

LESSON 1

Overview of the Book of Titus

The key to effective learning is to **slow down** enough that you can accurately observe what is being said. This is especially true when studying the Bible. Most of us tend to read through it rather quickly, *thinking* we know what is being said when actually we are missing a huge portion of what God is trying to get us to see.

In this short course on the book of Titus, we want to show you ways in which you can slow down and observe what it written on the pages of God's Word. There is much to learn in this area and we will only touch the tip of the iceberg, but if you will faithfully work through each assignment over the next seven weeks, you will find that your understanding of scripture will increase immensely AND you will start to pick up habits that will enable you to continue studying on your own even after this course is completed.

SO... AS we continue through these lessons. you will find that we will be reading, reading, and re-reading the entire book of Titus. In fact, if at any point you do not understand something... Stop, start over, and re-read the passage yet one more time. You will find that this is a habit that will greatly enhance your understanding of what God is saying to you.

Your Assignment for Week 2

1. Read through the entire book in one sitting, looking for the content and general thrust of the book. If you don't get the big picture the first time through, read it again. This is a short book, so it's possible to read through it several times rather quickly. Record your initial impression(s) of the book in general in the space below:
2. Who is the author of this book? (Always record your scripture reference)
3. Who is the recipient? (And what is your reference?)
4. Are there any other persons or groups of people mentioned in the book? If so, list them below (with scripture references):
5. Read through the book and determine what is the author's purpose for writing this letter. Write out the purpose and give scripture reference(s) upon which you base this determination [If you need a hint as to where to find the purpose, check the verse references listed in the margin on p.1 of Lesson 1]

6. Write a sentence (or two) that incorporates all the people you've listed above (i.e., author, recipient, and others) and that shows their relationship one to another.

7. Now write just **one sentence** that tells what the book is about (based upon what you wrote in #6 above).

8. Read through the book of Titus again. This time, as you read, mark the following **key words/phrases** in a distinctive color, shape or icon (Be sure to mark all pronouns and/or synonyms in the same manner as you mark the **key word/phrase**.)
 - **God**
 - **Jesus Christ**
 - **“what is good”**
 - **teach**
 - **grace**

Note: A key word is a repeated word that is important to the meaning of the text. Because the words above are key to the entire book, they will also relate to what you wrote in #7 above describing what the book is about.

9. Read through all three chapters of Titus one more time. Mark every reference to the author (including the pronouns that refer to him) in a distinctive color, shape or icon. List all you learn about the author in the right-hand margin of your “Scripture Printout”, starting opposite Titus 1:1 and continuing one-under-the-other until you have recorded everything about Paul altogether in one place.

Conclusion

We have been looking at the book of Titus as a whole in order that you can understand the context *as a whole*. By doing this exercise and participating in the class study session, you will have established (1) who wrote the book, (2) why he wrote it, and (3) what he is writing about.

Knowing author, purpose and book theme before we start dissecting the book chapter by chapter and verse by verse will help us keep from straying from the interpretation that God intends for us to have. These criteria help define the boundaries within which we will read and define the details of the book that we will then apply to our lives.

You have begun the first important step in studying a book of the Bible. Step by step, we're going to build from here. Layer by layer we will uncover God's truth and have our lives enriched by His knowledge and grace.

LESSON 2

Titus Chapter 1 (Part 1)

In Lesson 1 we read, read, and re-read the book of Titus. We are now better equipped to examine the chapters individually—going through each one verse by verse and uncovering the truths God has for us.

From our overview, we established that Paul was writing to Titus (1) to straighten out what had been left unfinished, (2) to appoint elders in every town, and (3) to teach a sound doctrine to the people. The logical question we must ask ourselves is “If this is Paul’s **purpose** in writing the book, what are we most likely to read about within its pages?” The answer to this question constitutes the **theme** of the book, which we determined to be “Teaching Sound Doctrine”... or, depending on your perspective, “Doing What Is Good.”

Your Assignment for Week 3

1. Read Chapter 1 paying particular attention to all the **key words** that you marked during your overview assignment in Lesson 1.
2. In the left-hand margin opposite the first verse of each of the following verse groupings (i.e., paragraphs), write a short phrase that describes what the paragraph is about. Be sure to mark these in pencil so that you can change them (if you need to later) without making your worksheet messy.

- vv.1-4
- vv.5-9
- vv.10-16

NOTE: Throughout *Word Among Us Ministries*, the abbreviations “v” and “vv” stand for “verse” and “verses,” respectively.

3. Using the paragraph headings from #2 above, determine your title for Chapter 1 and write it in the appropriate space at the top of the Book Print Out.
4. In the same way as you did in Lesson 1, mark these additional **key words** in Chapter 1.
 - elders
 - rebellious people
5. On the worksheet “Elders vs. Rebellious People” at the end of this lesson, list everything you learn about the elders in the appropriate column. Do the same with what you learn about the rebellious people. Be sure to list your scripture references.
6. In v.1, Paul calls himself a “servant of God.” Look up the following cross-references and record your insights on what it means to be a “servant.”
Philippians 2:5-8

2 Timothy 2:24

Galatians 1:10

1 Peter 2:16

7. OPTIONAL: Using a Greek dictionary, look up the word that's translated "servant" in Titus 1:1 and record your insight.
8. In one sitting, read through vv.1-3 three or four times. Take your time, savoring the message God has just for you. After you have completed this multiple read, list below the words or phrases that grab your attention.
9. Paul calls Titus his true son. Look up the following scriptures and record what you learn about Titus.

Acts 15:1-2 with Galatians 2:1-3

Note: While Titus is not mentioned by name in the book of Acts, it is most likely that the above references are related to one another.

2 Corinthians 7:6-7

2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17, 23

Titus 3:12

2 Timothy 4:10

Conclusion:

We have only just begun our examination of this first chapter of the book of Titus, but I hope you can see already that this book is filled with many nuggets of wisdom. Our task is to slow ourselves down so that we are able to actually *hear* what God is saying to us. Our objective should be more than just becoming knowledgeable about what the Bible says; our objective must be to absorb His truths into our hearts in such a way that they transform the way we live our lives.

Next week in Titus 1:5-16. Paul reminds Titus what his mission on Crete is supposed to be. He then establishes the qualifications for church leadership and warns the church against the false teachers.

Not only will we learn the criteria that God expects to be considered when leaders for the church are selected, but we will gain some insight into what He expects of believers in general.

ELDERS vs. REBELLIOUS PEOPLE

Elders	Rebellious People

LESSON 3

Titus Chapter 1 (Part 2)

Last week we looked at the first 4 verses of the book of Titus and we were able to glimpse a smidgeon of the relationship that existed between Paul and his “true son” Titus. After Paul left Titus on the island of Crete, he writes this letter to instruct Titus about what he should do next.

As you read and re-read these verses, can’t you just hear the father talking to his son? The wisdom of the elder being lovingly shared with the younger? You may be tempted, in fact, to relate this passage to your relationship with your earthly father, and that is not all bad... especially if your relationship with your father was a good one. Unfortunately, too many of us may not have had a good experience with our earthly father. For you, and ideally for everyone, the best analogy we can make here is with our relationship with our heavenly Father.

So, as you tackle your assignment for this week, try to imagine that these are the words that God has written to you in a personal letter to instruct you in what He wants you to do in the place *where He put you*.

Your Assignment for Week 4

1. Read Titus 1:5-16. Ask God to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage. Read through the passage one more time and when you have finished it, just sit quietly for 2 or 3 minutes and try to keep your mind as still as possible.
2. Now check back over the list you compiled during Lesson 1 that is recorded on the sheet “Elders vs. Rebellious People”. If you picked up on any additional qualifications that the Elder must possess or characteristics that the Rebellious People demonstrate that might have been overlooked during Lesson 1, record it on the worksheet “Elders vs. Rebellious People” at this time.
3. Read vv.5-9 one more time. This time highlight each verb Paul uses to describe the church leader.
4. Paul says the elder/overseer must be blameless. List below what you learn about the meaning of the word blameless from the context of vv.7, 8.
5. OPTIONAL: Use your word study tools to look up the meaning of the Greek word translated “blameless”. Record your findings.

6. In two different places in his first letter to Timothy, Paul mentions the need for the elder/overseer to be “blameless.” Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and record your insights about being blameless.

NOTE: In the N/T the terms “bishop,” “elder,” “overseer,” and “pastor” are used **interchangeably** to describe the same position of leadership in the church (“The MacArthur Study Bible,” footnote to 1 Tim 3:1)

7. Now read vv.10-16 and record your general impression of the “rebellious people” that Paul is describing here.
8. Read down through the list of characteristics of the “rebellious people.” Which of these characteristics to you find most distasteful, and why?
9. Are there any people today that remind you of the “rebellious people” that Paul and Titus were having to deal with?
10. Where are these “rebellious people” that Paul describes in Crete... outside the church membership or within?

Conclusion

Paul’s message in this first chapter of Titus targets the qualifications for church pastors and leaders. It would be easy for you and me to assume that this is not applicable to us in laity. But in actuality, Paul is addressing all believers—and not only believers of that day, but believers today as well.

Just as in the days of Paul, today’s church must carefully guard the fundamentals of the gospel, oppose all ideas and philosophies which violate the truth, and determine to live in godliness. Christianity is not simply a set of principles that applies to our spiritual life; it is a lifestyle that affects both our private lives and our public ones and will be evident in the way we interact in our families, our businesses, our political beliefs, and our leisure.

LESSON 4

Titus Chapter 2 (Part 1)

As we begin our study of the 2nd chapter of Titus, it's imperative to keep the context of Chapter 1 in mind, as well as the purpose that Paul had in writing this letter to Titus. We know that Paul was writing to instruct Titus on straightening out what had been left unfinished, on appointing elders in every town, and on teaching what is in accord with sound doctrine. We observed that the fledgling church was encountering opposition from within—from those who called themselves Christian but who were holding on to the Jewish laws, beliefs, and traditions of their past.

As Paul instructs Titus in Chapter 2 on what to teach the older men and women, the young men and the slaves, we want to pay attention to the contrast between what he is teaching and what the rebellious people were demonstrating in their lifestyle and in their teaching.

Your Assignment for Week 5

1. Read through Chapter 2 in one sitting, asking God to reveal to you the simple message He wants you to hear, and paying particular attention to the **keywords** you marked during the **overview** in Lesson 1. After you have completed the read, spend a few minutes in meditation, being still and waiting on the Lord. Try to keep your mind as quiet as possible.
2. What is your general impression of the chapter as a whole—what do you think Paul is mainly talking about? Record your insights below, with no concern for the number of words it takes.
3. Spend the next 5 to 10 minutes thinking about what you wrote in #2 above. The author's main topic is called the theme of the chapter. Now rework the theme you recorded into a phrase of only 4 to 8 words (don't be legalistic about the exact number!) that describe in a nutshell the main topic of the chapter. Record this in the space at the top of the "Scripture Printout" for chapter title.
4. Re-read all of Chapter 2. This time mark every occurrence of the following keywords in a distinctive color, shape or icon.
 - **self-controlled**
 - **sound/soundness**
 - **subject to (submit)**
5. Paul directs Titus' attention to five specific groups. Read through each of the verse-groupings below and mark in the left-hand margin what people are being addressed in each verse-grouping (paragraph). These will become your paragraph titles, so you might want to record in pencil for now.

- **vv.1-2**
- **vv.3-5**
- **vv.6-8**
- **vv.9-10**
- **vv.11-14**

6. In v. 15, Paul tells Titus that “these are the things” he should address. List below all the things that Titus is to teach and to whom.

Conclusion

Paul worked within the existing social structures of the day, whether he agreed with them in principle or not. And today, as in Paul’s time, the intention of the gospel is not to *overthrow* established religious systems, but to prove that a belief in Jesus Christ *will* bring about a changed life. Why? Because grace equips the believer with the power to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions.

Belonging to God (although this state comes solely through grace) carries with it certain responsibilities for the believer. We must endeavor always to live with the single objective of pleasing God—of delighting our Savior—by being a people who are **eager to do what is good.**

LESSON 5

Titus Chapter 2 (Part 2)

In this lesson, we will continue our study of Chapter 2. By now, you should be getting a good sense of the flow of the book. Paul is writing Titus to commission him to finish the task that was left incomplete when he (Paul) moved on. He instructs Titus to appoint elders in every town and gives criteria for the selection of these elders. In short, Paul is exhorting Titus regarding how he is to complete the establishment of this new church on the island of Crete that Paul had left incomplete.

The planting of a new church always encounters resistance on multiple fronts. Satan loves to attack wherever he finds the people of God at work. On Crete, Titus encounters opposition from the “rebellious people” which included men who called themselves Christians but who were hanging on to and promoting the legalism of their past.

The best defense against evil is an aggressive offense with the gospel. In Chapter 2 Paul addresses the specific character and behavior required of God’s people. Such exemplary behavior would not only strengthen the new believers in the faith, but it would also present the gospel to the world in a manner that would remain “attractive,” and therefore something to be desired.

Your Assignment for Week 6

1. Read Chapter 2 in a single sitting. As you read, mark the verses that deal with being saved. Put a bracket around these verse(s) and write in the right-hand margin the notation “Saved by Grace.”
2. Then mark the contrasting statements that tell us for what purpose we have been saved (these will be located next to the verses you selected in #1 above.) Bracket these verses as well and write in the right-hand margin the notation “Saved for _____” (inserting in the blank the word(s) you feel is appropriate to the context.)
3. Now read Titus 3:4-8 and mark the verses that deal with salvation in the same way as you did for #1 above. Do the same with the verses dealing with being saved for good works as you did in #2 above.

4. Look up the following cross-references and record your insights concerning what the Bible has to say about salvation and grace.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- **Romans 4:2-6 and Genesis 15:6**
- **Romans 10:14**
- **John 1:12**
- **Isaiah 64:6**

5. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about salvation and good works.

- **Ephesians 2:10**
- **James 2:26**
- **Philippians 2:12**
- **Galatians 6:7-10**

6. What were the “good works” that Paul requires of believers through Titus? List these below.

7. What is the purpose of “salvation by grace” according to Titus 2:12-14?

8. And what is the purpose of “doing what is good”?

9. Using a standard English dictionary, look up and record the meaning of the following key words that you marked earlier.

- **self-controlled**

- **be subject to (submit)**

10. OPTIONAL: Use your Greek word-study tools to learn all you can about the meaning of the Greek word that is translated “self-controlled” (NIV) and the one translated with the phrase “be subject to” (NIV) or “submit” (KJV)

Conclusion

Paul instructs Titus to teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. By sound doctrine, he means a doctrine that actually feeds the soul.

Paul divides this sound doctrine into two parts: (1) being saved by grace; and (2) being saved for works. The first deals with the faith issue and is the most important, but Paul doesn't bother with explanations as to priorities in this letter. Church doctrine avows that salvation comes from confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and then allowing Him to be Master in your life. If He is the Master, the simple truth is it will be apparent in the works that follow.

As we study the book of Titus, we need to look at our own faith and determine if it is evidenced by the good deeds we do for others. In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 6

Titus Chapter 3 (Part 1)

A number of different passages in scripture make it clear that Paul and the other apostles had difficulty in keeping the ordinary people in line with the rulers and authorities of their day. Many of the new believers must have felt that their new-found freedom in Christ surely exempted them from the tyrannical rule of the pagan government. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

In his closing remarks in the book of Titus, Paul instructs Titus to remind the believers what their attitudes should be toward the unsaved rulers and toward the people around them in general. Submission to the authority of the scriptures, he claims, demands submission to human authorities as well so that the teaching of God remains “attractive” and desirable to those who have ears to hear. In this letter to Titus, Paul certainly demonstrates he has the heart of a true evangelist.

Your Assignment for Week 7

1. Read through Chapter 3 in a single sitting. Pay attention to the **keywords** that you marked in previous lessons.
2. Read Chapter 3 one more time, this time according to the following breakdown by verse. As you read each section, record below what attitude Paul is reminding them to have and towards what group are they to have it. (For example: in v.1, he is reminding them they are to have an attitude of submission toward the unsaved rulers)
 - v.1
 - v.2
 - v.3
 - vv.4-7
 - v.8
 - v.9-11
3. Read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:12-17. Record below what you learn that relates to Titus 3:1

4. Compare the use of the adjective “all” as it relates to “men” in 3:2 with 2:11. Write below what you think Paul intended by his use of the phrase “all men” in both these verses.

5. List the evil practices of the one who isn’t saved according to v.3. After making your list, determine which (if any) have ever applied to you. [You don’t have to admit your answer to anyone but yourself!]

6. There is a major paragraph break at v.12. Read through vv.12-15 and record in the left-hand margin what this paragraph is about. Then go back and re-read vv.1-11 to determine a title for these verses as if they were **one** paragraph. Write this also in the left-hand margin.

Conclusion

We have almost completed our study of the book of Titus—just one more week. It’s time to remind ourselves that Paul is writing this letter to “my true son Titus.” We know, however, from the tone of Paul’s introduction that he had in mind the reality that others would be reading the letter as well. So in this sense, he was addressing all believers and not just Titus alone—and not only believers in his day, but believers today as well. This means the book is as relevant to our lives as it was to Titus and the believers in his day.

Grace be with us all.

LESSON 7

Titus Chapter 3 (Part 2)

As we become more mature in our knowledge of the Word of God, we cannot escape the simple fact that we are saved by grace (meaning there was nothing we did to deserve it, but God gave us a gift out of the goodness of who He is.) The gospel message doesn't end here, however, with salvation by grace. We *are* saved by grace, but we are saved *for* good works. Paul emphasizes that we are to be about **doing what is good**--devoting our entire lives to **doing what is good** so that everything we do is directed towards **doing what is good**.

Earlier in our study, we noted that the top priority in our lives must be to please God. In Chapter 3, we will see that **doing what is good** is good *only* when we do it to please God and not for what we expect to receive from it.

This is our last lesson on the book of Titus. Spend as much time with God as you need in your preparation for this last discussion class. Let God guide your study in His ways and allow Him to illuminate the scriptures before your eyes that you may be enriched and encouraged. God is good!

Your Assignment for Week 8

1. Read Titus Chapter 3, slowly and deliberately, word by word. Don't rush to the end but savor the moment. Let God talk to you.
2. Using a standard English dictionary, record the meaning of the following words:
 - **humility**
 - **rebirth**
 - **justify**
 - **grace**
 - **trust**
 - **divisive**
3. OPTIONAL: Use your Greek word-study tools to determine the Greek meaning of the words translated "humility/meekness," "rebirth/regeneration," "justify," "grace," "trust/believe," and "divisive/heretic" in the NIV/KJV respectively.

of God's Word. There is no better basis for our faith today than the Word of God, the Holy Bible; i.e., the entire council of God's Word.

You have completed an eight-week course on the book of Titus. In the process, you have explored new methods and tools for slowing down enough to "hear" the word directly from the mouth of God. Don't let your experience be wasted. Trust God to multiply your time and then set up a study program that you commit to following. *Word Among Us Ministries* will be happy to assist you in setting up your own study regimen.

May God bless you in all you do!

Chapter 1

Chapter Title _____

Key Verse _____

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—²a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ³and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

⁴To Titus, my true son in our common faith:
Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

⁶An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been

taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

¹⁰For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹²Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith ¹⁴and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. ¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Chapter 2

Chapter Title _____

Key Verse _____

¹You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. ²Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

³Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

⁴Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

⁶Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

⁹Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰and not to steal from them, but to

show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

¹⁵These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Chapter 3

Chapter Title _____

Key Verse _____

¹Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ²to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

⁹But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Warn

a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. ¹¹You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

¹²As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. ¹³Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

¹⁵Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all. [NIV]