



## Bible Books Chapter by Chapter Series

# TITUS

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

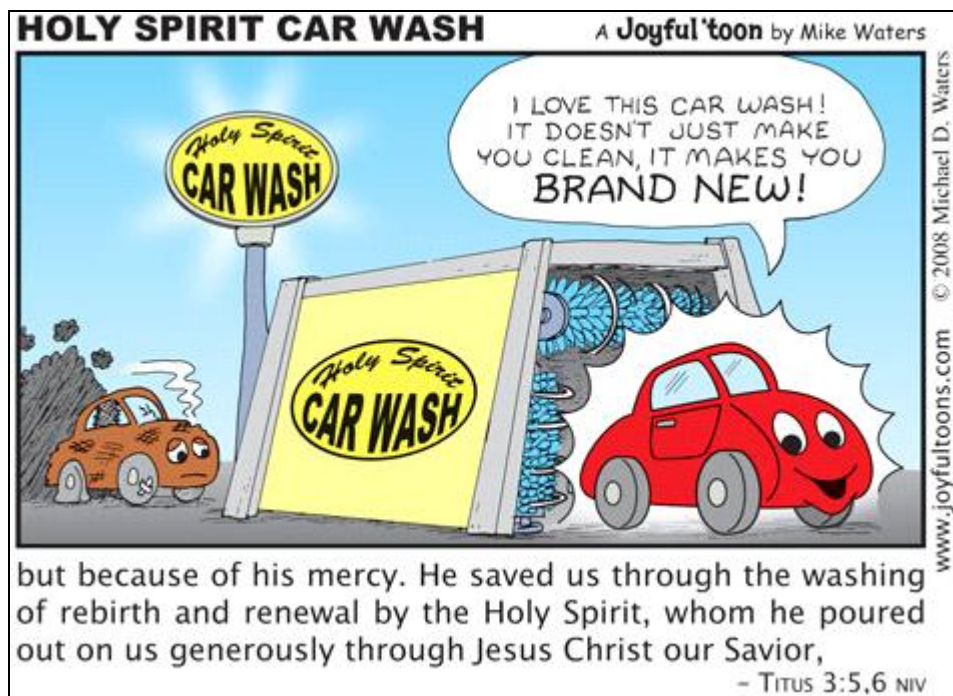
Course Text: Titus

### Outline:

#### Lesson/Topic

- 1 Chapter 1 –  
Christian Leadership
- 2 Chapter 2 –  
Christian Behavior
- 3 Chapter 3 –  
Christian Community

The Epistle to Titus is a letter from Paul to a young pastor he was mentoring. The man Titus is not mentioned in Acts, but we know from what is said about him in Galatians, that he was already with Paul by the time of the Jerusalem conference in Acts 15. By the time of this letter he has been left by Paul in Crete. Paul writes giving him some instructions concerning the organization of the church and the expected behavior of the members.



### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's chapter aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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## Lesson 1 - Christian Leadership - Titus Chapter 1

Paul identifies himself as a apostle of Jesus Christ, gives a two line summary of the Gospel. He gives Titus some criteria for selecting leaders for the churches that are being planted. He warns that there are many people who are enemies of God.

Please read Titus chapter 1 and answer these questions:

[1A] What is it that God can not do? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] What relationship does Paul say he has with Titus? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] How many wives should a leader have? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] How can you tell if someone is truthful who claims to know God? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] In 2 Cor 8:6 and 8:23. What does Paul call Titus? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] In 2 Cor 12:17-18. Did Titus take advantage of the Corinthians? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Read the qualifications for a church leader in Titus 1:5-9. Please describe what a person like this would be like today.

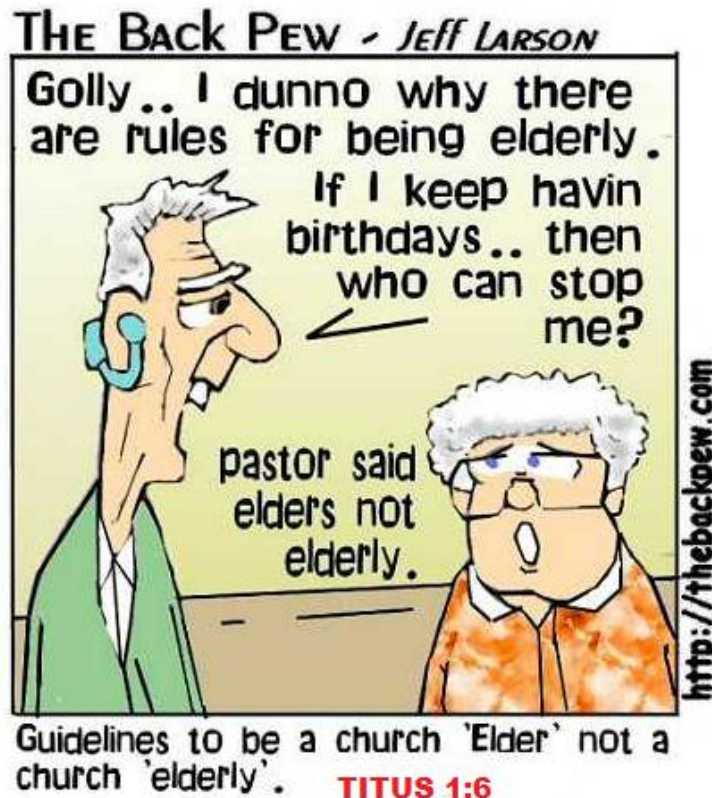
Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 1 - Christian Leadership - Titus Chapter 1**

[1A] What is it that God can not do? Lie (Tts 1:2)

[1B] What relationship does Paul say he has with Titus? Titus is Paul's child (Tts 1:4)

[1C] How many wives should a leader have? No more or less than one (Tts 1:6)

[1D] How can you tell if someone is truthful who claims to know God? By his deeds (Tts 1:15-16)

[1E] Read 2 Cor 8:6 and 8:23. What does Paul call Titus? Partner and fellow-worker

[1F] Read 2 Cor 12:17-18. Did Titus take advantage of the Corinthians? No

[1G] Here is how I would describe a man qualified for Christian leadership today based on Titus 1:5-9 :

*above reproach* – he is generally thought to have integrity, he has a good reputation.

*the husband of one wife* – he has one, and only one wife. This excludes bachelors, bigamists, and polygamists. (In my opinion, it does not exclude widowers and divorced men who have remarried, unless they are fathers to more than one household. If they have children in more than one household, they don't have time to lead a church. For further thought?)

*having children who believe* – has already demonstrated Christian leadership in his family

*not accused of dissipation* – Not lazy. Works hard. Reliable.

*not accused of rebellion* – Submissive to proper authority.

*not self-willed* – not in love with his own ideas, not arrogant, seeks wise counsel

*not quick-tempered* – it is difficult to make him angry

*not addicted to wine* – does not drink alcohol to get drunk or use drugs for entertainment

*not pugnacious* – does not like to fight

*not fond of sordid gain* – does not worship money

*hospitable* – likes having visitors, generous with his possessions and time

*loving what is good* – loves righteousness

*sensible* – has a good dose of common sense

*just* – fair minded, unbiased

*devout* – faithful in attendance at worship services, should also be evidence of regular home devotion

*self-controlled* – self disciplined

*holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching* – knows his Bible well

*so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine* – able to explain Christianity to others

*to refute those who contradict* – able to defend Christianity from those who would discredit it

What is described here in Titus is “the ideal” requirements for Church Leaders. That which people are, does not always match that which they should be. It is sad when we see poor quality in “Doctors, Lawyers, Business Owners, etc.”; but it is really terrible when we see poor quality in “Church Leaders”.

**For further thought:**

(1h) Of the qualities of leadership described in Titus 5:9 which ones are your strengths? Which ones have the most room for improvement in you?

(1i) The phrase "the husband of one wife" in Titus 1:6 is taken by some to mean that only men can serve as elders in a church. What do you think and why?

(1j) Titus is told the qualifications of an "elder." What do you think this term means? What is the difference between an elder and a deacon, bishop, pastor, prophet or preacher?

(1k) If your friends were talking about you to other people, what would they say about your Christianity? How do you know?

(1l) If you were on a search committee for a church to select a new pastor which of the qualifications in Titus 1:5-9 would be most important? Least important? Why?

**Lesson 2 - Christian Behavior - Titus Chapter 2**

Paul gives Titus a list of things to tell the people in the church regarding their behavior. Paul expects the people to honor, respect, and praise Jesus Christ.

Please read Titus Chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

[2A] Who are to not be malicious gossips? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] Who are to love their children? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] Who are to be dignified and sensible? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] What brings the salvation to all men? \_\_\_\_\_

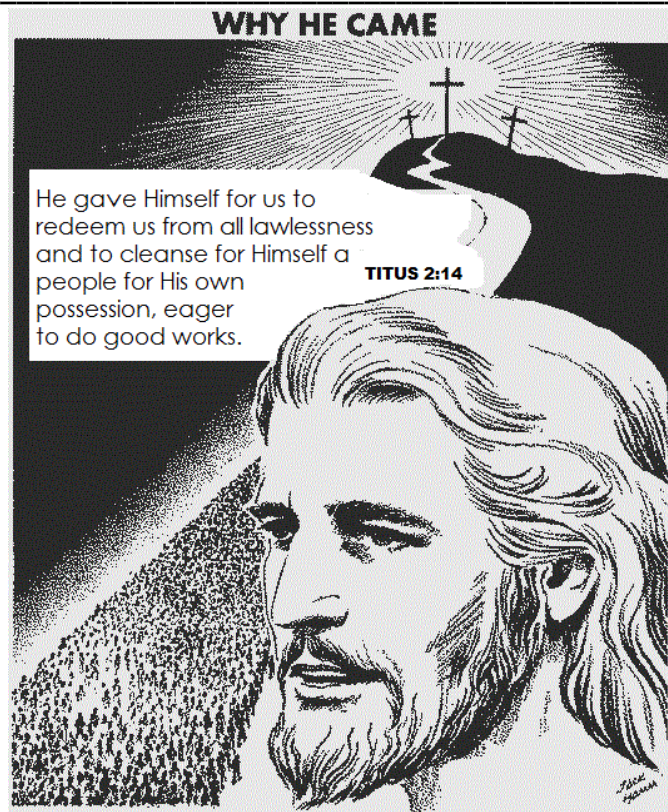
[2E] Jesus Christ gave Himself to redeem us from what? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] In Galatians 2:1-3. What nationality was Titus? \_\_\_\_\_

[2G] In 2 Timothy 4:9-10. Where was Titus? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] Read what grace brings in Titus 2:11-14. Please explain what you think this means.

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 2 - Christian Behavior - Titus Chapter 2**

- [2A] Who are to not be malicious gossips? Older women (Tts 2:3)  
 [2B] Who are to love their children? Young women (Tts 2:4)  
 [2C] Who are to be dignified and sensible? Older men (Tts 2:2) & Younger men (Tts 2:7)  
 [2D] What brings the salvation to all men? Grace of God (Tts 2:11)  
 [2E] Jesus Christ gave Himself to redeem us from what? Every lawless deed (Tts 2:13-14)  
 [2F] Read Galatians 2:1-3. What nationality was Titus? Greek  
 [2G] Read 2 Timothy 4:9-10. Where was Titus? Dalmatia  
 (Dalmatia was the Roman province just north of Macedonia)

[2H] This is the way I see Titus 2:11-14. Basically this passage is saying God's Grace = Jesus Christ. Jesus brought salvation to all men. Jesus instructed us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires. The word "teaching" or "instructing" in verse 12 is from the Greek word "*paideuo*" meaning not only to instruct (even the Law could instruct men "to do", or "not to do"), but to train, to educate so as to produce godly conduct. Jesus instructed us to live sensibly, righteously, and godly. Jesus instructed us to expect him to return. It is saying here that "Jesus is God's Grace," in much the same way that the Bible says in other places that Jesus is the light of the world, love, bread of life, the door, the good shepherd, the resurrection, the way, the truth, and the life. The way it states it in verse 13 it puts, "our great God and Savior" in apposition to "Christ Jesus." This means that it is saying that Jesus is Lord. It says that the purpose Jesus had for making His sacrifice was to redeem us from unrighteousness so that He might have people who follow Him who are enthusiastic about doing good.

**For further thought:**

- (2i) What does Titus 2:13 mean?  
 (2j) The Greek word for "older" or "aged" in Titus 2:2-3 is exactly the same Greek word used in Titus 1:5 that is usually translated "elder." It can be used to describe someone in leadership or someone of advanced age. The difference has to be determined by context. Clearly in chapter one, it is talking about someone in a leadership position. Most translators take it to be talking about actual age in chapter 2, but that is just their opinion. From the context could it be understood as meaning men and women leaders? Why or why not?  
 (2k) People have sometimes pointed to Titus 2:9 as justification for the institution of slavery. Is Paul talking about the institution of slavery or the behavior of Christians who find themselves caught in slavery? How do you know?  
 (2l) What does the final sentence in Titus 2:15 mean? "Let no one disregard you."  
 (2m) In Titus 2:14 Paul says, He is cleansing us into people who are "eager to do good works." Does that describe you? If you claim that it does, can you give examples? If not, why not?  
 (2n) Do you have a person in your life that you look to for guidance in your Christian walk, as Paul is giving to Titus? If so, why that person? If not, what are you waiting for?

**Lesson 3 - Christian Community - Titus Chapter 3**

Paul continues his listing of good behaviors. He reminds Titus that at one time we were all sinners until God saved us. Paul's expectation is that one who has been saved should behave well, but that it does not just happen. We have to do it on purpose, otherwise Titus would not have to preach to the Cretens who were saved. After some administrative details he sends greetings and blesses the reader.

Please read Titus Chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

[3A] Who are we to obey? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] By what are we justified? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] How many warnings does factious (someone who causes arguments) get? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Where was Paul planning to spend the winter? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] In 2 Cor 2:12-13 Paul was expecting to meet Titus where?? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] In 2 Cor 7:5-8 and 7:12-16 Paul finally met Titus where? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] Compare Titus 3:1 with Acts 5:29. Titus 3:1 says we are to be obedient to those in authority over us, but Acts 5:29 gives an example of the Apostles disobeying the authorities. Since God's word never contradicts itself, explain these two passages so they do not contradict each other.

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Titus Conclusion:**

[C1] Which verse would you select to memorize from Titus? Why?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[C2] If someone asked you what Titus was about what would you say?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[C3] How can the lessons of Titus be applied to our own life?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, now might be a good time to discuss them with your classmates.

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 3 - Christian Community - Titus Chapter 3**

[3A] Who are we to obey? Rulers and authorities (Tts 3:1)

[3B] By what are we justified? His grace (Tts 3:7)

[3C] How many warnings does factious (someone who causes arguments) get? Two (Tts 3:9-11)

[3D] Where was Paul planning to spend the winter? Nicopolis (Tts 3:12)

[3E] In 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 Paul was expecting to meet Titus where? Troas

[3F] In 2 Cor 7:5-8 and 7:12-16 Paul finally met Titus where? Macedonia

[3G] Titus 3:1 says we are to be obedient to those in authority over us, and Acts 5:29 gives an example of the Apostles disobeying the authorities, but they do not contradict at all. We are to be obedient to all authority over us, unless they require us to do something against God's law. Notice an important distinction here. It does not matter how godly the authorities are in their own lives. It does not matter how smart they are. The measure of our obedience has to be taken from the content of what they require of us, not how they themselves behave. In other words, even if they are ungodly sinners, and their laws are stupid and inconvenient, as long as whatever they command is not wrong in God's eyes, we should do it. I find that a good working principle for dealing with people in authority over me is - "I will obey you, as long as the thing you tell me to do isn't Sinful, Immoral, or Illegal". Civil lawmakers do not have the right to command us to disobey God, nor to do something God says is sin.

**For further thought:**

(3h) How are we supposed to distinguish between answering those who contradict sound doctrine as it says in Titus 1:9 and foolish controversies mentioned in Titus 3:9? Can you think of some examples of each?

(3i) Does Titus 3:1 mean that the men who led the American Colonies to revolt against the king were wrong? How do you know?

(3j) In Titus 3:1, 8 & 14 Paul talks about "doing good" or "good works." This term is also mentioned in chapter 2 verses 7 & 14. Why is Paul emphasizing this? (Hint: Titus 3:5)

(3k) Titus 3:3 describes what Paul and Titus were like before they were saved. What were you caught up in before Jesus appeared in your life? Our "before & after" stories of salvation are our most powerful witnessing too. What is your story?

(3l) What does Titus 3:4-7 tell us about the character of God? So what?

**Titus Conclusion:**

**[C1]** Which verse would you select to memorize from Titus? Why?

For me it must be Titus 3:1 "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed," because obeying foolish, unrighteous, people is very difficult for me.

**[C2]** If someone asked you what Titus was about what would you say?

The Epistle to Titus is a letter from Paul to a young pastor and church planter he was guiding. Paul writes giving Titus some instructions concerning the organization of the churches and the righteous behavior of Christians.

**[C3]** How can the lessons of Titus be applied to our own life?

Titus is a letter of exhortations about our "Conduct". Very simply stated, Paul exhorts us to "become" what we "became"—: new creatures. While building the Church is the work of God (Eph. 1:1-14), He gives us the privilege of being laborers together with Him (I Cor. 3:9). And we should be maturing so that we may teach others (II Tim. 2:2). Paul never even suggested that "Liberty" in Christ equals "License" to sin. The theme that runs throughout his epistles, including this one, is "Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Cor. 14:40).