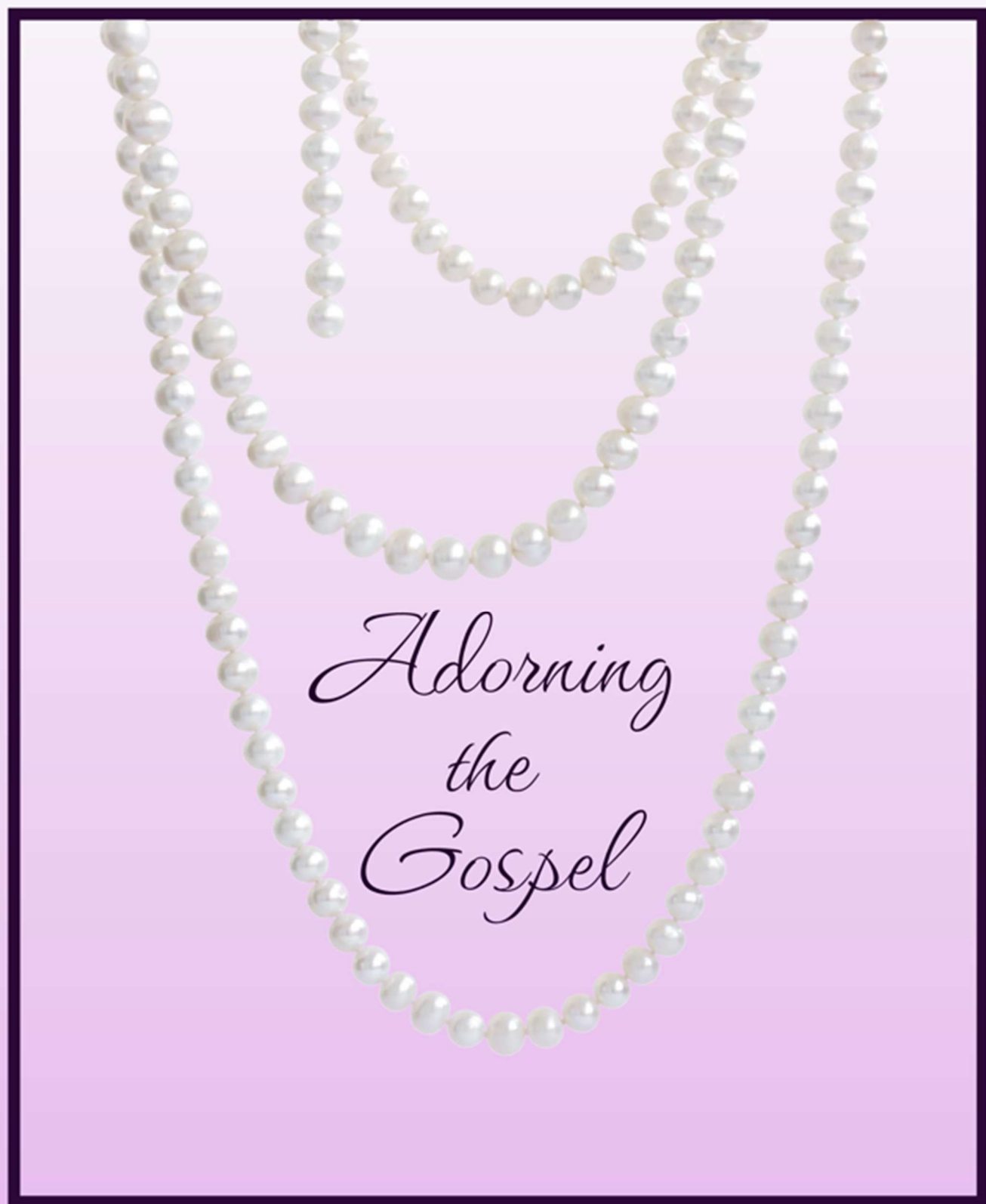


Titus



RHCF Women's Spring Bible Study 2023

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Spring 2023

Welcome ladies!

I am so looking forward to studying Titus with you! Although it is only three short chapters, there is much packed into this letter written to Titus. As believers, we are called to live differently: not living for ourselves, but living for the Lord, in alignment with His revealed truth. God has lavished upon us all that we need for life and godliness. We have the privilege to live lives that display Him as beautiful to those around us. I pray that as we study together your faith will be strengthened and we will all grow in adorning our wonderful God.

This study guide is meant to help you as we immerse ourselves in the book of Titus. It includes the full text of Titus (optional to use), and some resource suggestions for those who may be new to our study method.

Each weekly study guide section includes:

- Tool suggestions
- “Titus as a whole” – questions to help you think about the bigger picture in this book
- “Focusing in” - questions geared to help you look more deeply at the specific verses we’re studying for the week
- Notes pages – for use during the teachings

Your study guide is designed for you to explore Titus on your own *before* listening to the teaching. Doing your own work in advance will deepen your understanding, give you a more robust conversation in your discussion group, and prepare you to get the most out of the teachings. Depending on the season of life you’re in, or the circumstances of any given week, you may do more or less work in advance. That’s life! Yet we also know that the more you put into your own work, the more you will get out of it. So, do what you can, and know that there is abundant grace for the weeks that are stretched too thin!

I’m praying for you!

Lord, fill our minds with the truth of who You are and all You have done for us. Help us to see where our lives reflect you well and where we have room to grow in living out our faith. Increase our hunger for Your Word and desire for healthy, life-giving relationships with other women in our church body. We trust that you are working to accomplish these things in us and through us as we study your Word in Titus. Amen.

Your servant,
Tina Hickcox

Recommended Resource for Preparation

Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds, by Jen Wilkin

This book explains the many tools we're encouraged to use during our study of Titus. It's an easy read and will be a valuable resource to help you study any and every book of the Bible. Available at the RHCF lobby bookshelf or your favorite book retailer in print or audio book.

Titus

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; ⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you — ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹ They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always

liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

2 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. ⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

3 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels

about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

¹² When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³ Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. ¹⁴ And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

¹⁵ All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.

Part 1

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- Begin marking up the text (e.g. repeated words & ideas, transition words).
- Focus: “What does it SAY?” (Comprehension)

Titus as a Whole

Study with Perspective²

Reading with the eyes and ears of the original author and his audience, rather than through the lens of our own culture. Read the introduction to Titus in your Bible to find the answers to these perspective questions (if available).

Who wrote it?

When was it written?

To whom was it written?

In what style was it written?
(Narrative? Poetry? Discourse?)

Why was it written?

Keep going!



² Study method quotes, labels, titles, and concepts throughout have been taken from *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin, © 2014. Used by permission of Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, www.crossway.org.

Titus as a Whole continued...

1. Please read through the entire letter to Titus (You can do it! It's only 3 chapters!) Mark repeated words, ideas, or themes. What did you notice? What do you think is Paul's main message to Titus?

Focusing in: Titus 1:1-4

2. Reread Titus 1:1-4. What do you see in these verses that ties in or is connected to the main message you discovered in Question 1 above?
3. By what authority does Paul write? Note the verses where you see this.
4. What does Paul say faith and knowledge lead to or produce in the lives of believers? (Hint: Look at the end of verse 1.)
5. How might you explain what "godliness" is to someone who is less familiar with the Bible?

6. Based on these verses, what do we know about who God is or what He has done?
7. How has faith and knowledge of the truth in Scripture changed you? Where has He empowered you to walk in godliness?
8. What areas of life do you need to grow in faith, knowledge of the truth, and godliness?

Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

Notes

Notes

Part 2

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- English Dictionary (Look up unfamiliar words or too-familiar words!)
- Keep marking the text.

Titus as a Whole

1. Practice paraphrasing! This does not mean writing down whatever the text makes you think of, nor does it mean simply replacing words with synonyms. Rather, paraphrasing means putting the text into your own words. This is challenging, but rewarding! (If you're struggling, pretend you are explaining these verses to a 10-year-old girl. Now put it into language she can understand.) Here's one example:

TEXT:

"But as for you, teach what accords
with sound doctrine."
Titus 2:1

PARAPHRASE ATTEMPT:

*Unlike those false teachers, teach only solid
Biblical truth!*

Use this page and the next to paraphrase Titus 1:1-9.

Titus 1:1-9, Paraphrased

Titus 1:1-9, Paraphrased (continued)

(Overwhelmed? Just try Titus 1:5-9!)
(Really, really overwhelmed? Just try Titus 1:9!)

Focusing in: Titus 1:5-9

2. Read Titus 1:5-9. What repeated words, phrases, or ideas do you notice in this section?
3. What does Paul instruct Titus to do in these verses?
4. Besides “elder,” what other labels or titles does Paul use for the role described here? (Hint: You should find two more.)
5. Look up all three titles from Question 4 above in an English dictionary. How do these definitions, used together, broaden or clarify your understanding of this role within the church?
6. List the characteristics that an elder must be/ do and what he must not be/ do. Look up any words you’re not familiar with.

Elders must...	Elders must not...

7. Are elders the only ones in the church who are called to live lives that reflect these requirements? Explain.
8. In what ways or in what roles are you leading others? (Think broadly. You have opportunities for leadership in more ways than you might initially think!)
9. How are you stewarding the gospel and the people in your care? In what ways has God empowered you to exemplify the characteristics that Paul has laid out in these verses?
10. What are the areas where you might grow in these characteristics? What is one practical thing you could do now to step closer to this type of leadership in your life?

Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

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Part 3

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- Cross references
- Focus: Comprehension + “What does it MEAN?” (Interpretation)

Titus as a Whole

1. Try making an outline of Titus. Don’t get bogged down with detail; rather, observe the larger points or sections you’re seeing in the book. It might help to think of it as though you were making a table of contents for Titus. How would you divide it up? For example, my “table of contents” might start with:

Greeting & reason...1:1-4

Titus’ task & who is qualified to lead... 1:5-9

...perhaps you will divide up the text differently!

If your Bible already has an outline for Titus, please, try not to peek!

Start yours here:

2. Use the following page to paraphrase Titus 1:10-16.

Titus 1:10-16, Paraphrased

(Need to modify? Just try Titus 1:13-16!)
(Really, really need to modify? Just try Titus 1:15-16!)

Focusing in: Titus 1:10-16

3. Where have you seen or experienced the impact of false teaching? What helped you to identify it as false?

4. What impact are the false teachers having on the church in Crete?

5. In our last lesson, we learned the character traits that are required for an elder in the church. List the traits describing the false teachers in Titus 1:10-16. How do they contrast with the list of requirements for elders?

6. What examples of strong language do you see Paul using in these verses? What do you think prompts Paul to write in this way? Is it right for him to do so? Explain.

7. How would you describe what it means to rebuke? What are your first reactions to the word “rebuke”?

8. What is Paul's purpose in telling Titus to rebuke the false teachers sharply? (Hint: Look at verse 13.)

9. Has there ever been a time when you saw rebuke used to bring someone (or yourself) back into right relationship with the Lord and His people? Or, has there ever been a time when you saw rebuke used to protect God's people? Explain.

Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

Notes

Part 4

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- Keep marking up the text (e.g. lists, attributes of God, confusing ideas).
- Compare with another reliable translation (not a paraphrase).

Titus as a Whole

1. Read through the whole letter of Titus. What were the stated *or implied* problems, challenges, or threats that this church and her leadership are facing? List them below; include verses where you see evidence for each. How do these challenges help you understand Paul's purpose and message? Here are a couple to get you started:

The church hasn't been completely organized and needs more order... 1:5

The churches still need elders identified & appointed... 1:5

2. Use the following page to paraphrase Titus 2:1-10.

Titus 2:1-10, Paraphrased

(Crazy week? Just try Titus 2:1-5!)
(Really, really crazy week? Just try Titus 2:7-8!)

Focusing in: Titus 2:1-10

3. List the groups or individuals Paul addresses in his instructions of Godly living.
4. Is there a benefit to studying what Paul has to say of other types of people – not just what he says of women? Explain.
5. Who are the Godly women in your life who have taught you? How has their influence encouraged you to become more like the woman described in verse 5 throughout your life?
6. Perhaps you don't have the experience of Godly women teaching and training you. Are there ways you could intentionally invite Godly women into your life for this purpose? What prevents you from doing so?
7. Regardless of your age or stage of life, we should all be striving to become the "older women," who teach and train others well. In what areas are you already doing this for your younger sisters in the faith? If you are not teaching & training others, what prevents you from growing in this area? (Remember, "younger" may have little to do with age. Women who have come to faith late in life have great need of being poured into and trained up in Godly living and faith!)

8. Three times in Titus 2:1-10, Paul states the “why” for these instructions. List the “whys” here. How do they help you understand Paul’s instructions for the people of God?
 - a. Titus 2:5b
 - b. Titus 2:8b
 - c. Titus 2:10b
9. Look up the word “adorn” in an English dictionary. How does this definition help you understand what it means to “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior”?
10. In what ways does your life adorn the Gospel? In what areas do you need to ask God to help you more faithfully adorn the doctrine of God our Savior?

Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

Notes

Part 5

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- English Dictionary (Continue looking up unfamiliar or too-familiar words.)
- Revisit your outline. (You can change it as you grow to know the text!)

Titus as a Whole

1. Choose a color and mark all the command words (imperatives) throughout this letter. How does noticing these commands help you understand the overarching message of Titus?
2. Use the following page to paraphrase Titus 2:11-15.

Titus 2:11-15, Paraphrased

(Pressed for time? Just try Titus 2:11-13!)
(Really, really pressed for time? Just try Titus 2:15!)

Focusing in: Titus 2:11-15

3. Reread your ideas about the main message of Titus from Part 1, Question 1. Now read Titus 2:11-15. Where do you see the main message emphasized or repeated in this section of verses?
4. There are several action verbs in these verses. List them here, as either God's action or our action.

God's Action:	Our Action:

How are our actions related or connected to God's?

5. What aspects of your life reflect the goodness of God's action? What aspects of your life reflect the actions we are called to walk out in response to Him?
6. What areas of your life need to grow or change in order to align your thinking, speaking, & behavior with God's action and our call to respond to Him?

7. Titus 2:13 calls us to be “waiting for our blessed hope...” Are you waiting in the way described here? What are the things that prevent or distract you from living in expectancy? What are the things that cause you to wait for Him expectantly?

8. Look up the word “zealous” in an English dictionary. How does this definition broaden or clarify your ideas about what it means to be “zealous for good works”?

9. What is Paul instructing Titus to do in verse 15? Why do you think Paul is using such strong commands toward this young pastor?

Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

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Part 6

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- Cross references
- Focus: Comprehension + Interpretation + “How should it change me?”
(God-centered application)

Titus as a Whole

1. Review your work from Part 5, Question 1, where you found command words (imperatives) throughout this letter. As you read through Titus this week, note any explanations Paul mentions as to why he gives each instruction. Some clue words to look for might be, “for” or “so that.” How do these explanations for Paul’s instructions help you understand the motivation of Paul’s message?
2. Use the following page to paraphrase Titus 2:15-3:11.

Titus 2:15-3:11, Paraphrased

(Need to slow the pace? Just try Titus 3:1-7!)
(Really, really need to slow the pace? Just try Titus 3:4-7!)

Focusing in: Titus 2:15-3:11

3. Read Titus 3:1, where Titus is told to remind the church to be obedient. What do you think this type of obedience looks like? Who is to be obeyed?
4. The Greek word for “obedience” in Titus 3:1 is also used in the book of Acts three times. The first instance (Acts 27:21) records a time when Paul tells his hearers that they should have heeded his advice.
Read Acts 5:29 and Acts 5:32.
 - a. Who is it that must be obeyed in these samples from Acts?
 - b. How do these verses broaden or clarify your view of the obedience the church is called to in Titus 3:1?
5. Are any of the instructions to the church in Titus 3:1-2 similar to each other? If so, how?
6. Read Titus 3:3. What do you think Paul’s purpose is in including this verse here?
7. Read and reread Titus 3:4-7 slowly.
 - a. What catches your attention as you read these verses?
 - b. What characteristics of God are made clear?
 - c. What do these verses reveal about how God feels and acts toward us?

- Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

Notes

Part 7

Tool Suggestions:

- Repetitive reading
- Outside sources (Now you can compare your interpretations to Study Bible notes, reliable commentaries, and paraphrases.)

Titus as a Whole

1. Revisit your answer to Part 1, Question 1. Do you agree with your initial impressions about the main idea or main message of Titus? If not, what has changed? How would you summarize Paul's main points now?
2. Use the following page to paraphrase Titus 3:12-15. If you haven't tried before now, give it a shot!

Titus 3:12-15, Paraphrased

(Last chance! Just try Titus 3:12-15!)
(Really, really! Just try Titus 3:12-15!)

Focusing in: Titus 3:12-15

3. Considering your answer to Question 1 above, do you see any of the main points of Titus echoed in the closing verses we're studying today? Explain.
4. There is no other mention of Artemas or Zenas in Scripture, but there are references to Tychicus and Apollos. What do you learn about the character of these men from the following passages?
 - a. Acts 18:24-28
 - b. Ephesians 6:21-22
 - c. Colossians 4:7-9
5. How does what you learned about the character of Tychicus and Apollos compare with the requirements for elders found in Titus 1:5-9?
6. Look up the word "devote" in an English dictionary. How does its definition broaden or clarify your view of what it means to devote oneself to good works?
7. What are the things Paul believes will be the result of devotion to good works?

8. What are some ways God has empowered you to devote yourself to good works? Where is he currently growing you towards good works? How does this increase your adorning of the gospel?

Sometimes studying a text brings more questions than answers at first. Were there any questions that came to mind as you studied this section?

Notes

Notes



We want your feedback!

Thank you for studying through *Titus: Adorning the Gospel* with us! Like you, we are learning, growing, and trying new things, including the creation of future studies and study guides. Your feedback will help us greatly as we strive to be faithful stewards of God's Word and faithful servants to His people. Please take a moment to give us your candid feedback and suggestions. You may submit your responses anonymously if you prefer. Please return this form to RHCF, 23711 Entwhistle Rd. E., Buckley, WA 98321, or email your response to info@rainierhills.org.

Name (optional): _____

1. What did you like most about this Bible study? What parts were most helpful to you?

2. What did you like least about this Bible study? Which parts were confusing or unhelpful to you?

3. What specific suggestions do you have for how we could improve?

