

## A LOOK AT THE BOOK TITUS

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### BACKGROUND

After Paul wrote 1 Timothy he visited Crete.

He had been there earlier, while on his way to Rome.

It is not known whether he founded the church there.

When he found problems at the church, he left Titus to correct them.

Titus was a faithful co-worker.

He had been sent to handle serious problems at Corinth twice.

His ability there is witnessed in Paul's letters to the Corinthians.

Now he is to organize the church in Crete.

The situation in Crete is discouraging.

There is lots of religion but little relationship between religion and life.

*Compare Latin American religion.*

*Compare our own culture.*

*Lots of religious display.*

*Little practical demonstration of godliness.*

This attitude toward religion had affected the church in Crete also.

Therefore corrective action was necessary.

***Religious profession had little effect on daily living.***

### Major problem: False teachers

-Legalism--earn your own way to God (1:14)

-Ritualism--Religion without power-- without Christ (1:16)

-Paganism--Religion that didn't affect lifestyle. (1:16)

*Do we see this kind of lifestyle reflected around us, in our own culture?*

*To what extent has this attitude affected our church?*

*What can we do about it?*

Solution: Leave Titus to straighten out that which was crooked. 1:5

## PURPOSE AND THEME

Paul writes to encourage Titus in the midst of a discouraging situation.

The content of the book is to serve as a guide for Titus as to what Paul expects him to do there.

He is to organize the church and deal with their attitude toward religion.

### Major theme:

- 1:1 – *"the truth that leads to godliness"*
- 1:16 – *their actions demonstrate the falsity of their doctrine*
- 2:1 – *"teach what is in accord with sound doctrine"*
- 2:10 – *"so that . . . they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive"*
- 2:11-12 – *"the grace of God . . . teaches us to . . ."*
- 3:8 – *" . . . so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good."*

### **Sound doctrine should be accompanied by a sound lifestyle.**

Notice the emphasis on "doing what is good" (8 X) 1:8, 16; 2:3, 7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14

Paul's main thesis: sound doctrine should be accompanied by sound practice.

The false teachers at Crete, which include the Judaizers, have demonstrated the emptiness of their systems by their lifestyles.

False doctrine has produced corrupt lifestyles.

Paul exhorts them to demonstrate the truth of their doctrine by a proper lifestyle.

*We need to hear that exhortation today also!*

## ORGANIZATION

Although the outline contains various details which logically characterize a personal letter, the heart of the letter can be divided into two main parts:

**The godly conduct which should adorn sound doctrine 1-2**

**The cause of godly conduct: the grace of God in our lives 3**

## ARGUMENT

### GREETING 1:1-4

Paul introduces the letter with a greeting in which he refers to the relationship between sound doctrine and good works.

Knowledge of the truth leads to godliness.

## COMMISSION GIVEN TO TITUS 1:5

*How do you get them to do that? How do you convince them to live this way?*

**Solution: Leave Titus to straighten out that which was crooked.**

**=> Godly Leaders**

**Appoint leaders**--but only those who are *blameless*--

Leaders they can model their lives after.

The message of the book begins with a reminder to Titus of his initial commission when Paul left him in Crete.

*He was left to straighten out some unresolved problems  
and to organize the church by appointing elders.*

The main task is to "set in order what remains" (NAS)  
("straighten out what was left unfinished" (NIV);  
Lit., "to straighten out that which was still crooked"

The idea of the verb is like an orthopedist--his job is to straighten out the crooked parts of the body of the one who is ill.

In the case of the church at Crete, the presence of a religious system that didn't affect the life of the people had left God's people "crooked" too.

Titus was the spiritual orthopedist; he was sent to straighten out that which was still crooked in the church.

*How was he going to do this? How would you go about it in this situation?*

Will haranguing the people from the pulpit do it?

The second part of the commission answers the question.

They are two sides of the same coin.

**The way to straighten out the problem is by the selection of elders.**

**Not just any elders--but elders who are *blameless*!**

The answer is not people who imitate the world's standards  
It's not people who are successful.  
It's not people who are popular.  
It's not politicians.

They must be leaders who demonstrate by their lifestyle what a true Christian can and should be!

### **Authentication of true leaders 1:6-16**

The popular attitude in Crete that religion and lifestyle were separate issues obligated Paul to focus on the importance of good works.

This issue was especially important in the selection of leaders for the church.

The false teachers revealed the nature of their teaching by their corrupt lifestyle.

Therefore, the church should be careful to make a difference.

### **GOOD TESTIMONY REQUIRED OF TRUE LEADERS 1:6-9**

The essential prerequisite for church leadership is that an elder must have a good reputation in every area of his life.

This general principle applies specifically to

*his home life,  
his personal life and  
his message.*

#### **Leaders should be *blameless***

Not perfect but with no basis for accusation (1 John 1:8-2:1)

*"Blameless" means literally, "without a stain"--*

There is no basis in their lives for someone who opposes the truth to accuse them and thereby reject their message.

Others respect them because of their testimony in their daily lifestyle.

*\* Blameless with respect to their home and family life 1:6*

*\* Blameless with respect to their personal character 1:7-8*

*\* Blameless with respect to their use of God's Word 1:9*

*A pattern for our life as well!*

The elders were to set the pattern of what all Christians ought to aspire to be--we should imitate their example

We are the leaders that our young people and others see and seek to imitate.

*What obstacles does God need to remove from your life to make you blameless?*

*How should we apply this concept to the selection of leaders for our church in the coming year?*

## **In their home 1:6**

Christian leaders should be above reproach in their homes

Relationship with your spouse--absolute moral purity and faithfulness

Relationship with your children--they must be worthy of trust--their testimony must not discredit your ministry

## **In their personal lives 1:7-8**

Christian leaders should be above reproach in their personal attitudes and actions

Emphasis on attitudes

We are divinely appointed administrators!

The importance of this area is seen when you think of church leaders you know--

*Do you think of them as men of God who walk with Him and want to please him in all they do?*

Or, are you more impressed by  
the one who is always angry  
the other one who is so self-centered and proud  
and a third who always has to have things his own way!

Our personal traits either confirm or negate the message we want to communicate in our classes.

*"What you do speaks so loud I can't hear what you say!"*

If the gospel can't transform these areas of our lifestyle, then it doesn't have much to offer!

## **Negative characteristics to be avoided 1:7**

We should avoid those personal characteristics that make us an offense to others:

Not self-willed (overbearing) ARROGANT

Considers himself better than others

"More spiritual"

"He wouldn't do what others do!" (Pharisees)

We should consider others better than ourselves and seek what is best for them.

Not quick-tempered "a short fuse"

Blows up easily

Quickly loses self-control

Frequently says "I'm sorry, \_\_\_\_\_ made me do it!"

Usually known as an angry person

We should be known as patient--self-controlled

Not addicted to wine (given to drunkenness)

Not addicted to any kind of habit that takes control of our lives (Eph. 5:18)

Not pugnacious (violent)--prone to "strike" others

Worst kind isn't physical

Some strike with fists, others fight with words  
This is the person who always wants to fight someone  
God's leaders should be peacemakers--not fighters

Not fond of sordid gain (not pursuing dishonest gain)  
Lit., an inappropriate desire to earn more for ME, not God

### **Positive characteristics to be imitated 1:8**

We should imitate those personal characteristics that make us attractive to others:

Hospitable (loving strangers, foreigners)

Loving what is good

Sensible (self-controlled)--SEES THINGS FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE--Discernment

Just (upright)--Proper relationship with others

Devout (holy)--Proper relationship with God

Self-controlled (disciplined)--proper relationship with myself

### **In their use of the Word of God 1:9**

Hold--encourage--refute

The key characteristic is "HOLDING FAST THE WORD OF TRUTH"

He takes it firmly in hand and won't let go!

This involves a proper attitude toward God's Word

And it involves proper activity with God's Word.

The PROPER ATTITUDE is seen both in his grabbing hold of the Word and refusing to let go of it, as well as in its recognition that it is faithful; it is worthy of our confidence.

If what we think doesn't agree with God's Word, we scrap our view! Don't try to make God agree with You!

The PROPER ACTIVITY with God's Word is seen in three actions.

The first one is the basis of the other two.

#### 1) HOLD IT FAST

Compare Rom. 1:18--They were "holding it back."

They wanted to stop God's purposes.

The message takes control of our life.

This enables us to accomplish the other two acts:

2) ENCOURAGE OTHERS WITH THE WORD--to be and to do all that God wants them to be and to do!

One who comes alongside to give the right kind of help at the right time.

As Christian leaders, we ought to do that with those to whom we minister.

We can only do that effectively when we have taken hold of God's Word firmly ourselves!

"Sound doctrine" refers to more than theology.

It refers to healthy teaching in general!  
That which promotes spiritual health.

Good doctrine and a proper lifestyle.

We are to lay hold of and encourage others to live according to God's Word.

3) CONVINCe THOSE WHO CONTRADICT (NAS--REFUTE)

"Cause them to see the light clearly"

We could never change their mind--but we can cause them to see what's at stake.

We do that by presenting in the clearest way we can what God's Word says. The rest is up to Him.

This teaching involves both our teaching and our example.

*What's the basis of our counsel, teaching and example?*

*Have we given second place to our opinions in order to take hold firmly of God's word?*

*What kind of model are we?  
In our home and family life?  
In our personal life?  
In our use of God's Word?*

**BAD TESTIMONY MODELED BY FALSE LEADERS 1:10-16**

The importance of a good testimony is emphasized by the contrast of the testimony of the false teachers.

They have a reputation for evil conduct.

Those who are truly God's children must stand out as different if they are going to affect that society.

*How should we deal with this kind of "evil beast"?*

### **Description of the false teachers 1:10-12**

Their personal characteristics 1:10

- Rebellious
- Empty talkers--lots of words, no results
- Deceivers--led others astray

Their works 1:11 --they went house to house with their heresy

- teaching salvation by the law--works
- making money at it--people liked what they heard
- such teachers must be silenced

Their testimony 1:12 --both of the populace and of these teachers

- Liars
- Evil beasts
- Lazy gluttons--looked for personal pleasure the easy way

Their problem 1:15-16

- Corrupted mind
- Empty profession of knowing God--practical atheists
- Worthless for any good deed

*How do you deal with such people?*

### **The solution 1:13-21**

#### **1. FACE THE TRUTH 1:13a**

Don't whitewash it! Don't deny it!

Don't try to justify it!

RECOGNIZE IT FOR WHAT IT IS

It was hard to deal with this people because of their background.

Recognize it, and then go to work on it.

#### **2. REPROVE THEM SEVERELY 1:13b-16**

"Reprove" = "convince" --cause them to see the light clearly.

"Severely" = firmly and energetically

This is not the time for soft words--you must tell the truth firmly, but in love.

If we don't confront in love, we will never see transformed lives.

#### **3. TEACH THEM HOW TO LIVE IN AGREEMENT WITH SOUND DOCTRINE 2:1**

### **ADORNMENT FOR SOUND DOCTRINE 2:1-3:11**

Titus is to teach them to live in a way that conforms to their sound doctrine (2:1-3:11).



## ATTRACTIVENESS OF A GODLY LIFESTYLE 2:1-10

The specific manifestations of that lifestyle are related to different groups within the church.

The principle: Live in a way that is consistent with what we believe.

### Summary exhortation 2:1

### Application to mature men 2:2

*Temperate*--Not drunken (includes that idea)

But MUCH more than just that limited concept

Lit.-one who thinks clearly--alert and careful

One who has learned self-control

1 Thess. 5:6-8--ready to face the day of God's wrath

Knows God's plans and is prepared

This is contrasted with the drunk who is not ready and never knows what to do.

*Dignified* (worthy of respect)--Not long-faced

Knows how to have a good time but he isn't frivolous

Not the group clown

*Sensible*--sees things from God's perspective

*Sound*--Both in his faith and in his practical attitudes toward others and towards life

Three areas where it shows:

*in faith*--in biblical doctrine, as opposed to man's views

*in love*--shows love even towards those who don't deserve it

*in perseverance*--(endurance, patience)--he has a healthy ability to bear up under pressure.

### Application to mature and young women 2:3-5

*Reverent in their behavior* (in the way they live)--

Appropriately respectful and reverent

So as to deserve the respect of others

*Not malicious gossips* (slanderers)--They shouldn't be known for their habit of accusing or speaking negatively of others.

*Not enslaved to much wine*--Not a drunken woman

*Teachers for the younger women*--By word and by example

-To love their husbands and children

-To be sensible (self-controlled, prudent, discerning)

-To be pure

-To be workers at home (busy at home)--probably in contrast to being "busy-bodies".

*-To be kind--good people*

*-To be subject to their husbands*

**Application to young men 2:6-8** (Especially to Titus as an example)

*Sensible--(self-controlled, discerning)*

[Titus specifically, but all young men in general, following his example]

*Good deeds (doing what is good)*

*Purity in doctrine (integrity in your teaching) INTEGRITY*

"Practice what you preach"--TEACH HONESTLY

*Dignified (seriousness)--Not somber nor angrily--but seriously*

*Sound in speech--includes good doctrine*

Goes on to include also all that is for the total welfare of those we teach

Teaching that will not leave us open to criticism or attack

**Application to slaves 2:9-10**

*Subject to their masters in everything*

*Well-pleasing (to try to please them)*

*Not argumentative (not to talk back to them)*

*Not pilfering (not to steal from them)--How about an honest day's work?*

*Showing all good faith (Show they can be fully trusted)*

Ever wonder what goes on in your classroom when you walk out?

How about your boss when he's not watching?

**WHY?**

1) *That the Word of God may not be dishonored (maligned) 2:5*

2) *That those who oppose may have nothing bad to say about us 2:8*

3) *That the doctrine of God may be adorned in every way (to make it attractive to others) 2:10*

In each case primary significance is placed on seeing ourselves from God's perspective and living accordingly.

All are to adorn their doctrine with our practice.

We are to have an attractive lifestyle that will draw others to Jesus Christ.

Titus is to be careful to set an example for the others so that no one will have occasion to criticize.

## MOTIVATION FOR A GODLY LIFESTYLE 2:11-14

*Why should we live this way?*

The motivation for this godly lifestyle is *the work of God's grace in our life.*

Since He has provided salvation for us through the death of Christ, we ought to be different.

### The fruit of God's grace 2:12

**Negative Fruit**--"Just say NO!

-*To ungodliness*--to all activities that reflect

--lack of piety

--lack of God's perspective

Daily activities that leave God out of our lives

-*To worldly desires*

Daily attitudes and desires that are the same as the world around us.

"Me first!" "I want what I want when I want it!"

Man (ME!) at the center of the universe.

**The grace of God has taught us to leave the old lifestyle**

**Positive Fruit**--"to live . . . " --To say "YES" . . . .

*To discernment*

*To justice (righteousness)*--Normally refers to treating others justly

*To godly living*--"rightly religious"

In contrast with "ungodliness" mentioned above--same root + "a"

**The grace of God has taught us to follow a new lifestyle**

### The purpose of God's grace 2:14

That he might redeem us from all wickedness

That he might purify for himself a people

-all his

-zealous of good works

## DESCRIPTION OF A GODLY LIFESTYLE 2:15-3:2

*"If John is supposed to be a Christian, then I don't want anything to do with it!"*

*"We are the only Bible some Christians will ever read!"*

Therefore, we ought to live in a way that will demonstrate that God has transformed us-- that can be explained no other way.

**Authority of the message 2:15**

We should be ideal citizens!

**Testimony before government 3:1**

A summary description is given of what this lifestyle involves.

Titus should teach them to submit to and to obey the authorities which are over them.

Different from the world's attitude: we'll serve them as long as they are just, etc.

As long as they do what I think is right!

Our attitude should be different because God sets up and takes down kings. He will take care of them!

We are to submit to the government HE has set up.

We should participate in every *good* deed--not just be known for what we *don't* do!

**Testimony before neighbors 3:2**

We should also be *ideal neighbors*, demonstrating consideration for others and humility.

2 negative characteristics--We should not . . .

Not slander others--GOSSIP, CRITICISM

Not attack others

2 positive characteristics--We should . . .

Gentle--Be kind to others

Show consideration for others--humility, kindness

**TRANSFORMATION OF TRUE BELIEVERS 3:3-7**

Cause of a godly lifestyle 3:3-7

The cause of our godly lifestyle is that God has changed our lives.

**OUR PREVIOUS CONDITION 3:3**

We are no longer as we used to be.

Previously we were evil, rebellious and full of hatred.

## **GOD'S PRESENT TRANSFORMATION 3:4-7**

Now God has changed all that.

He has given us a new life through Christ.

The logical implication is that the change in our life should be visible in our lifestyle.

**Fact 3:4-5a**

**Means 3:5b-6**

**Purpose 3:7**

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR AN AUTHENTIC MINISTRY 3:8-15**

### **EXHORTATION CONCERNING MINISTERIAL IMPLICATIONS 3:8-11**

Paul exhorts Titus to make this emphasis the focus of his ministry.

**Profitable encouragement to godliness 3:8**

His teaching should motivate believers to dedicate themselves to this kind of profitable lifestyle.

**Unprofitable controversies of foolishness 3:9**

He should not waste his time engaging in foolish debates that produce nothing.

**Judgment prescribed for divisiveness 3:10-11**

Those who insist on raising divisive issues should be warned and then disciplined.

### **PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS 3:12-13**

Personal instructions are given to Titus concerning a visit to Paul and some who may pass through and need help along the way.

**Plans for Titus 3:12**

**Importance of hospitality 3:13-14**

### **SUMMARY DECLARATION 3:14**

His message to Titus is summarized in conclusion.

The people of God should dedicate themselves to doing what is good and to living productive lives.

**CLOSING GREETINGS AND BENEDICTION 3:15**

Finally, he concludes with greetings and a benediction.

***WHAT LESSONS DO WE LEARN ABOUT OUR LIVES FROM STUDYING THIS BOOK?***