

# THE BOOK OF TITUS

By E. L. Bynum

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## Lesson 1

### ORDER IN THE CHURCHES

**Memory Verse: Titus 1:9**

**Lesson: Titus 1:16**

This epistle should be dated about the same time as 1 Timothy. Titus was a Greek (Galatians 2:1-3), and is not mentioned in the book of Acts. He is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 2:13; 7:6, 13, 14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18; and 2 Timothy 4:10. Paul was not in prison at the time He wrote this epistle. Titus 3:12. Titus had been sent to the Island of Crete, which was a very difficult place to correct all the doctrinal errors that had been introduced – Titus 1: 12-13

### I. THE SALUTATION – Verses 1-4

#### A. Paul's Own Ministry Explained – Verses 1-3

- a. He was a servant (slave) of God – Verse 1
- b. He was an apostle of Jesus Christ – Verse 1
- c. God's elect – Verse 1. Individuals as well as churches are God's elect, meaning that they are chosen of God – Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12.
- d. This is always manifested through faith and acknowledging of the truth – Verse 1; Ephesians 1:3-13; 1 Peter 1:1-5 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- e. The result is godliness – Verse 1. Godliness produces good works – 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14. Real salvation changes a person from a life of ungodliness to godliness.
  - f. Paul’s hope founded on the eternal purpose of God – Verse 2. Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” 1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
  - g. True believers have eternal life now. John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-12 “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. When the Lord comes we will fully enjoy it.”
  - h. God’s will manifested through preaching – Verse 3. 1 Corinthians 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” The gospel did not come from man, but it came from God – Galatians 1:10-12 “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
  - i. This purpose manifested through Paul – Verse 3
- B. Paul’s Own Greeting To Titus – Verse 4
- a. Paul’s personal feelings toward his spiritual son – Verse 4
  - b. The common faith is the faith once delivered to the saints. Jude 4 “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - c. Paul’s personal desire for Titus – Verse 4 (Note that in 1:3, 2:10, and 3:4, he refers to God as Saviour. In 2:13 and 3:6 he refers to Jesus Christ as Saviour. This shows that Paul believed in the equality of the Godhead and the absolute deity of Christ.)

## **II. PROPER CHURCH ORDER AND SOUND PASTORS – Verses 5-9**

- A. Paul’s Specific Commission Of Titus – Verse 5
- a. Paul left Titus in Crete to set things in order in the churches – Verse 5
  - b. He was to ordain proper pastors in the churches – Verse 5. Since pastors are to oversee the church, teach and preach, proper order is largely in their hands. Acts 14:23 “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”

## B. God's Specific Qualifications For Pastors – Verses 6-9

- a. The pastor's blameless home life – Verse 6
  - i. His marriage must be right. No Divorce & remarriage.
  - ii. His children still at home must be right – 1 Timothy 3:4,5. They must be faithful, not accused of riotous living, and not unruly.
- b. The pastor's blameless personal life – Verses 7,8
  - i. As a steward of God he must be blameless – Verse 7a.
  - ii. A steward is one that is placed over a household, like Joseph – Genesis 39:19.
  - iii. He must be faithful – 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
  - iv. He must seek the good of his master – Luke 16:1-13
  - v. He must control his emotions – Verse 7b.
  - vi. He is not to be self-willed and angry – Ephesians 4:26 “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”
  - vii. He must not drink intoxicants – Verse 7c
  - viii. He must not be covetous or greedy of filthy lucre – Verse 7d
  - ix. He must treat others right – Verse 8a
  - x. He must be sober minded and live a holy life – Verse 8b; 1 Peter 1:16 “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
  - xi. He must be temperate or self controlled – Verse 8c. This applies to his appetites and actions – Galatians 5:23
- c. The pastor's blameless Church life – Verse 9
  - i. He must be sound in the Word of God – Verse 9a
  - ii. He must have a strong teaching and preaching ministry – Verse 9b
  - iii. He must preach sound doctrine and refute false doctrine – Verse 9c

## III. PROPER CHURCH ORDER AND UNSOUND TEACHERS – Verses 10-16

### A. The Unsound Teachers Identified – Verses 10-13a

- a. They are unruly legalists, and were in it for the money – Verse 10; Acts 15:1 “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

- b. They were guilty in subverting whole houses. Paul has nothing good to say about them, and their mouths must be stopped – Verse 11a
  - c. They were teaching false doctrine, and they were doing it for money – Verse 11. Such people are not to be treated kindly. In those days churches had to meet in homes and this made it very easy for false teachers to gain entrance. Home Bible classes can be very dangerous, and are usually a place to introduce false doctrines.
  - d. One of the Cretan prophets had correctly stated their nature. v. 12-13a. They were liars, beastly, and lazy gluttons.
- B. The Remedy Specified – Verses 13b-16
- a. They must be rebuked sharply to correct their doctrine – Verse 13b. He was to “exhort and to convince” them (verse 9). In any event, “their mouths must be stopped” (verse 11).
  - b. They were to be turned front legalistic religion – Verse 14; 1 Timothy 1:4 “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.” Colossians 2:21-22 “(Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?”
  - c. Their understanding of purity was wrong because of a defiled mind and conscience – Verse 15. Their minds and consciences had been defiled. They were teaching the Jewish dietary laws and applying them to Christians.
  - d. Their profession of faith was disproved by their works – Verse 16. They were false professors that did not know God. James 2:14-20 “What cloth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what cloth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”
  - e. There is no substitute for truth – John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What is it that God cannot do?
2. How is God’s Word manifested?
3. How did Paul describe Titus?

4. How can we know that bishops and elders are the same?
5. In what manner does Paul speak of both God and Christ in the chapter?
6. Of what race was Titus?
7. After reading the references to Titus in the New Testament, how would you describe him?
8. What two things did Paul leave Titus in Crete for?
9. Describe the unsound teachers and the specified remedy!

### **Notes**

# Lesson 2

## SOUND DOCTRINE & CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

**Memory Verse: Titus 2:1**

**Lesson: Titus 2:1-15**

This lesson places in sharp contrast the false doctrine (1:10-16) of the false teachers and the sound doctrine of Titus.

### I. ADORNING THE DOCTRINE OF GOD – Verses 1-10

Proper Christian behavior is dependent upon sound doctrine (verse 1). It behooves the God called pastor to speak sound doctrine to the believers in order that they may through proper conduct adorn the doctrine of God. To “adorn the doctrine of God” means to embellish with honor the word of God, so as to beautify the Bible. To live a hypocritical life causes the doctrine of God to be despised and rejected.

#### A. The Aged Adorning The Doctrine Of God – Verses 1-4a

##### a. The conduct of aged men – Verse 2

- i. “Sober” means to abstain from wine and alcoholic drinks.
- ii. “Grave” means to be dignified and respected for character.
- iii. “Temperate” means to be of sound mind, self-controlled.
- iv. “Sound in the faith” means that opinions are free from error. Their doctrinal convictions are in accord with God’s word.
- v. “Charity” means brother love, affection, and good will.
- vi. “Patience” means he is steadfast and enduring.

##### b. The conduct of aged women – Verses 3-4a

- i. “Likewise” indicates they are to have the characteristics of the aged men, plus that which follows – Verse 3a
- ii. They are to be holy and in control of their tongue and appetite – Verse 3b
- iii. They are to teach good things to the young women – Verse 4a

#### B. The Young Adorning The Doctrine Of God – Verses 4-6

##### a. The conduct of young women – Verse 4b-5

- i. They are to be sober and to love their husbands and children – Verse 4. If the child is truly loved, he or she must be disciplined – Proverbs 13:24

- ii. "Discreet" means to curb ones desires and impulses – Verse 5a
  - iii. "Chaste" means pure from carnality, modest – Verse 5b
  - iv. "Keepers at home" means caring for the household affairs – Verse 5c
  - v. "Good" means pleasant, agreeable, joyful – Verse 5d
  - vi. "Obedient to their own husbands." "Obedient" comes from a Greek military term meaning "to arrange troop divisions under the command of a leader.
  - vii. Their conduct can keep the word of God from being blasphemed – Verse 5f
- b. The conduct of young men should be based upon being sober minded – Verse 6; 2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Psalm 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."
- C. The Pastor Adorning The Doctrine Of God – Verses 7-8
- a. He is to be an example for the young men to follow – Verse 7a
  - b. His doctrine is to be pure and he is to be grave and sincere – Verse 7b
  - c. His speech is to be sound – Verse 8a
  - d. The purpose of this is that the enemy might be silenced – Verse 8b
- D. The Servants Adorning The Doctrine Of God – Verses 9-10
- a. Their conduct enjoined – Verses 9-10a. See Ephesians 6:5-8 "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." Colossians 3:22 "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God." 1 Timothy 6:1 "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed." 1 Peter 2:18 "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward."
    - i. They are to obey and please their masters without complaint – Verse 9
    - ii. They are to be honest and show good fidelity – Verse 10a. "Purloining" means to embezzle or steal.
- b. The purpose explained – "Adorn means to arrange, to put in order, to garnish or ornament." "Kosmos" (Greek word translated adorn) is the word we get cosmetics from. If lowly servants (slaves) can adorn the doctrine of God, then surely all of the redeemed may do so!!

## II. THE GRACE OF GOD AND ADORNED LIVING – Verses 11-15

“This imposing statement (verses 11-15) not only contains an epitome of Christian doctrine but also emphasizes the impossibility of giving practical advice apart from the eternal verities of the Christian faith.” Tyndale New Testament Commentary

### A. The Basis Of Adorned Living The Grace of God – Verse 11

- a. Grace is God’s divine favor bestowed on sinners. Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
- b. This grace is not just for the Jews but for all men who receive it – 1 Timothy 2:4-6 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

### B. The ABC’s Of The School Of Grace – Verses 12-13 Grace changes and reforms us.

- a. We should abandon the old life – Verse 12a; Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” Ephesians 2:3 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” Luke 9:23 “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
- b. We should begin to live the new life – Verse 12b
- c. We should show concern for the blessed hope – Verse 13. 1 Corinthians 1:7 “So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20-21 “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” 2 Timothy 4:8 “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

### C. The Purpose Of This Grace – Verse 14

- a. We are redeemed from all iniquity – Verse 14a
- b. We are to be purified unto him – Verse 14b
- c. We are to be zealous of good works – Verse 14c

### D. The Authority To Enforce These Truths – Verse 15

- a. The preacher is to speak, exhort, and rebuke.
- b. He is to not be turned aside by criticism and man's opposition – 1 Timothy 4:12  
“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What was Titus told to speak?
2. What is the relationship between sound doctrine and proper living?
3. What should characterize the older men?
4. What should characterize the older women?
5. What are the older women to teach the younger women?
6. What is the meaning of adorning the doctrine of God?
7. What instructions are given to the pastor?
8. What is the purpose in servants adorning the doctrine of God?
9. Name the ABC's of the school of grace.
10. Recite the memory verse!

## **Notes**

# Lesson 3

## PROPER CONDUCT BEFORE THE WORLD

**Memory Verse: Titus 3:5**

**Lesson: Titus 3:1-15**

### I. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPER CONDUCT – Verses 1-7

#### A. The Plea For Proper Behavior – Verses 1-2

- a. Christians are to be exemplary in citizenship – Verse 1; Romans 13:1 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”
  - i. They are to be subject to civil authorities except in matters which cause them to be disobedient to God – 1 Peter 2: 11-25; 3:13, 4:5; Acts 5:27-29 “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:40-42 “And to him they agreed. and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”
  - ii. They are to do their part as good citizens.
- b. Christians are to be exemplary in godliness – Verse 2 “To speak evil of no man” refers to blaspheming men or simply being a gossip. It does not contradict the Scriptures that teach us to expose and rebuke disobedient Christians and religious teachers. See Romans 16:17 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” Titus 1:13; 3:10; Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14 “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.” 2 Corinthians 6:17 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

## B. The Purpose Of Proper Behavior – Verses 3-7

- a. Because of our past guilt – Verse 3
- b. Because our present condition is entirely due to the grace of God – Verses 4-7
  - i. We should understand God’s love for men – Verse 4
  - ii. We should understand that salvation is a free gift apart from any merit on man’s part – Verse 5a. We should understand that Christ is the channel and cause of regeneration – Verse 5b-6; Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” 1 Timothy 6:17 “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.”
  - iii. “Washing” of regeneration does not refer to baptism – Verse 5c. In the New Testament people were baptized after salvation. Acts 8:36-38 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what cloth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all shine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” Acts 10:43-48 “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”
  - iv. We should realize our possessions in Christ – Verse 7; Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
  - v. Justified by His grace, we are made heirs – Verse 7. Justification means “that God declares a believing sinner righteous because of the finished work of Christ on the cross.”

## II. WARNINGS CONCERNING PROPER CONDUCT – Verses 8-11

### A. Constantly Affirming Good Works – Verse 8

- a. Only believers can do this.

- b. These things are profitable to men.
- B. Constantly Avoiding Bad Works – Verses 9-11
  - a. Avoid foolish questions and legalistic teaching – Verse 9; 1 Timothy 1:4 “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.” 2 Timothy 2:23 “But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.”
  - b. Avoid and reject heretics – Verse 10; Galatians 5:19-20 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.” Such people divide a church and cause confusion. After the second admonition they are to be rejected. “Reject” means to refuse or avoid. “Reject” in the Greek is in the imperative mood, which means that it is a command that is to be obeyed.
  - c. Actual condition of the sinner – Verse 11

### **III. CONCLUSION AND GREETINGS – Verses 12-15**

- A. Directions Concerning Fellow Workers – Verses 12-13
  - a. Artemas or Tychius to replace Titus – Verse 12. We meet Tychius in several places in the New Testament – Acts 20:4 “And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.”
  - b. Titus to meet Paul in Nicopolis – Verse 12
  - c. Zenas and Apollos to come also – Verse 13
- B. Directions Concerning Christian Industry – Verses 14-15
  - a. Maintaining good works and fruitfulness go together – Verse 14; Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God bath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
  - b. A salutation from all of those with Paul – Verse 15
  - c. A greeting for those who loved Paul in the faith – Verse 15

## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Quote the memory verse from memory.
2. What was Titus to teach the believers about citizenship?
3. Explain “to speak evil of no man.”
4. How did Paul describe our past guilt?

5. Our present condition is entirely due to ...?
6. Explain the relationship between salvation and works of righteousness.
7. What should believers be careful to do?
8. What should believers be careful to avoid?
9. What are we to do with heretics?
10. Who was to replace Titus on Crete?
11. Where was Titus to meet Paul, and what would Paul be doing there?
12. What is the relationship between good works and fruitfulness?

## **Notes**

### **Order Printed Book from:**

Tabernacle Baptist Church  
1911 34<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Lubbock, Texas 79411  
806.744.4443  
[www.tbaptist.com](http://www.tbaptist.com)

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