

TITUS 1

Paul realized and stated as to who was in control of his life. He had been born again into slavery to Christ (Jesus is control of his life as a Christian). His faith is based on God's truth and the promise of eternal life. This promise had been planned by God prior to the creation of the world and has now made it known to man.

Paul is writing to Titus. He had won Titus to Christ and had ministered with him in various places, including Crete, where Titus is now located.

Titus' role in Crete was to see that the local congregations had ordained (set apart) elders. Once again, essential criteria are given in these circumstances. The elder MUST BE: blameless, husband of one wife, believing children who are obedient and self-controlled. They must not be overbearing, quick-tempered, given to wine, violent or pursuing dishonest gain. They are to be: hospitable, loves what is good, self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined and holds firmly to the truth. The reason for such a stringent criteria is that they are entrusted with GOD'S WORK and must be able to encourage others through sound doctrine and put to silence, those who try and oppose it.

Paul reminds Titus that the prevalence of false teachers was great. They deceived others, trying to make a quick buck, are corrupt, deny God by their actions (even though they claim to know him) and are regarded as detestable and unfit for accomplishing good. These people were leading devout Christians astray and ruining their faith. To prevent this, the local eldership was to refute these, so as to save the faithful remnant.

TITUS 2

Paul tells Titus what to teach to the various groups. These things are in accordance with the teachings of Christ. The older men are to be an example to others: temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, sound in faith, love and endurance. Such people would be looked upon as role models for those younger.

The older women are to be reverent, not slanderers or addicted to much wine, teaching what is good. They are responsible for teaching the younger women to love their husbands and children, be self-controlled, pure, busy at home, kind, and subject to their husbands. In so doing, they will bring glory to the Christian faith and the Kingdom will grow as a result. The fact that the older women are to train the younger not only places responsibility on the older women to teach, but also on the younger women to be teachable!

The young men are to be self-controlled. They were to see in Titus the need for: integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech, so that the faith might be well looked upon and accepted by outsiders.

Slaves (in our day the teachings would apply to employees) were to be obedient to their masters, striving to please them, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating that they are trustworthy. In so doing even their masters would recognize the benefits of the Christian faith.

Salvation has been extended to men and those accepting are to strive to live godly lives. Those faithful to Christ will receive the glorious reward of eternal life when Christ returns. Jesus was the one who made such salvation possible by dying on the cross so that we might be cleansed from sin and be made acceptable in God's sight.

In a nutshell, this is what is to be taught, in regard to conduct. Titus was given the authority to rebuke and to encourage. People were not to despise him as he served in this manner.

TITUS 3

Paul now speaks regarding the Christians relationship to society. The rulers and authorities are to be obeyed. They Christians are not to slander, rather are to be peaceable, considerate and humble (proper recognition of self and others).

The reason for such an attitude towards non-Christians is that once all of us were in their place. Only because of God's mercy and His transformation of our lives through the Spirit, have we been saved. It was not based on whether we deserved it, rather it was based on our acceptance of Christ. In Jesus, we are made to be without sin in God's sight. Now we are to devote ourselves to doing what is good, excellent and profitable for all.

That which is unprofitable, we are not to be entangled in controversy over. Those who are divisive in such a way are to be warned 2 times, at the most, then they are to be avoided for they are sinful and self-condemned.

Paul asks for Titus to come quickly with other fellow-workers. As Christians we are to devote ourselves to leading productive lives and doing what is good.

STUDY GUIDE

TITUS 1

1. What does the knowledge of truth lead to?
2. When did God promise the hope of eternal life?
3. How did God bring His word to light?
4. What was Titus to do in every town?
5. Describe the elders children.
6. What is the overseer entrusted with?
7. Why must he hold firmly to the message?
8. What are there many of?
9. Why must they be silenced?
10. Why are they to be rebuked sharply?
11. What is corrupted, in corrupted people?
12. Even though they claim to know God, how do they deny Him?

BONUS:

1. What is the significance of when God promised eternal life?
2. What are the elders responsible for?
3. Where the "rebellious", etc., Christians? Support your view.

STUDY GUIDE

TITUS 2:

1. What must Titus teach in accord with?
2. What was to be taught to older men?
3. What were the older women to be?
4. What were the older women to teach the younger?
5. What was he to encourage the younger men?
6. What was he to demonstrate in his teaching?
7. Why might those who oppose be ashamed?
8. What were slaves to be taught?
9. What has appeared to all men?
10. How are we then taught to live?
11. What has Jesus done for us?
12. What was Titus to do with all authority?

BONUS:

1. Is it practical for older women to teach younger women today?
Support your view.
2. Do verses 9 and 10 apply today? Explain.
3. Why is Christ worthy of our service?

Study Guide

TITUS 3:

1. Who are we to be subject to?
2. What are we to show to all men?
3. What were we at one time?
4. Why did God save us?
5. How did He save us?
6. What might we become, having the hope of eternal life?
7. What should those who have trusted in God, devote themselves to?
8. What are we to avoid?
9. Why are we to avoid these things?
10. What are we to do with a divisive person?
11. What does Paul conclude about such a person?
12. Why must we learn to devote ourselves to doing what is good?

BONUS

1. What is humility?
2. What are the "things" that are excellent and profitable?
3. What is Paul considering "productive"? Explain.