

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## TITUS

### Background and Overview

#### Lesson 1

This week's lesson will introduce you to your study of Paul's letter to Titus. Although this is a short letter, written A.D. 65, you will discover it to be powerfully relevant to your life in these last days. The practical instruction and clearly defined doctrine contained in this letter will enrich your understanding of His Word and His will for your life.

Begin your study of Titus by reading all three chapters. Next to the references below, share a brief observation of the chapter or a verse or phrase that particularly captures your attention:

- a. Chapter One
- b. Chapter Two
- c. Chapter Three

To receive the utmost benefit from your lesson start by writing a prayer expressing your deepest need and desire in relationship to your study.

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the Word of truth.*

II Timothy 2:15

## BACKGROUND TO TITUS

### AUTHOR OF THE LETTER:

- Paul, the Apostle.

### WRITTEN TO:

- Titus, a Greek believer, one of Paul's traveling companions, and his appointed overseer of the churches in Crete.
- All believers.

### DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING:

- A. D. 65, probably from Macedonia.

### PURPOSE OF WRITING:

- To advise Titus concerning his responsibility of organizing the churches around the island of Crete.
- To encourage Titus in his challenging ministry in Crete.
- To instruct and exhort Titus and all believers to godly Christian living.



## FIRST DAY: Introduction

1. Review the paragraphs in the introduction on the first page of this lesson. Highlight or underline a phrase or sentence that particularly spoke to you.
  - a. Tell why it spoke to you.
  
2. Consider the following quote from Martin Luther about Paul's letter to Titus: *This is a short epistle...and is composed in such a masterly manner, that it contains all that is needful for Christian knowledge and life.* In what way does this increase your interest to study this letter?

## SECOND DAY: Background

1. Review the Background information on page two and answer the following questions:
  - a. Who wrote the pastoral letter to Titus?
  - b. When and from where was it written?
    - (1.) Locate and highlight on the map where Paul and Titus were at the time this letter was written.

Challenge: Research the history of the island of Crete during the first century. Write a brief report of your findings.

2. Record what you learn from the Background information about Titus, the recipient of this letter.
  - a. Summarize any additional information you receive about Titus from the following verses:
    - (1.) II Corinthians 7:6,13-15
  
    - (2.) II Corinthians 8:16,17,23
  
    - (3.) Galatians 2:1(2)3

3. Look again at the Purpose For Writing on page two. Choose one of the purposes and write it here.

- a. Although this letter was written to an overseer of the church, it has application for all believers. Paul encouraged and exhorted Titus to be a godly example in the church and society in spite of the difficulties surrounding him. How is this relevant to us today?

**THIRD DAY: Read Titus 1**

1. In our Overview we will cover one chapter of Titus each day. Think about Titus and his responsibility and challenge of organizing the churches on the island of Crete, where problems existed both inside and outside the church. With this in mind scan Titus 1 and record a phrase or verse that you think would have been especially helpful for Titus.

2. Jot down one thing you learn in Titus 1 about:

a. *Paul*

b. *Titus*

c. *Cretians*

3. What are you looking forward to studying the most in this chapter?

a. Share why.



**SIXTH DAY: Review Background and Overview**

1. Review the first paragraph in the introduction on page one. In what way does it encourage you in your personal study of Titus?
2. Recall one fact from the Background information and write it here.
3. How has this lesson helped prepare you for an in-depth study of Titus?
4. Share at least one thing you are looking forward to studying more thoroughly in this letter and tell why.
5. Record a favorite verse from one of the chapters of Titus.

*These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*  
Titus 3:8c NIV



**SECOND DAY: Read Titus 1:1-4**

1. Paul's introduction in Titus 1:1-4 provides a foundation for his letter. Notice in the KJV this is one sentence. In Titus 1:1a Paul began by identifying himself as the author. How does he describe himself?
  - a. Paul called himself a *servant* (bondservant or slave) of God and an *apostle* (messenger) of Jesus Christ. View the goal of Paul's ministry in the following version of Titus 1:1b: *to stimulate and promote the faith of God's chosen ones and to lead them on to accurate discernment and recognition of and acquaintance with the Truth...*(Amplified). What does this say to you about Paul?
  - b. Print the phrase from verse 1c that reveals what produces *godliness*.
    - (1.) *...truth that changes lives* (Titus 1:1c TLB). In what way have you observed or experienced this?
2. Joyfully and thankfully record the *hope* promised in Titus 1:2.
  - a. What is declared about God and His promise in this verse?
    - (1.) How does Numbers 23:19 confirm this truth about God?
  - b. According to I John 5:11-13 who is assured of eternal life?
  - c. Share how Titus 1:2 ministers to you today.
3. What does Titus 1:3 say about *His word* and Paul's commission?
4. After his introductory statements in verses 1-3, Paul addressed Titus in verse 4. How did Paul view Titus?
  - a. With what encouraging words did Paul greet him?



- (1.) What do grace, mercy and peace mean to you today?
- (2.) You might consider greeting a fellow believer in this way. Be prepared to share the outcome with your group.

**THIRD DAY:** Read Titus 1:5-9

1. Paul and Titus shared a *common faith* and a commitment to the Lord and to the word of truth. Each had been entrusted with a ministry to the Church. What does Titus 1:5 declare about Titus' ministry in Crete?
  
2. Apparently churches had been founded in many of the cities on the island of Crete. Titus faced the challenge to *straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town* (verse 5b NIV). Paul then gave Titus instruction concerning the selection of *elders* (overseers). The word *bishop* in verse 7 refers to the same office. Record a few of the qualifications for these men from verses 6-8.
  - a. What does this indicate about their character and conduct?
  
  - b. Although this is addressed to Titus concerning elders, what lesson is there in this for all of us?
  
3. Titus 1:9 has to do with the ministry of the overseer. According to this verse what was he to do? Read this in other versions if possible.
  - a. A *gainsayer* is *one who contradicts or opposes*. What two things will the *faithful word* enable the elder to do? verse 9b

*...hold fast to the sure and trustworthy Word of God...*

Titus 1:9a Amplified

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Titus 1:10-14

1. Paul gave instruction and counsel to Titus concerning problems in the churches. What serious problem did he address in Titus 1:10?

Advanced Students: Research and briefly explain who *they of the circumcision* were and what they believed and taught.

2. In your own words write what is revealed about these opposers or false teachers from the following verses:

- a. Titus 1:11

- b. Titus 1:12, 13a

- c. The phrase *slow bellies* in verse 12 means *lazy* or *idle gluttons*. Think for a moment about what verses 11-13a tell us about false teachers. It is essential for Christians today to be alert and guard ourselves and our households from this danger. Suggest one or two ways we can do this.

3. What was Paul's counsel to Titus concerning these false teachers? Answer from Titus 1:11a,13.

- a. View the goal of this counsel from Titus 1:13b,14. What do you see?

4. Sadly, there are those who *turn from the truth*. What can we do to safeguard our hearts against this?

- a. What did Jesus say about the *truth* in John 8:31,32?

**FIFTH DAY: Read Titus 1:15,16**

1. In Paul's day the Jewish legalists were called Judaizers. Not only did they demand the rite of circumcision, they stressed adherence to strict Jewish dietary laws. In Titus 1:15 Paul refuted their false teaching. See how he did this as you thoughtfully write what verse 15 says about:

a. *the pure*

b. *them that are defiled and unbelieving*

c. What light does Romans 14:14,17a,20 shed on this subject?

d. Read Mark 7:15. Ponder Jesus' words as you record what He said defiles a man.

(1.) Draw a lesson for your own life from this.

2. Observe what is declared about these people as you fill in the blanks from Titus 1:16:

They \_\_\_\_\_ that they \_\_\_\_\_ God: but in works they \_\_\_\_\_ Him, being \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and unto every \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Titus 1:16 TLB reads: *Such people claim they know God, but they deny Him by the way they live. Does your walk align with your profession? We should examine ourselves in light of this verse. What is the requirement for being a follower of Christ according to Luke 9:23?*

a. Record a few phrases from the following verses that confirm true Christianity is evidenced by our lifestyle:

(1.) James 1:22

(2.) James 2:14,17

(3.) I John 2:3-6

**SIXTH DAY: Review Titus 1:1-16**

1. Recall one thing you gleaned from your study of the following verses:
  - a. Titus 1:1-4
  - b. Titus 1:5-9
  - c. Titus 1:10-14
  - d. Titus 1:15,16
  
2. Keeping this week's lesson in mind why is *holding fast to the truth* so essential?
  - a. If you knew someone who was beginning to *turn from the truth*, what could you do?
  
3. Share a way the study of Titus 1:1-16 has:
  - a. encouraged you
  - b. challenged you
  - c. warned you
  
4. Why is it so important that our profession and our conduct are in agreement?

*Teach me Your ways, O Lord  
that I may walk in Your truth.  
Give me an undivided heart  
that I might seek Your face.*  
selected

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## TITUS 2

### Lesson 3

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review Titus 1. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete?
  - a. What have you learned from this chapter that you can apply to your life?
  
2. Titus 2 continues Paul's instruction to Titus concerning his ministry in Crete. Observe the following divisions of chapter two in our study. Give a brief title to each of these:
  - a. Titus 2:1,2
  - b. Titus 2:3-5
  - c. Titus 2:6-8
  - d. Titus 2:9,10
  - e. Titus 2:11-15
  
3. Titus 2 is a chapter that every Christian woman should read often. To receive the utmost benefit from your study of this chapter, begin by writing a prayer expressing your greatest need and desire concerning the lesson. Close your prayer with thanksgiving to Him for hearing and answering.

*LEAVE the old life, LIVE the new life.  
LOOK for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of Christ.*  
-selected

**SECOND DAY: Read Titus 2:1,2**

1. Review Titus 1:10,11. In contrast to this, what was Paul's instruction to Titus in Titus 2:1?

- a. Titus was to  *speak or teach the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.* (NASB) The Greek word for  *sound* means  *healthy.*  *Sound doctrine* should lead to godly behavior for all believers. These next verses in Titus teach us how we should walk as Christians so that our testimony is supported by our conduct. How does I John 2:6 confirm this statement?

Personal: Consider your life in light of this. Pray about any changes or adjustments you may need to make.

2. Titus was to give this instruction to the men and women in the church. Which group was addressed in Titus 2:2?

- a. Write what Titus was to teach the  *aged (older) men.* (See other versions also, if you desire.)

- (1.) The word  *grave* can be translated  *reverent, dignified or worthy of respect.* How does this relate to a person's behavior?

3. Why are these Titus 2:2 characteristics and qualities essential for all Christian men?

*Our Christianity is confirmed by our  
choices, conduct and character.  
-selected*

**THIRD DAY: Read Titus 2:3-5**

1. In Titus 2:3,4a Titus received instruction for the  *aged (older) women.* Notice the word  *likewise* in verse 3a. What does this indicate such  *women* are to be?

- 5
- a. Thoughtfully consider each description verse 3 gives of these *women* as you write what they are to *be* and *not* to be.

(1.) The phrase *in behaviour as becometh holiness* can be translated *reverent in behavior*. How would you characterize a woman of *reverent behavior* today?

- b. Every woman, no matter what her age, is teaching others by her example. She is either a godly or an ungodly influence. How does this speak to you?

- c. *Holiness* should characterize the older Christian woman's life and she is to *teach what is good* (NIV). Who does Titus 2:4a say she is to teach?

2. Record the *good things* the older women are to teach the *young women* from Titus 2:4,5.

- 6
- a. The word translated *love* in verse 4 is the Greek word *phileo*. It means to be *friendly*, to *delight in*, to have *tender affection*. Why should you show this kind of *love* to your husband and your children?

(1.) Give a practical example of how you can do this.

- b. Using a dictionary define the word *discreet*.

(1.) How does Proverbs 11:22 describe a woman without discretion?

- 7
- c. *Chaste* means to be *pure in thought and modest in action*. According to Ephesians 5:3-5,8 why is being *chaste* so important?

- d. Focus on the phrase *keepers at home*. What does Proverbs 31:27 say about this?
  - e. What do you learn in I Peter 3:1-4 that will help you to be *obedient* to your *own husband*?
  - f. Write the phrase from **Titus 2:5b** that should compel us as Christian women to heed this instruction.
3. Suggest one or two practical ways older women can teach the younger women the things of Titus 2:4b,5.
    - a. Share a *good thing* you have learned from a godly woman.
  4. Titus 2:3-5 contains instruction and applies to women of all ages, married or single. Reflect on these verses once more and share an insight or application you received for your life.

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Titus 2:6-8

1. Paul gave Titus an exhortation for the *young men* in Titus 2:6. What did he say a young Christian man was to be?
  - a. Observe this verse in the Amplified version: *In a similar way, urge the younger men to be self-restrained and to behave prudently (taking life seriously)*. What do you see today that reveals the need for this exhortation?
2. In Titus 2:7,8 Paul addressed Titus concerning his personal life and example. View this as you fill in the blanks from verses 7,8a:

In \_\_\_\_\_ things shewing thyself a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: in doctrine shewing  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Sound \_\_\_\_\_, that cannot  
 be \_\_\_\_\_.



- a. Focus on the phrase *sound speech*. Our English word *hygiene* is derived from the Greek word for *sound*, meaning healthy or wholesome. What does Ephesians 4:29 add to this?
  - b. According to verse 8b what would happen to Titus' opposers if he followed this instruction?
3. Consider Titus 2:7a TLB . . . *you yourself must be an example to them of good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect your love of the truth.* Although this was written to Titus, what application do you see in this for every believer?

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Titus 2:9,10

1. In Titus 2:9,10 Paul told Titus what he should teach *servants* (slaves). Many believers of that day were slaves and needed guidance on how to behave toward their masters. List the instructions given for them in verse 9,10a.
  - a. How could these instructions be applied to an employee today?
  - b. Titus 2:10b reveals the outcome of following these instructions. Thoughtfully consider this as you print it here.
    - (1.) Record a few synonyms for the word *adorn*.
    - (2.) In what way might every believer *adorn the doctrine of God*?

**SIXTH DAY:** Read Titus 2:11-15

1. Titus 2:11-14 contains doctrinal truths in simple terms that should motivate us to live godly lives. Thoughtfully and thankfully record the marvelous declaration of Titus 2:11.
  - a. The *grace of God* brought salvation through the coming of Jesus Christ. Underline the phrase that reveals the extent of His grace.

2. The *grace of God* not only saves us but teaches us. See what it teaches us as you write Titus 2:12 here phrase by phrase.
  - a. With this in mind record what you learn from I John 2:15-17.
  - b. In what way are those who refuse to say “No” to *ungodliness and worldly passions* (NIV) distorting the *grace of God*?
3. What should the believer’s focus and hope be according to Titus 2:13? Write your answer in all caps. Selah.
  - a. Briefly share what this means to you.
  - b. Read I John 3:2,3. How should this *hope* affect our choices, conduct, and character?
4. What foundational doctrine of the Christian faith is recorded in Titus 2:14a? Selah.
  - a. Why did He do this? Answer from verse 14b.
    - (1.) The phrase *peculiar people* indicates He made us *His very own*. Share your response to this.
5. With what personal exhortation does Titus 2:15 close?
6. Recall one thought, instruction or exhortation from your study of Titus 2:1-15 that influenced you the most.

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## TITUS 3

### Lesson 4

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review Titus 2. Share a practical instruction or exhortation from this chapter that has made a difference in your life this week.
  - a. How should the hope of Titus 2:13 affect your choices and conduct on a daily basis?
  
2. Read Titus 3. Observe the following divisions and choose a phrase from each that helps identify its main topic:
  - a. Titus 3:1,2
  - b. Titus 3:3-8
  - c. Titus 3:9-11
  - d. Titus 3:12-15
  
3. Paul's instruction and encouragement to Titus in chapter three has application for each of us today. Begin your study with a prayer expressing your greatest need and desire in relationship to your lesson. Write your prayer here.

*He saved us . . .  
because of His mercy  
. . . by His grace.  
Titus 3:5a,7a NIV*

**SECOND DAY:** Read Titus 3:1,2

1. In Titus 3:1,2 Paul continued his instruction to Titus concerning his ministry to the believers in Crete. What was Titus to remind *them*? Answer from verse 1.

a. From Romans 13:1-5 record one or two reasons why Christians are *to be subject to rulers and authorities* (NKJV) as good citizens.

b. *Be ready to every good work* is translated in the Amplified Bible: *be prepared and willing to do any upright and honorable work*. How might this apply to us today in our communities?

c. Record what you learn about *good works* from the following verses:

(1.) Ephesians 2:10

(2.) Colossians 1:10

(3.) II Timothy 2:21

2. Think about the exhortations given to believers in Titus 3:2 as you write it here.

a. What contrasts in behavior and attitude do you see in this verse?

b. What does James 3:9,10 and Ephesians 4:2 add to Titus 3:2?

*The world is telling people to be strong and assertive,  
but Paul tells us to be gentle and meek!*

Pastor Chuck

**THIRD DAY: Read Titus 3:3-8**

1. One of the reasons believers should conduct themselves with the godly attitudes and behaviors of Titus 3:1,2 is revealed in Titus 3:3. What did Paul point out in this verse?
  - a. Stop for a moment and think about our miserable and corrupt condition before conversion. It is so easy to forget what we were like before Christ and be critical of others. How should this reminder help us in our attitude and behavior toward others?
  
2. Read Titus 3:4-7. This is one sentence in the KJV and gives us an incredible contrast to verse 3. Now thoughtfully and thankfully write the glorious declaration of verse 4.
  - a. Link Titus 3:4 with Titus 2:11. What do you see?
  
  - b. Concentrate on Titus 3:5-7 and record key phrases from these verses that reveal what *God our Saviour* has done for us. Selah.
  
  - c. Focus once more on verses 4-7 looking for words that tell us why God saved us. Record your observations.
    - (1.) Share what the words *kindness, love, mercy* and *grace* mean to you.
  
    - (2.) According to Titus 3:5a what was *not* a factor in our salvation?
      - (a.) Why can't man save himself by *works of righteousness*? Answer from Isaiah 64:6a.
  
      - (b.) Salvation is a work of God. In verse 5 the word *washing* refers to the *cleansing* by the Word, *regeneration* to the *new birth* and *renewing* refers to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Write a prayer expressing your gratitude for this work of *grace* in your life.

- d. Focus on the phrase *the hope of eternal life*. (Titus 3:7b) Recall the promise of Titus 1:2. What assurance does this give you today?

Challenge: What do you learn about the Trinity from Titus 3:4-6?

3. In Titus 3:8a Paul testified of the accuracy and faithfulness of verses 4-7 and instructed Titus to *constantly affirm* these things. According to verse 8b why was he to do this?

- a. *Good works* should be the fruit of our relationship with Jesus. How can we then *maintain good works*? Use Romans 12:1,2 to help you with your answer.

(1.) Share a way you might encourage a believer to *maintain good works*.

- b. What does Titus 3:8c say about *these things*?

*Real conversion makes a difference in the way a person  
thinks, lives, and relates to others.*

-selected

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Titus 3:9-11

1. In the letter to Titus, the overseer of the Cretian churches, Paul included the practical and necessary instruction of Titus 3:9-11. Verse 9 exposes the things that are opposite to what is *good and profitable*. Write the specific instruction given here.

- a. Reflect on I Timothy 1:4 and II Timothy 2:14. Add any further insights these verses give you about the issues in Titus 3:9.

- b. All believers are to *avoid* the *unprofitable and vain things* of verse 9. Give an example how we can do this.

2. In Titus 3:10,11 Titus was given instruction on how to handle *an heretick* (divisive person). What was Titus to do about such men? verse 10

- a. Read Titus 3:11 NIV: *You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.* How does Romans 16:17,18 increase your understanding of this?

3. What message is there in Titus 3:9-11 for you?

**FIFTH DAY: Read Titus 3:12-15**

1. In the closing verses of Paul's letter to Titus he mentioned a few people and gave Titus personal instruction. View this in Titus 3:12,13. Jot down what seems most interesting to you.

Advanced Students: Research the names recorded in Titus 3:12,13 and write a brief report on your findings.

2. What did Paul want the Christians to *learn* according to Titus 3:14? You may want to read this verse in other versions.

- a. This is the third time in this chapter Paul focused on *good works*. The phrase *necessary uses* could be translated *urgent needs*. Think about the diversity of *needs* people have in the church today. How does this speak to you about the opportunity for you to *maintain good works*?

- b. What does Titus 3:14b say will be the result for those who obey this instruction?

(1.) With this in mind read John 15:5,8 and record what Jesus said about *bearing fruit*.

3. How did Paul close his letter in Titus 3:15?

- a. The message of *grace* is woven throughout this letter. Paul knew the importance of the grace of God for Titus and every believer. Tell what God's grace means to you by forming an acronym or acrostic using each of the following letters:

G

R

A

C

E

**SIXTH DAY: Review Titus 3:1-15**

1. Record something you observed about *good works* from the following verses:
  - a. Titus 3:1
  - b. Titus 3:8
  - c. Titus 3:14
  
2. Reflect on the truths of Titus 3:4-7 and share a way they minister to you.
  - a. Explain the relationship between salvation and good works.
  
3. What did you discover through your study of Titus 3 about:
  - a. what is *profitable*
  - b. what is *unprofitable*
  
4. Share what you learned from this chapter about Christians and what their attitude, character and conduct should be.
  
5. Through your lesson in Titus 3:1-15 share how you have been:
  - a. challenged
  - b. inspired
  - c. enriched

*Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled,  
By its transforming power making him God's dear child,  
Purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity;  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.*

H. Lillenas