

A guide to improve
your reading and studying
of the Word of God
while studying the book of

T i t u s

To be completed individually
as preparation for group study

Lesson 1 Get the big picture

Read through the book of Titus every day this week. What stood out to you each time you read it?

Mark all the references to salvation.

Mark all the references to God's Word.

Mark all the references to godliness.

How are these three themes of salvation, God's Word and Godliness related?

Pastors teach truth; truth produces godliness; godliness impacts the world.

Lesson 2 Observe the paragraphs

Using the following paragraph breaks, write your own paragraph heading from your reading of that paragraph.

1:1-4

1:5-9

1:10-16

2:1-10

2:11-15

3:1-2

3:3-7

3:8-11

3:12-15

Look over your paragraph headings and think about a title and subtitle for this whole book.

If you had to pick one of the verses in the book to summarise the book, what verse (or two) would you select, and why?

Lesson 3 Understand the culture

There are a number of statements in the book that refer to unbelievers who are causing trouble among the believers. Identify all those references, and use them to reconstruct the world in which those brothers and sisters were living.

According to 3:8 how different were the true believers to be?

How does God change people from the typical Cretan category to the truly Christian category (2:11-14 and 3:3-7)?

Lesson 4 Meet Paul (1:1-3)

Read Titus 1:1-3

What are Paul's two descriptions of himself in the beginning of v. 1?

According to the last half of v. 1, why did Paul serve the saints?

How does Paul describe himself in the beginning of v. 2?

According to verses 2 and 3, what are the two descriptions of eternal life that gives Paul such a firm hope?

What was the primary activity of Paul according to v. 3?

Who is the Saviour of God's elect (v. 3, cf also v. 4; 2:10, 11, 13; 3:4, 6)?

Lesson 5 Greet Titus (1:4)

What does the description of Titus in Titus 1:4 say about his relationship to the Apostle Paul?

Read the following references to Titus to get to know what kind of person Titus was.

- a) Galatians 2:3
- b) 2 Corinthians 7:6
- c) 2 Corinthians 8:16-17
- d) 2 Corinthians 8:23
- e) 2 Corinthians 12:17-19
- f) 2 Timothy 4:10
- g) Titus 1:5

What is significant about the phrase "in a common faith"?

The greeting at the end of v. 4 seemed to be the common greeting among Christians at the time (Cf. the many other greetings given in the NT). How would this greeting affect you if you heard it regularly from other Christians?

Lesson 6 Elders for every church (1:5-9)

Read Titus 1:5-9

What was the problem in the many different churches on the island of Crete (v. 5)?

Read through the list of descriptions that need to be true of an Elder. Read through the list, and group those who are related together into a few categories of qualities.

The phrase in v. 6 about children being believers literally says "children having faith/faithfulness". Compare this with the rest of v. 6 and also with 1 Timothy 3:4. Do you think this is a requirement for an Elder's children to be converts 'having faith', or to be respectable and 'faithful', even if not converted?

Which Scripture-skill in v. 9 matches 1:10 and which one matches 2:1? Why are both Scripture-skills necessary for Elders of a church?

Lesson 7 Right responses to wrong teaching (1:10-16)

Read Titus 1:10-16, then read again the last requirement of an Elder in v. 9.

What is the two-sided goal of confronting false teaching according to the beginning of v. 11 and the end of v. 13?

What are all the signs of false teaching in vv. 10-11?

What do the false teachers occupy themselves with according to vv. 12-14? Contrast it to the requirement of v. 9.

What, according to vv. 15-16, is the danger when Elders do not respond rightly to false teaching?

Lesson 8 Godliness for older people (2:1-5)

Looking at the content of vv. 2-10, what is being referred to in v. 1 as that "what accords with sound doctrine"?

Put the first three ways in which older men in particular will demonstrate that they live in accordance with sound doctrine in your own words.

sober-minded—

dignified—

self-controlled—

What does it mean to be sound in faith, love, and steadfastness?

Put the following requirements of godliness for older women (probably mostly widows) in your own words.

reverent in behaviour—

not slanderers—

not slaves to much wine—

Although vv. 4-5 give some of the specifics, what is the summary of what older women are to be teachers of according to the end of v. 3?

Lesson 9 Godliness for younger people (2:4-6)

READ Titus 2:4-6

Which of the godliness virtues of younger women describe what their character will be like, and which describe what their primary pursuits will be?

What is the very first skill that Christian younger women ought to grow in as a complement to their understanding of sound doctrine (v. 4, also end of v.5)?

Using the following cross-references, what is all included, and excluded, by the self-control required of all young Christian men?

Titus 1:12-13

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Proverbs 13:11

Proverbs 7:24-25

1 Timothy 4:12

Proverbs 22:3

1 Peter 2:17

Proverbs 15:2

1 Timothy 1:5

Lesson 10 Godliness for spiritual leaders (2:7-8)

Read Titus 2:7-8 which is written to Titus who was a missionary-like pastor serving many churches and helping them appoint their own elders.

What effect will sound doctrine have on a spiritual leader's lifestyle according to the beginning of v. 7?

What should describe the teaching of spiritual leaders? What will that look like?

How, according to the end of v. 8, will exemplary teaching benefit Christians in an anti-Christian culture?

How do vv. 7-8 help you think about what to look for in a church and how to pray for your elders?

Lesson 11 Godliness for workers (2:9-10)

Read Titus 2:9-10

These verses are about slaves, something that no longer describes our work situations. What are some of the differences between being a slave or an employee, and how do these differences help us apply these verses?

Put the four descriptions of the godliness for Christian workers in your own words and think about what impact that would have on your workplace.

well-pleasing—

not argumentative—

not pilfering—

showing all good faith—

Why is it so important for Christian workers to be godly in their workplaces?

Lesson 12 The result of God's grace (2:11-15)

Read Titus 2:11-15 Working through it from beginning to end, answer the following questions to understand how it all fits together.

Who can all come to salvation through God's grace (v. 11)?

What is the negative and positive side of the training that God's grace accomplishes (v. 12)?

What one thing should dominate our disposition during our lifetime (v. 13)?

What are the two sides of the purpose for which Jesus gave in His first coming (v. 14)?

Put into your own words the three commands to church leaders to instil these truths and ways of thinking among believers (v. 15)?

declare—

exhort—

rebuke—

What does the last phrase in v. 15 imply will happen when Christians share sound doctrine and the way it will change those who are saved?

Lesson 13 Courtesy to all people (3:1-2)

Read Titus 3:1-2

Compare the instruction to Titus in 3:1 to that in 2:1. What is the difference in the command, and how does that help you compare chapter 3 to chapter 2?

What would be some of the specific ways in which we can demonstrate our belief in sound doctrine in the way we submit to, and obey rulers and authorities?

Read Matthew 5:13-16 and think of ways in which we as Christians can be a little more prepared to do good works.

Read James 3:6-10. How does it help you understand the significance of how you speak about others?

Evaluate your relationships with others in terms of being quarrelsome or gentle. How can you be more godly in those relationship?

How would you explain "courtesy"? What level of courtesy is required, and to whom?

Lesson 14 God's way of changing people (3:3-7)

Read the reminder of the Gospel realities in Titus 3:3-7.

Write your own headings for the following sections:

v. 3

vv. 4-6

v. 7

Compare 3:4 to 2:11 and 2:13. Who is the goodness of God that was made visible?

What character trait of God is the reason why salvation of sinners is possible (v. 5)?

How did each person of the Trinity participate in our salvation?

V. 3 is about our past, v. 7 is about our future. What some of the things that change when someone is saved by God?

What words in v. 5 describe the process by which these changes came about?

Lesson 15 Good works instead of bad works (3:8-11)

Read Titus 3:8-11.

What do you think the "saying" and the "these things" in v. 8 refer to?

What is the quality and benefit of Christian truth and Christian living according to the end of v. 8?

What are some of the things Christians sometimes engage in, but are to be avoided (v. 9)?

Why should saved people not participate in these things according to the end of v. 9?

What is another bad work that saved people ought to avoid according to v. 10?

Why is the process of separating from a divisive person a little stricter and faster than the normal process of dealing with a sinning brother (Matt 18:15-17)?

Lesson 16 Examples of Christian good works (3:12-15)

What repeated phrase in v. 12 and v. 13 demonstrate to what degree we ought to devote ourselves to good works?

The Apostle Paul was the famous face of his ministry, but what do we learn about the behind-the-scenes of his ministry from vv. 12-13?

What is the best way to start being more devoted to good works according to v. 14?

What does v. 15 imply about the Christians in each church who might perhaps never meet each other, but there pastors know each other and minister together?

How does the final greeting of 3:15 compare to the opening greeting of 1:4?

Lesson 17 Conclusion

Look up these thirteen times in Titus where the purposes of salvation and Christian living are mentioned (using the Greek word for "so that" translate differently at times), and identify what the outcome will be for those whom God saved and changed?

1:5

1:9

1:13

2:4

2:5

2:8

2:10

2:12

2:14

3:7

3:8

3:13

3:14

What are some of the changes that would have been obvious in the churches as Titus accomplished his ministry among them?

The Titus Task

*Teach sound doctrine, so Christians will believe sound doctrine.
Teach what accords with sound doctrine, so Christians will live godly.
Insist on these things, so Christians will be profitable to all.*