

A Study Outline of Titus

Introduction

Titus is mentioned 13 times in the New Testament.

He travelled with Paul and assisted him in collecting money for poor Christians (2 Cor. 8:23; Gal. 2:1).

The purpose of this letter is stated in 1:5.

Chapter 1

1:1-4 – Paul’s salutation.

- Verse 2 reassures us of the faithfulness of God (2 Tim. 2:13).
- It is important to note HOW God’s word is manifested – by preaching (v. 3).

1:5-8 – Titus needed to know the qualifications of elders.

- A church without elders is “wanting” (i.e. lacking).
- Positives:
 - Husband of one wife.
 - Faithful (believing – NKJ) children.
 - Lover of hospitality.
 - Lover of good things.
 - Sober.
 - Just.
 - Holy.
 - Temperate.
 - Holding fast to the word in order to... (v. 9-13).
- Negatives:
 - Blameless (without reproach) as a steward of God.
 - Not self-willed.
 - Not soon angry (short-tempered).
 - Not given to wine.
 - No striker.
 - Not given to filthy lucre.

1:9-13 – An elder’s responsibility in standing for the truth.

- An elder needs to be able to exhort (Greek = call to the side) and convince (to prove wrong, to shame) false teachers.
- While the preacher is usually the “face” of the congregation, it is the elders who are to see that what is taught is the truth. Elders are responsible for the shepherding of the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:1-3).

1:14-16 – The defiled Cretans.

- The people of Crete had quite a bad reputation!
- The “prophet” referred to was Epimenides, who lived around 600 BC.

- In his commentary on Titus, William Hendriksin states that there was even a noun (Cretism) which was a synonym for a lie.
- Verse 15 is talking about the things that the Jewish teachers (circumcision of v. 10) were trying to bind on the Lord's people.
- An understanding of Matthew 23 is helpful in grasping what Paul is saying.

Chapter 2

In opposition to the false teachers of 1:10-16, Titus is told to speak sound doctrine.

Four age groups of people in the church are addresses:

- Older (aged) men (2:2).
- Older (aged) women (2:3-4a).
- Younger women (2:4b-5).
- Younger men (2:6-8).

Paul also addresses servants (2:9-10). Today this would be applicable to Christian employees. Don't talk back to your employer. Purloining means, "the abstraction or retention for one's self of a part of something entrusted to one's care."

All of what Paul instructed Timothy in verses 9-10 are based on the grace of God (v. 11-14).

- He gives all the instruction for Christian conduct and then says, "For..."
- Our behavior should be motivated by the amazing grace of God.
- The grace of God is the only reason that we have any hope for heaven. Man had no part in prompting or earning the grace of God.
- Salvation is the product of the grace of God, but no man was ever saved by grace alone.
- Every human has the same opportunity to be saved by grace, but there are things we must do in order to access the grace of God (v. 12).
- We are also saved by the hope that we have of the redemption of our bodies which will occur when Christ returns (Rom. 8:23-25).
- The purpose of the incarnation was that we might be redeemed in order to become God's special people who do what is right (v. 14).
- The gospel is an authoritative message (v. 15)!

Chapter 3

3:1-2 – Responsibilities of God's peculiar people.

- Lawlessness and disregard for authorities is thought to be a "right" by many people.
- The Christian can live faithfully to God in any circumstance and under any form of government. Nero was the emperor of Rome when Paul wrote to Titus.

3:3-7 – A contrast of pre- and post-conversion life.

- Verse 3 is pre-conversion life. Reflecting on one's previous condition helps one to appreciate his present condition in Christ.
- God's favor appeared to mankind, not because man deserved it, but because he needed it and God loved him.
- Salvation was made available because of the graciousness and mercy of God.
- Salvation is achieved by (*dia – through*) washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Greek word for regeneration actually means, "new birth."
 - John 3:3-5 explains the washing of the new birth.
 - Biblically, there is no way to understand this verse without discussing baptism!
 - Acts 22:16 and 1 Peter 3:21 help us understand it.
- Renewing of the Holy Spirit is a reference to the newness of life that is a result of obedience to the gospel.
 - Baptism is not an "external rite" or a "sacrament."
 - It is a command of God that must be obeyed in order for sins to be washed away.
- In these few verses Paul mentions God's kindness, love, mercy, and grace. All of these make eternal life the hope for the Christian.

3:8 – Remind Christians to maintain good works and be profitable for God's cause.

3:9-11 – The things that Jewish Christians argued about were profitable for nothing.

- Any person who is factious or divisive should be withdrawn from.
- Verse 11 explains why.

3:12-15 – Closing remarks.