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TITUS

STUDY GUIDE



TITUS

SCRIPTURE READING

The Book of Titus

THEME

Church order is the central theme of Titus. Without proper leadership and order, the church is vulnerable to many problems and errors. Titus is given the mandate to set order in the churches by ordaining overseers and by teaching sound doctrine.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The book of Titus is written by Paul, the apostle, to Titus. (Titus 1:1-4)
 - 1. It appears that Titus was saved as a result of Paul's ministry. (Titus 1:4)
 - 2. Titus is not mentioned by name in the book of Acts.
 - 3. Titus is mentioned by name 13 times in letters written by Paul.
- B. Titus is one of the few letters that Paul addresses to an individual.
- C. Paul has left Titus on the island of Crete for the purpose of properly organizing the existing churches. (Titus 1:5)
 - 1. Titus is to ordain elders (spiritually mature men) who can properly oversee the churches.
 - 2. Paul gives Titus specific guidelines to follow when selecting church overseers. (Titus 1:6-9)
- D. Paul places tremendous confidence in Titus. (II Corinthians 8:23; II Corinthians 12:18)
- E. Titus is one of Paul's faithful traveling companions.

II. CHAPTER ONE

- A. Paul identifies himself as a servant of God. (Titus 1:1)
 - 1. When identifying himself, Paul uses the Greek word *doulos*, which means slave.
 - 2. A more accurate translation of this scripture would be, "Paul, a slave of God."
- B. Paul calls himself an apostle of Jesus Christ, which means one sent by Jesus. (Titus 1:1)
- C. Paul, a bond servant of God, is sent by Jesus to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- D. Faith and truth are the key factors with Paul. (Titus 1:1)
 - 1. Paul's service for God and recognition of truth is motivated by faith.
 - 2. Paul practices what he teaches to others.
- E. Paul's hope is in the eternal life which God promised before the world began. God cannot lie, so Paul's hope is secure. (Titus 1:2)
- F. God has chosen to reveal His will through preaching, and Paul is chosen to proclaim the Word of God with signs following. (Titus 1:3)
- G. This letter is written to Titus, whom Paul had evidently led to the Lord. (Titus 1:4)
- H. It appears that Paul leaves Crete before the churches are properly organized. (Titus 1:5)
- I. Titus is given the responsibility of selecting mature men to oversee the churches in every city in Crete. (Titus 1:5)
 - 1. Paul gives Titus specific guidelines to follow when selecting bishops. (Titus 1:6-9)
 - 2. Church overseers must live a life above reproach; after all, they set the example for the congregation to follow.

3. Titus is given the responsibility of setting the bishops over the various churches.
- J. Paul warns Titus of unruly and deceptive people who are in opposition to truth. (Titus 1:10)
1. Setting the churches in order is a means of restraining these people. (Titus 1:11)
 2. These false teachers have already turned families from the truth. (Titus 1:11)
 3. Love of money seems to be the motivating factor behind these false teachers. (Titus 1:11)
 4. One of the Cretians declares that Cretians are always liars, worthless animals, and lazy gluttons. (Titus 1:12)
 5. Paul tells Titus that this statement is true; therefore, he must rebuke these people sharply so that they may become sound in “the faith.” (Titus 1:13)
 6. Those who are sound in faith will not give heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men that turn people from the truth. (Titus 1:14)
- K. Paul contrasts the pure in heart with the impure in heart. (Titus 1:15)
1. Unto the pure, all things are pure. (Titus 1:15)
 2. Unto the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; even their minds and consciences are defiled. (Titus 1:15)
 - a. These defiled people profess to know God, but their actions speak differently. (Titus 1:16)
 - b. Because of the disobedience of the defiled and unbelieving, their works are disgusting to God. (Titus 1:16)
 - c. These defiled ones are incapable of making correct judgment concerning good works. (Titus 1:16)

III. CHAPTER TWO

- A. Titus is instructed by Paul to teach things suitable for sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1)
- B. The older men must be taught to be discreet, honorable, self-controlled, and true in the doctrine of faith, love, and patience. (Titus 2:2)
- C. The older women must be taught proper behavior. They must be taught to conduct themselves in a way that is pleasing unto God. (Titus 2:3)
 - 1. The older women are responsible for teaching younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, morally clean, domestically inclined, good (in every way), and to be submissive to their husbands so that the Word of God will not be blasphemed (defamed). (Titus 2:4-5)
 - 2. Learning precedes teaching. It appears that Titus first taught the older women who were responsible for teaching the younger women.
- D. The young men must be urged to be self-controlled, thereby behaving wisely. (Titus 2:6)
- E. Paul exhorts Titus to be an example that others can follow. (Titus 2:7)
 - 1. The teacher must teach the truth with pure motives. (Titus 2:7)
 - 2. The teacher must be honorable and sincere, demonstrating a lifestyle above reproach. (Titus 2: 8)
 - 3. Spiritual leaders must live their lives in such a way that the opposition cannot find fault, thereby discrediting them. (Titus 2:8; Daniel 6:4)
- F. Servants must be exhorted to be obedient to their masters and to please them in all things. (Titus 2:9-10)
 - 1. This statement also applies to employee/employer relationships.

2. Our relationships with others will have either a positive or negative effect on their attitude toward the gospel of Jesus.
 3. We should not speak against those who are over us, nor should we contradict them or steal from them.
- G. The grace of God, which brings salvation, has appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11)
- H. The grace of God instructs us that, after denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live a self-controlled life and walk uprightly and in a Godly manner in this present world. (Titus 2:12)
- I. We should be looking for the appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, which is our blessed hope. (Titus 2:13)
1. Jesus gave Himself for us to redeem us from all sin and to purify us. (Titus 2:14)
 2. We are to be a peculiar (different from the world) people with a zeal to do good works. (Titus 2:14)
- J. The previous instructions must be taught. (Titus 2:15)
- K. Exhortation and rebuke must be administered with authority. (Titus 2:15)
- L. We must conduct ourselves and teach in a way that commands respect. (Titus 2:15)

IV. CHAPTER THREE

- A. We must remind people to submit themselves to those in authority and to obey them. (Titus 3:1)
- B. We must also teach people to prepare themselves to participate in every kind of good work. (Titus 3:1)
- C. We must instruct people not to speak evil of or to slander others, but to be peaceable, gentle, and humble. (Titus 3:2)

- D. We must remember that we were once foolish, disobedient, and deceived, and that we lived according to the dictates of the flesh. (Titus 3:3)
- E. At one time, we lived an evil and jealous life in which we hated and detested one another. (Titus 3:3)
- F. God reveals His kindness and love to mankind by saving him. (Titus 3:4)
 - 1. We are not saved by righteous works; we are saved by God's mercy. (Titus 3:5)
 - 2. We are saved by the "washing of regeneration" and the "renewing of the Holy Spirit," which is given unto us through Jesus Christ, Who is our Savior. (Titus 3:5-6; Luke 3:16)
 - a. "Washing of regeneration" means baptism into a new birth.
 - b. "Renewing of the Holy Spirit" means renovation of our lives, which comes as a result of the Holy Spirit.
- G. We have been justified by God's grace and made heirs of eternal life, just as we hoped. (Titus 3:7)
- H. Constantly affirm the truth of salvation and remind people to maintain good works. (Titus 3:8)
- I. These instructions are good and profitable for men. (Titus 3:8)
- J. We must avoid foolish questions, tracing genealogies, and quarrels and controversies concerning the Word of God. These things are not profitable. (Titus 3:9)
- K. After giving two warnings, we are to avoid those who cause division and will not submit to instruction. (Titus 3:10)
 - 1. The violator is given two opportunities to repent before being cut off from fellowship.

2. One who causes division and will not repent is perverted. (Titus 3:11)
3. One who causes division and will not repent is in sin and actually condemns himself by refusing to repent. (Titus 3:11)
- L. It appears that Paul is sending either Artemis or Tychicus to replace Titus in Crete. Afterwards, Titus is to meet Paul in Nicopolis, where he plans to spend the winter. (Titus 3:12)
- M. Titus is instructed to give Zenas, the lawyer, and Apollos assistance so their needs will be met. (Titus 3:13)
- N. The believers are to be instructed to practice good works **for necessary things** so that they will not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)
- O. All those with Paul send their greetings to Titus. (Titus 3:15)
- P. Paul sends his greeting to those in Crete who love him. (Titus 3:15)
- Q. Paul closes this letter with his characteristic blessing, "grace be with you all." (Titus 3:15)

V. SUMMARY

- A. Paul left his good friend and traveling companion, Titus, in Crete for the purpose of setting order in the local churches.
- B. Order was to be set through instruction and the placement of godly oversight.
- C. Titus had the responsibility of teaching sound doctrine to the believers in this area.
- D. He also had the responsibility of selecting and ordaining mature men to oversee the local churches.
- E. Through the instructions given unto Titus by Paul, the standard of God's grace is revealed.

- F. Titus is reminded that both instruction and exhortation must be administered with authority.
- G. All believers must submit to and respect the authorities that have been placed over them.
- H. Paul concludes his instructions to Titus by disclosing the manifestation of God's love.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The truths and principles found in the letter to Titus must be applied to believers and churches today.
- B. Churches must be set in order, according to God's standard, not man's.
- C. Godly oversight must get into position, and ministers must instruct the Body of Christ in sound doctrine.