



Read the entire  
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

## Guide #11

**Weeks 41-44**  
**Titus Chapter 1**  
**to James 3**



**NEW HORIZON**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3002 W. Bloomington Rd., Champaign, IL, 61822, [NewHorizonChurch.org](http://NewHorizonChurch.org)

## WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

### **WEEK #41: TITUS CHAPTERS 1-3; PHILEMON, HEBREWS CHAPTER 1**

**Titus**—In another of Paul's three pastoral letters, he writes to encourage his young Greek missionary partner, Titus, who was commissioned to establish the church they had founded on the island of Crete. Paul's guidelines for church planting emphasize the absolute necessity of healthy doctrine and reliance on the grace of God. Responsible Christians train others to lead and teach as part of the ongoing discipleship process.

#### **Chapter 1**

1. Vs.5 suggests some messiness in the local church. What was true then is true today. How have you experienced some messiness in your church? How have you been a part of loving your church through its struggles?
2. Paul lists the high standards of good church leaders (vs.5-9). Which reflect your life? Which can serve as goals for you?
3. *"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him"* (vs.16). How have you witnessed this? How might your actions differ from what you say you believe?

#### **Chapter 2**

1. Paul repeatedly calls believers to exercise self-control (vs.2,5,6,12). In what ways have you grown in self-control? In what areas do you continue to struggle?
2. We are called to be *"a model of good works...showing integrity, dignity and sound speech"* (vs.7-8). Who do you know that sets this example? Which of these things do you suppose others experience you?

#### **Chapter 3**

1. Paul reminds readers that God saves us, *"not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy"* (vs.5). In what ways has God shown you mercy? In what ways have you extended this type of mercy to others?
2. Although we are saved by faith in Christ and not by our good works, vs.8 promises that our lives will benefit when we devote ourselves to doing good. What are examples of intentional good works in your life, and how have you benefited by doing them?

**Philemon**—Paul was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote this persuasive letter to his friend Philemon. Philemon's slave, Onesimus, had run away, but had come to faith and was being disciplined by Paul. Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon, calling Philemon to exercise the radical loving forgiveness and brotherhood that identifies Christ-followers.

#### **Chapter 1**

1. Paul prayed that Philemon's faith would deepen as Philemon shared His faith with others (vs.6). How have you grown spiritually in serving others for Christ?
2. Paul is asking Philemon to go beyond forgiveness and receive Onesimus as a brother in Christ (vs.15-16). Who might you need to forgive and accept as a brother or sister in Christ?

**Hebrews**—The author of this letter is unknown. He/she writes to Greek Jewish Christians who have suffered great persecution and who are on the verge of returning to the Jewish faith. The letter contrasts the imperfect Jewish system & the Perfect High Priest in Christ, and demonstrates Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises. God reveals Himself in Christ and Christ offers believers direct access to God.

#### **Chapter 1**

1. *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being"* (v.2). When we see Jesus, we see God. From your understanding of Who Jesus is, what qualities of God does Jesus reflect?
2. Vs.14 teaches us that angels are ministering spirits sent by God for the sake of believers. How does the notion of angels strike you? Hopeful? Nervous? Fearful? Have you had any experiences that suggest the presence of angels?

### **WEEK #42: HEBREWS CHAPTERS 2-6**

#### **Chapter 2**

1. Believers must be careful not to drift from God's truth (vs.1). How have you witnessed others drifting and believing things that aren't true about God? How can a person prevent this?
2. Jesus' death "defeated death" and permits believers to live without "fear of death" (vs.14-15). Do you sense this freedom? How does this freedom affect your daily living?
3. In becoming human, the Jesus suffered pain and faced temptation (vs.17-18). Do you sense Christ's fellowship in your struggles? In what way can Christ help you today?

#### **Chapter 3**

1. We share God's calling to be faithful to God, just as Jesus was (vs.1-2). In what ways do you feel you are faithful to God's calling?
2. Each of us needs to be encouraged and to encourage others in our God-walk (vs.12-13). Who encourages your faith? How might you encourage someone's faith today?

#### **Chapter 4**

1. Vs.2 speaks of those who hear the Gospel, but do not apply faith to believe. Was there ever a time in your life when you heard, but chose not to believe? What changed your mind?
2. *"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword..."* (vs.12). Has your reading of Scripture confirmed God's Word to be true and powerful? In what ways do you sense God's Word as living and active in your life?

3. Because of Jesus, we can “*approach God’s throne with confidence*” (v.16). Do you feel welcomed in God’s presence? When do you feel most/least confident standing before God?

#### Chapter 5

1. Vs. 7 reminds us that while Jesus was on earth, He fervently prayed to God. When have you prayed with “cries” and “tears?” Do you sense that God hears and responds?
2. Paul says that Jesus learned obedience through suffering (vs.8). What lessons have you learned through suffering?
3. Spiritual growth enables us to more accurately discern good from evil (vs. 14). In what ways have you matured in this regard? What are examples?

#### Chapter 6

1. “Elementary teachings” about Christ are essential, but are just a starting point (vs.1). What are examples of how you have grown in your faith and knowledge of God?
2. Our goodness towards others is our way of blessing God (vs.10). When do you feel you’ve been a blessing to God by being a blessing to someone else? How might you bless God by blessing another person today?
3. “*After waiting patiently, Abraham received God’s promise*” (v.15). Waiting for God is hard. When have you waited for God’s response? How has God rewarded your waiting? In what ways are you waiting for God today?

### WEEK #43: HEBREWS CHAPTER 7-11

#### Chapter 7

1. Jesus intercedes—stands in the gap—between His father and His followers (vs.25). In what ways do you sense Jesus linking you to your Heavenly Father?
2. Priests in the Old Testament needed to offer daily sacrifices for their sins and the sins of the people. Jesus did this once for all sin when He offered Himself as a sacrifice on the cross (vs.27). What does this teach us about the power of the Cross? How does this affect your devotion to Christ?

#### Chapter 8

1. Jesus brought about God’s “New Covenant” with God’s people. Here’s the result: “*I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people*” (vs.10). How would you describe the way in which God is writing His commands upon your mind and heart? In what ways do you have a sense that you are God’s personal possession?
2. “*For I will forgive their iniquities and I will remember their sins no more*” (vs.12). A powerful promise from a loving God because of Christ’s sacrificial death. How does God’s mercy and forgiveness affect your everyday life?

#### Chapter 9

1. The blood of Christ even cleanses our consciences (vs.14). Do you sense a clear conscience as you receive Christ’s forgiveness? What guilt might you be holding on to today even though Christ has forgiven you?

2. Vs.19-22 teaches, “*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*” How does this passage help you comprehend the purpose and magnitude of Christ’s sacrifice for us?
3. Vs.27-28 teaches of the Second Coming of Christ, the judgment that each of us will face at death and Christ’s forgiveness for those who trust Him. Do you sense a confidence in judgment because of your faith in Christ? As a result, are you able to joyfully anticipate His return? If not, what is causing your apprehension?

#### Chapter 10

1. In the Old Testament, animal sacrifices could only cover sin. Christ’s death *takes away* our sin (vs.4). How would you describe the difference? How have you experienced this truth?
2. Christ-followers are called to meet together and encourage one another (vs.24-25). How are you involved in gathering with other believers? What are examples of encouragement you’ve given and received?
3. We are called to persevere until Christ returns (vs.36). In what ways are you presently exercising perseverance? How is God helping you persevere?

#### Chapter 11

1. “*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*” (vs.1). In what areas of your life is your faith strong? In what areas of your life do you struggle with faith?
2. Chapter 11, often referred to as “The Hall of Faith,” lists many people from the Old Testament who demonstrated great faith in God. Name those in your life who have demonstrated powerful faith. Who might be inspired by your faith today?
3. In vs 33-38, we read how some of the faithful were miraculously blessed and spared, while other faithful souls suffered brutal persecution for their faith. How can both be true? How are you both encouraged and challenged by this reality?

### WEEK #44: HEBREWS CHAPTER 12-13; JAMES CHAPTER 1-3

#### Chapter 12

1. Paul encourages us to “*set aside our sins and burdens and run with endurance the race that is set before us*” (vs.1). What sin and burdens weigh you down? What do you need to set aside so you can run the race God is calling you to?
2. “*Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord... For the Lord disciplines the one he loves...*” (vs.5-6). How have you experienced God’s discipline in your life? When have you sensed God as a loving Father even as He corrects you?
3. Although the world around us can be shaken, God’s Kingdom remains constant and dependable (vs.28). When have you sensed security in Christ even though challenges abound?

#### Chapter 13

1. “*Keep your life free from love of money and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’*” (vs.5). In what areas of your life are you content? In what ways do you struggle with discontentment?
2. Paul tells his readers to remember and imitate their spiritual leaders who spoke the Word of God to them (vs.7). Who fits this description in your life? In what ways does their lifestyle challenge your own?
3. In vs.21, Paul prays that God will “*equip you with everything good, that you may do His will.*” What are examples of God’s will for your daily life? How has God equipped you to accomplish His will today?

**James**—In what is perhaps the first New Testament book written, James exhorts believers to put their faith into action. Be *doers* of the Word! James, one of Jesus’ younger half-brothers, was the leader of the early church in Jerusalem. James uses the Old Testament as he teaches, and Jesus’ *Sermon on the Mount* underlies much of this letter. James offers practical teaching for faith and fruitfulness.

#### Chapter 1

1. James encourages us to meet trials with joy because God uses them to strengthen our faith (vs.2-4). When has a trial strengthened your confidence in God? How might today’s challenges look different in this light?
2. Temptations appeal to the evil desires in our hearts (vs.13-14). What are your greatest temptations? What do they reveal about your heart? How does God help you resist?
3. We are called to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (vs. 22-25). In what ways do you obey God’s Word? In what ways do you offer lip-service without actions? In what way is God challenging you to be a doer today?

#### Chapter 2

1. James warns against showing favoritism (vs.1-9). When are you tempted to show favoritism? When have you witnessed favoritism? When have you been hurt by favoritism?
2. “*Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful*” (vs.13). When have others shown you mercy? When have you shown mercy? When have you withheld mercy? Is there someone to whom God would have you be merciful today?
3. Faith without works is dead (vs.17). How does your daily life demonstrate your faith? What are examples?

#### Chapter 3

1. James helps us understand our tongue as a great potential for evil (vs.1-12). When are you unkind with your words? Whom have you hurt with your words? Who do you need to ask to forgive you for cruel words? To whom might you speak healing and encouraging words today?
2. Vs.16 warns against envy. When have you been envious of others? When have others been envious of you? How would you describe the effects of envy? What envy does God need to help you overcome today?