

## Titus overview

We see in Titus that Paul and Titus had been at Crete together – and their mission had seen converts, churches were springing up. In this letter (written in the early 60's AD), we see Paul's instructions to Titus to appoint leaders for the church. It sounds quite every-day and unspiritual, but this seeming normal task has real spiritual ramifications. It impacts the life of the church we see (1:11) as well as the ability of the Christians to share the gospel (2:5, 8, 10). In fact, everything Paul writes points to the life of purpose that God intends for those who are his through Jesus.

The book of Titus is important to Christ Church Cascades because it points out to us the life that God wants from his people; the power that he gives us to live this way – and the beautiful picture that our lives can paint of the beautiful saviour Jesus. Coming as it does in this year, as we've looked at the book of Romans, Titus helps us to consider what a life lived "in view of the mercies of God" would look like.



## Outline:

- I. Opening ([1:1-4](#))
- II. The Occasion: The Need for Proper Leadership ([1:5-9](#))
- III. The Problem: False Teachers ([1:10-16](#))
- IV. Christian Living in Contrast to the False Teachers ([2:1-3:8](#))
  - A. Proper living by age and gender groups ([2:1-10](#))
  - B. Gospel basis ([2:11-14](#))
  - C. Summary command ([2:15](#))
  - D. Proper living, particularly with respect to outsiders ([3:1-2](#))
  - E. Gospel basis ([3:3-7](#))
  - F. Summary command ([3:8](#))
- V. The Problem Restated: False Teachers ([3:9-11](#))
- VI. Closing Exhortation ([3:12-15](#))

## Key Themes:

1. The gospel by its nature produces godliness in the lives of believers. There is no legitimate separation between belief and behaviour.	<a href="#">1:1</a> ; <a href="#">2:1</a> , <a href="#">11-14</a> ; <a href="#">3:4-7</a>
2. One's deeds will either prove or disprove one's claim to know God.	<a href="#">1:16</a>
3. It is vitally important to have godly men serving as elders/pastors.	<a href="#">1:5-9</a>
4. True Christian living will commend the gospel to others.	<a href="#">2:5</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
5. Good works have an important place in the lives of believers.	<a href="#">2:1-10</a> , <a href="#">14</a> ; <a href="#">3:1-2</a> , <a href="#">8</a> , <a href="#">14</a>
6. It is important to deal clearly and firmly with doctrinal and moral error in the church.	<a href="#">1:10-16</a> ; <a href="#">3:9-11</a>
7. The gospel is the basis for Christian ethics.	<a href="#">2:11-14</a> ; <a href="#">3:3-7</a>

# The Book of Titus (CSB translation)

## Greeting

**1** Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, **2** in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. **3** In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Saviour:

**4** To Titus, my true son in our common faith.

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

## Titus's Ministry in Crete

**5** The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. **6** An elder must be blameless: the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. **7** As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless: not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, **8** but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, **9** holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.

**10** For there are many rebellious people, full of empty talk and deception, especially those from the circumcision party. **11** It is necessary to silence them; they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly. **12** One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." **13** This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith **14** and may not pay attention to Jewish myths and the commands of people who reject the truth.

<sup>15</sup>To the pure, everything is pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled. <sup>16</sup>They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work.

## **Sound Teaching and Christian Living**

**2** But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching. <sup>2</sup>Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. <sup>3</sup>In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, <sup>4</sup>so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God's word will not be slandered.

<sup>6</sup>In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled <sup>7</sup>in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity<sup>[a]</sup> in your teaching. <sup>8</sup>Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn't have anything bad to say about us.

<sup>9</sup>Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back <sup>10</sup>or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Saviour in everything.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation<sup>[b]</sup> for all people,<sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.

<sup>15</sup> Proclaim these things; encourage and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

### **Christian Living among Outsiders**

**3** Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. <sup>3</sup> For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness of God our Saviour and his love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.<sup>8</sup> This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone. <sup>9</sup> But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless. <sup>10</sup> Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. <sup>11</sup> For you know that such a person has gone astray and is sinning; he is self-condemned.

### **Final Instructions and Closing**

<sup>12</sup> When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me in Nicopolis, because I have decided to spend the winter there. <sup>13</sup> Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey, so that they will lack nothing.

<sup>14</sup> Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> All those who are with me send you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.

# Study 1: Foundations for a purpose-full Life

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## Introduction

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Paul's letters begin with a very formal greeting - not like the notes/emails we send to people today! But they are, in the formality, very revealing. They generally point out to us the main themes and ideas that Paul will want to bring across; so today we're going to look for clues as to what this letter is all about.

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## Into the text...

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Read Titus 1:1-4

1. What's the relationship between knowledge and godliness?
  - Why do both parts matter?
2. Where do you see 'truth' referred to/alluded to in this passage and why do you think it's so central?
3. As you think about these verses, what would you use to measure your growth in maturity as a Christian?

*A growth in godly behaviour based on what you learn. Not just learning, and not uninformed learning.*

**Digging Deeper:** If you have time think through the implications of a God who is truth, a body of truth, and the importance of truth in what we believe, what we say, and how we live.

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## Bringing it into our lives

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1. Reflect for a moment on the last 12 months of your Christian life. How has what you've learnt from God changed your life?
2. If God has revealed his promise of eternal life through the word of truth, then how can you better listen to a sermon for:
  - It's content?
  - It's application?
3. What makes the Bible in church, Growth Groups and elsewhere so important for:
  - You and other Christians?
  - Non-Christians?
4. How have you been treating the Bible (read/preached) in a way that shows that you consider its message to be life-giving and life-changing?
5. How can you as a group help one another (and others in CCC) to see the revealed word as valuable and to grow in godliness?

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## Responding to God

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- Give thanks to God the Saviour who has revealed to us who he is and what he's done.
- Pray for one another to see the magnificence and importance of God's revealed word in our lives.

# Study 2: Choosing the right life coach

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## Introduction

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We saw in our first study that God saves people for a life of godliness. He does so through his truth revealed in his word. As Titus heads to Crete, he is to put in place leaders who will embody the right principles in order for God's church to flourish

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## Into the text...

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1. Read slowly through Titus 1:5-16 and, as you do, jot down what the purpose of the elders are.
2. What has made the appointment of elders necessary?
3. Have a look through vv6-9 and write in one word the one "thing" that is of primary importance for leaders in God's church.
4. Let's consider the false teachers / teaching. Look through vv10-11 and think about why the truth is so important?
5. What generally lies at the heart of false teaching / false teachers?
6. Paul says that Titus is to rebuke false teachers (or those who listen to them – the text is slightly ambiguous). What is the rebuke intended to do and why can you consider it loving?



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## Bringing it into our lives

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7. How will this help you pray for your elders, and consider any potential future church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. False / unhealthy teaching is generally driven by a rebellious heart (ungodly living).  
When did you last change what you believe to suit a behaviour? How did this turn out?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Is the correction and rebuke of Christians only to be done by elders? Where else do we see this happening? Is this something you have experience of? Have you seen it done well or badly? What happened?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Spend some time in your group speaking about how you can best encourage and rebuke one another in godly living. You may want to consider other texts like: Matt 18:15-20; Eph 4:25-32; Gal 6:2; ;Phil 2:1-11.

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## Responding to God

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- Pray for your leaders – for growth in character.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Ask God to help you be someone who does not change your beliefs based on how you want to live.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Pray for the strength to love each other enough to not only encourage but also rebuke ungodly living.

# Study 3: Every day devotion

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## Introduction

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In contrast to the false teachers of chapter 1, Titus is to teach things that “accord with sound doctrine”. In chapter 2 we see what these things look like – and they apply to our every-day lives.

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## Into the text...

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1. Read through Titus 2:1-10. Make notes about the following:
  - What “groups” of people will these teachings apply to?
  - What character traits/instructions are repeated?
  - What are the reasons behind the instructions?
2. If someone asked you what these verses are all about – how would you (simply) answer them?
3. When you look at the relationships Paul is talking about here what is noticeable in how the different groups interact with each other?
  - a. What aspect of CCC's DNA is thus highlighted?
  - b. What do you think such interaction would mean for us individually and as a church? In what way could this be of benefit to PMB?
4. The instructions in these verses suggest that our domestic/daily life is to be visible enough to outsiders that they see counter-cultural living. This is hard when we live busy lives behind high walls. Where can we be more visible or include others in our lives?

5. Take a few minutes to work your way through the different instructions to each group, and what they might mean:

Older Men:

Older Women:

Young Women:

Young Men:

Titus:

Slaves:

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## **Bringing it into our lives**

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6. Which group/s do you fall into? As you look at Paul's words here – how are you a) encouraged, and b) challenged?
7. Where can you be compellingly counter-cultural at home or at work this week?
8. In what area of life do you need to disciple someone – or do you yourself need to be disciplined? How can you actively set about doing this?
9. Think of one main area of your life where you need to apply self-control. How can your group pray for and encourage you in this?

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## **Responding to God**

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- Pray for one another in the areas that have been mentioned.
- Thank God for a blueprint to life which is good and healthy.
- Ask God to give you the strength, by his indwelling Spirit – to obey these instructions – and adorn the teaching you believe in.

# Study 4: Doctrine leading to Devotion

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## Introduction

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Often we find being given instructions on how to live quite... draining. While helpful, they may not be empowering in and of themselves. What is it that gives us the power to live the purposeful life? Let's take a look...

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## Into the text...

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1. Read through Titus 2:11-15 and have a look for:
  - Two "appearings" – what are they?
  - What do these "appearings" bring/mean?
2. How does v14 describe what Jesus has done – and how does it impact us?
3. Considering what we've seen in Titus so far why might the church in Crete need to have the gospel spelt out like this?
  - Why do you think you need to have the gospel spelt out like this?
4. In what ways is Titus instructed to teach these truths (v15)? Which do you think you need right now?

5. Go back to verse 14 and write down who you are as a Christian because of what Jesus has done.
  - How can this identity you have help you in your life?

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## **Bringing it into our lives**

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6. Have you ever considered that godliness is an integral part of God's grace? How does this change your view of the life you lead?
  
7. How would you use these verses as a blueprint for sharing the gospel with someone who doesn't know Jesus?
  
8. What have you been trying to say "no" to; and how can the gospel help you?
  
9. Where would this make you stand out for Christ in your culture – and is this exciting / scary?

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## **Responding to God**

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- There is much to thank God for in this section. Take one aspect that has really struck you... and say thank you.
  
- Ask God to help you apply the gospel of grace to your godliness, being motivated by what he has done for us in Jesus.

# Study 5: The attraction of purposeful living

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## Introduction

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It's easy to draw lines of distinction between yourself and other people; based on race, culture, age, education, and religion. While Christians are to be distinctive (which we've seen throughout this letter), this distinctiveness will have a certain humility to it – which Paul motivates with the gospel.

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## Into the text...

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1. Read Titus 2:11-3:15 (skip over the paragraph headings in your Bible). Notice the flow between our text last week, and the text this week.

- What instructions are given to Titus in:

- v1:
- v8:
- v9:
- v10

- :What are Christians instructed to do in:

- v14:

*"Remind them to submit; Insist on these things (gospel of vv3-7); avoid foolish debates etc; reject a divisive person". "Learn to devote".*

- How do these imperatives help us see what God considers of importance here?

2. Read vv1&2. The first focuses on authorities, and the second is much broader. What two words would you use to summarise the attitude God desires of the Christian?

3. Read through vv3-8 carefully. As you read through take some time to note the following:

a. The need for salvation?

b. The source of salvation?

c. The ground of salvation?

d. The means of salvation?

e. The goal of salvation?

4. Why do you think that Paul instructs Titus to insist on this, and avoid any debates?

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## Bringing it into our lives

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5. As you think through vv3-7, how can we respond to the amazing kindness of God in the following:

a. Confidence:

b. Humility:

c. Praise:

d. Love:

6. Which of these four do you need help to work at? How will meditating on God's kindness help you in that?

7. Do you ever do the godly thing, only to be met with malice and envy? How do these verses encourage you to keep going?

8. When do you find it easiest to discuss controversy instead of the gospel? How can you prevent yourself from doing this?

9. How seriously do you view divisiveness?

10. As we come to the end of Titus take a moment to write down one thing that has really struck you, and ask for prayer to remember this, or to live it out.

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## Responding to God

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- Thank God for saving you – when you had done nothing to deserve it – and at such great cost to himself.
- Ask for help to learn to devote yourself to living in light of the gospel in all that you do.