



Small Books, Big Messages

**Titus – Part Two
Sermon Study Guide
November 1, 2020**

Introduction

This week, we will complete Titus, a “Short Book that has a Big Message”.

Review from Last Week

Paul had traveled with Titus to the island of Crete, led many people to Christ, and started a number of churches in different cities on the island. As Paul continued his missionary travels, he left Titus in Crete to organize and establish leadership/elders in the new churches.

Reading the qualifications for Elders last week, we noticed that the bar was set remarkably high concerning the Elder’s (1) **family life**, (2) **character**, and (3) **doctrine**.

Paul reminded Titus how “life change” happens in the church community:

- Older men are to **set an example** of godly living.
- Older women are to do likewise. Paul emphasized that the older women should also “**train/teach**” the younger women”.
- Titus was to also **set an example** for the younger men as to how they were to live.
 - It seems to me that, generally, men learn by **watching/seeing an example**, while women learn when they are **taught**.

We learned why it is so important that Christians live their lives in a godly manner.

- So that no one will have anything evil to say about the church – and so that the Gospel/ the church will not be discredited.
- As followers of Jesus Christ, our lives should **authenticate** rather than **deny** the power of the Gospel to change lives.
- The way we live our lives makes Christ “**believable**” or makes Christ “**unbelievable**” to those around us

Now, Paul addresses how we should handle ourselves in the workplace.

- How did Paul instruct slaves? Why? (2:9-10)

Slavery was common in Paul's day. Paul did not condemn slavery in any of his letters, but he advised slaves and masters to be loving and responsible in their conduct (Ephesians 6:5-9). The standards set by Paul can help today in the employee and employer relationship. Slavery in this time was not the type of bondage it was in America's history. In Paul's time, it was used to pay off your debts and punishments.

- What does the grace of God bring and for whom? (2:11)
- What should all Christians, whether old or young, be taught? (2:11-14)
- What motivation do we have to live righteous lives? (2:12-14)
- How did Paul emphasize the importance of teaching all Christians? (2:15)

Next, Paul Addresses How We Are to Conduct Ourselves as Citizens

This seems to be an appropriate topic in a short book like Titus, just 2 days before such a controversial election.

Paul is saying that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to make God look good even when we talk about politics. After all, I want to make God look good with my words and my actions, even if I disagree with what is happening around me.

Note: Though politics can and should be important to us as Christians and as Americans, we are to have a far greater allegiance to God and to Jesus Christ. *So, let us try not to poorly represent God in the way we talk about leaders that we really don't like – even if they get elected.*

Read Titus 3:1-12

- In what situation do you least exhibit your faith: in a fender bender, before or after a tough exam, in a situation you perceive as unfair at work, in sports, or when your candidate loses?
- In this context, why do you suppose Paul stresses “doing what is good”? (3:1, 8, 14)
- Why does Paul warn us about these evil character traits (list them) and what does He want us to seek? (NIV 3:2-3)

- From verses 4-7, what can you learn about God's character? His work in us? His purpose for us?
- All three persons of the Trinity are mentioned in these verses. (3:4-6) How does each person of the Trinity play a part of the redemptive work of salvation? Why is this important?

Since we have had all these amazing blessings given to us after coming to Christ, God expects us to put them into practice.

- Paul wanted Titus to insist that Christians in Crete be devoted to these things – to each one's personal character. How do these truths promote humility? Gratitude? A life of service? (3:8) How are these things excellent and profitable for the believer?
- The false teachers were basing their heresies on genealogies, dissensions, and foolish discussions. How can that happen in the church today?

Closing Words from Paul

Read 3:12-15

- Paul had trusted friends who could take over the work on Crete where Titus was working. Paul gives another reminder for them to devote themselves to good works, so if there was an urgent need they would be available. Grace be with you all.

- What good works have you devoted yourself to? Have you helped cases of urgent need in the church and community?