heb. 4:12

Titus must use it to maintain the spiritual health of believers.

v14-16 - Do not pay attention to Jewish fables, which are found in abundance in the Jewish holy book called the Talmud, nor to false

teachers who reject the truth of God and set up man made rules. Compare Colossians 2: 21-22 and 1Tim. 4: 3-6.

v15 & 16 - **Unto the pure all things are pure, but unto them that are defiled nothing is pure, but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God: but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate (disqualified).**



**TITUS
CHAPTER 2**

SUBJECT; DOMESTIC REGULATIONS v1–10

v1 - Paul exhorts Titus that due to the false teachers and their conduct denying great truths of the faith, and bearing in mind the damage this was causing in the Church, Paul instructs Titus to combat the above by speaking and teaching sound doctrine according to the Word of God, and that which cannot be spoken against. Also, it was essential that Titus's practice and manner of life testified to sound doctrine.

v2-5 - That those in the Church, the aged men and the aged women, be sober (sensible), be grave (dignified), temperate (prudent and thoughtful), sound in the faith, showing love, patience perseverance). That the aged men be an example of godliness to the younger men, and that the aged women are to be an example in behaviour as becoming holiness.

1. That they must be teachers of good things by teaching the young women to be sober (sensible).
2. To love their husbands, to love their children.
3. The older women are to teach the young women by example to be modest, to be decent, sexually pure.
4. Keepers at home (means workers at home and not idle).
5. Obedient and submissive to their own husbands.

v6-10 - Titus is exhorted to teach the young men, giving particular admonishing that they should be sober minded. Paul lists things that Titus must give special heed to –

1. To show himself a pattern of good works:
2. In doctrine showing uncorruptness (integrity),
3. Gravity (reverence).
4. Sincerity (truthful).
5. Sound speech that cannot be condemned. (free from anything to which exception might be taken). In other words no novelties, fads or crudities).
6. That those that oppose sound teaching are put to shame because they cannot find a chink in the believers armour! **There is no argument so powerful as the effect of a holy life.**

v9&10 - In Titus's day there were many slaves, and there were many believing slaves in the Church, and they were taught to be

1. Subject to their masters, no revolts or civil rebellion.
2. Well pleasing to their masters, giving loving, not grudging service.
3. Not talking back or reviling them.
4. Not stealing from them.
5. Always showing good faith.

By following the above, and their faithful living for Christ in every job they did, they brought glory unto God, also bringing credit to the teaching and thus attracting people to God their Saviour.

Down the ages all employers, Christians or non-Christians, value the service of a committed Christian by his conduct, loyalty and service. This being a living witness and portraying to others of the person of Christ in all that he does.



The Christian Life - v11-15

The salvation that appeared to 'all men' is based on God's grace that has provided salvation universally for all mankind through the unlimited atonement of Christ. 'All men' - grace is sufficient for all men but man in general rejects God's offer of salvation, and therefore suffers the consequences of eternal destruction in a lost eternity. That blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ v13, '**appearing of the glory**' (in English is 'epiphany, in Greek 'Ephaneia' is literally a shining forth and is used of three events.

1. The first ADVENT of Christ when He came in the flesh. 2Tim. 1:10.
2. The Coming into the air to the meeting of His saints at the time of the rapture. 1Tim. 6:14; 2Tim. 4:8.
3. The shining forth of His glory at the time of the unveiling of His 'parousia' with His saints, that is the time of His second Advent when He comes from Heaven with His saints. Matt. 24: 27 and 2. Thess 2: 8.

That appearing is the great hope of Christ and His people; the rapture itself is part of the hope, but is preliminary to the consummating act of His second Advent for the overthrow of all the foes of God, and establishing of the Millennium Kingdom.

Of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, the R.V is almost certainly right in giving the rendering which applies both titles to the Lord Jesus. It is the appearing of His glory for which we are to look. The ground of this combination as applying to Christ Himself is stronger than any conclusion of the Apostle's general use of the terms.

v14 - He gave Himself for us, the reference is specifically to His death in atoning sacrifice. 1Tim. 2:6; Gal: 1:4 & 2:20, Eph. 5:25. It was on the Cross that the Lord Jesus gave Himself up for us.

The Purpose

1. That He might redeem us from all iniquity.
2. To purify Himself a people of His own possession.
3. Zealous of good works.

v15 - What a message that Titus was exhorted to preach and teach having eternal purposes for all those who accept the Lord Jesus Christ's salvation, and live the life and practice sound doctrine, thus bringing glory and honour unto the Lord Jesus, and fulfilling the purposes of why He saved us.



**TITUS
CHAPTER 3**

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP DISPLAYING THE GRACES OF SALVATION

v1 - Christian citizenship demands submission to

1. Scriptural authority.
2. To be part of the Christian's testimony.
3. By obeying rulers, authorities, by being obedient to the law of Magistrates.
4. A ready obedience to perform every good work, thus displaying the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ unto all mankind. Rom. 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:12-17.

v2 - The Christian's behaviour and conduct before and unto all men, especially when dealing with the unbeliever, should be noted the evidence of godly virtues proceeding in a life lived before Christ, which will require love, gentleness and meekness that are the character of Christ.

v3 - Brings before us that before we were saved we were subject unto foolishness, disobedience, pursuers of pleasure, and serving divers lusts. If the Christian, when dealing with the unsaved, can have in his mind his own behaviour before he was saved, it will help him to understand his fellow men, and thus seek to leave an impression of Christ upon the mind of all men and women that he comes in contact with.

The Doctrine of Salvation v4-8

v4 - Brings before us the kindness and the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ towards us and all mankind. A kindness and a love that brought forth the incarnation of the Son of God in human form, to live, and to walk, and to die on the Cross of Calvary. Eph 2: 4-6. **But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved).** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

v5 - Makes it abundantly clear that man can bring nothing whatsoever to God to merit his salvation. Scripture is clear, it is not of the self-righteous works of man, but according to His mercy He saves man. Mercy being forgiveness of sins that man does not deserve, but according to the love of God bestowed on every repentant sinner who acknowledges that the Lord Jesus paid the price for His sins when He died upon the Cross, that man becomes a possessor of the salvation provided by a loving God. Eph 2: 8, 9. Rom. 3:19-28.

'By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost'

Salvation brings divine cleansing from sin and the gift of a new, Spirit generated, Spirit empowered, Spirit protected life, as God's own children and heirs. Eph. 5:26-27; James 1:18; 1Peter 1:23. (For new birth see John 3:5, 1John 2:29, 3:9, 4:7, 5:1.) Renewing of the Holy Spirit, Rom. 8:2.

v6 - Brings before us the abundance and the blessings of the Spirit filled life. Acts 2: 38; 39; 1Cor. 12:7-11 & 13; Eph. 3:20.

v7 - Brings the wonderful truth of **Justification, this being the central truth of salvation, Justification by faith alone.**

When a sinner repents and places his faith in Christ Jesus, God declares him just, imputes the righteousness of Christ to him, and gives him eternal life by the virtue of the substitutionary death of Christ, as the penalty for that sinner's iniquity. Gal: 3:6-22; Phil. 3:8-9.



Heirs

As adopted children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, believers become heirs of God and joint heirs of Christ. Rom. 8:17; 1Peter 1: 3-4.

v8 - Brings before us that all those saints that have come into the wonderful blessings listed above, have the responsibility to **maintain good works, these things are good and proper unto men.**

What a Christian, being a possessor of the Spirit of God should avoid.

And are given the following to assist him in his spiritual life -

- 1. The unction of the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. The discernment of the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. The witness of the Holy Spirit.**

The unction of the Spirit of God is to know when a thing is true. The discernment of the Holy Spirit is the awareness when the Spirit is at work. The witness of the Holy Spirit is between fellow believers in conversation, in worship, in service.

v9-11 - Would emphasise what to avoid and to try the spirits to see if they be of God, and if there is no witness, to avoid such engagement, as we are told this will not lead to spiritual profit.

v12-15 - Deals with Paul's personal plans and his greetings to fellow saints. Final instructions and farewell, noting Paul wants to see Titus again.

v13 - Supporting servants of the Lord. See 3John 5-8. 'Do faithfully whatever you do to the brethren and to strangers, which have borne witness to your love before the Church, whom if you bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, you will do well. Because for His Name's sake, they went forth, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore, ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the Truth'.

v14 - Cretan believers are to learn to practice good deeds, to meet the needs of others - be practical and useful.

v15 - Greetings to believers who love Paul and others. This excludes false teachers who opposed Paul.

