

Bible Study



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WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 7:00 PM_EDT

OBJECTIVE: to learn God's wisdom for spiritual growth, and divine promises for prosperity from short bible books, with *power-filled* messages!!

(**NOTE:** if you print, use the "booklet" and "print on both sides" features of Adobe, then staple twice in the center!)

2021 TOPICS: FEBRUARY TO JULY – All are welcome to join! So please share with Stewards, Trustees, and Members. Also feel free to invite family, friends and visitors.

--TO JOIN BY PHONE, CALL: **646-558-8656**; USE PASSWORD (IF NEEDED): **935995**

--TO JOIN BY THE WEB, USE:

<https://zoom.us/j/756344009?pwd=ZkRkNGsydnI2SDJna21aU1dlbjVIZz09>

--USE WEBINAR ID: **756 344 009**; USE PASSWORD (IF NEEDED): **935995**

2021 SPRING SESSION: January 27th --to-- July 28th

--JAN.27TH: **BACKGROUND** (1ST & 2ND TIMOTHY); "FREELANCE QUESTIONS"

FEBRUARY (FEB.17TH: ASH WEDNESDAY)

--FEB.03RD: 2Timothy --FEB.17TH: 2Timothy

--FEB.10TH: **CANCELLED** --FEB.24TH: 2Timothy

MARCH (MAR. 28TH: PALM SUNDAY)

--MAR.03RD: 2Timothy --MAR.17TH: 2Timothy --MAR.31ST: **CANCELLED**

--MAR.10TH: 2Timothy --MAR.24TH: 2Timothy

APRIL (APR.02ND: GOOD FRIDAY; APR.04TH: EASTER SUNDAY)

--APR.07TH: Titus --APR.21ST: Titus

--APR.14TH: Titus --APR.28TH: Philemon

MAY (MAY.9TH: MOTHER'S DAY; MAY.31ST: MEMORIAL DAY)

--MAY.05TH: Joel --MAY.19TH: Joel

--MAY.12TH: Joel --MAY.26TH: 1Peter

JUNE (JUN.19TH: JUNETEEN; JUN.20TH: FATHER'S DAY)

--JUN.02ND: **CANCELLED** --JUN.16TH: 1Peter --JUN.30TH: 1Peter

--JUN.09TH: 1Peter --JUN.23RD: 1Peter

JULY (JUL.4TH: INDEPENDENCE DAY)

--JUL.07TH: **CANCELLED** --JUL.21ST: 2Peter

--JUL.14TH: 2Peter --JUL.28TH: 2Peter

2021 SUMMER BREAK: August 1st --to-- September 15th

BACKGROUND (TITUS). *AUTHOR:* Apostle Paul ... *DATE WRITTEN:* 63-66 A.D.

- Paul's epistles (letters) to Timothy and Titus are called the "*Pastoral Epistles*" because they contain principles for the pastoral care of church congregations and the qualification criteria for ministerial leaders.
- Paul and his ministry team went to Ephesus and while there he **left Timothy** there to pastor the churches in that region. Next, they went on to Macedonia (in northern Greece), where Paul wrote 1_Timothy.
- Paul and his ministry team went to Crete where he **left Titus** to pastor the churches in that region. Then they went to Nicopolis (southern Greece) where he wrote this letter to provide encouragement to Pastor Titus.
- After they arrived in Troas, Paul was suddenly arrested by Roman soldiers and sent back to Rome. There he was imprisoned and eventually executed (i.e., beheaded). During this 2nd imprisonment in Rome, Paul wrote his final letter, known as 2_Timothy.
- **WHO WAS TITUS?** He was a gentile who accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior through Paul's missionary ministry. After his conversion, Titus travelled with Paul for the Apostolic Council (Acts 15:2). Titus was also Paul's emissary to the Corinthian Church during their 3rd missionary journey (2Corin.7:6-7). Titus and two other disciples took Paul's 2nd epistle, 2Corinthians, to this Church and urged them to keep their commitment to give to the poor in Jerusalem. Due to his administrative gifts, Paul assigned Titus to pastor the churches in the region of Crete to help them get their temporal affairs in order.
- **THEME.** Topics include: **1.**Elders' qualifications (1:5-9); **2.**Christian instructions to various age groups (2:1-8); **3.**Christians' relationship with government (3:1-2); **4.** Regeneration relationship to human works and the Spirit (3:5).

BACKGROUND (PHILEMON). *AUTHOR:* Apostle Paul ... *DATE WRITTEN:* 63 A.D.

- Like Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, Philemon is one of Paul's letters called "*Prison Epistles*." They were written during his 1st Roman imprisonment. Paul writes to ask Philemon to forgive Onesimus his escaped slave, who had stolen from him. Paul also offers to repay whatever Onesimus owed.
- Now Onesimus accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior through Paul's missionary ministry, and Paul urged him to return to Philemon. So Paul intercedes with Philemon for Onesimus avoid grave punishment or even death.
- **THEME.** Since many members of the Colossian Church were slave holders, Paul also urged Philemon to share the principles of Christian brotherhood with their slave-brothers. Thus, this letter was not an attack against slavery. It suggested how masters and slaves to live by Christian faith in an evil system.

TITUS_BACKGROUND — QUIZ (select all that are correct)

Q1 What is another word for the New Testament books called “*epistles*”? **a)** Memoirs; **b)** Journals; **c)** Letters; **d)** neither.

Q2 Whom did the Apostle Paul leave as Pastor of the Christian Churches in the Macedonia region? **a)** Timothy; **b)** Titus; **c)** Philemon; **d)** neither.

Q3 Whom did the Apostle Paul leave as Pastor of the Christian Churches in the Nicopolis region? **a)** Timothy; **b)** Titus; **c)** Philemon; **d)** neither.

Q4 Where was Paul arrested for sent to Rome for his second imprisonment? **a)** Ephesus; **b)** Crete; **c)** Corinth; **d)** neither.

Q5 What type of religious affiliation did Pastor Titus grow-up? **a)** Jewish; **b)** Christian; **c)** Gentile; **d)** neither.

Q6 What role did Pastor Titus play on Paul’s missionary ministry team? **a)** messenger to region Churches; **b)** trusted advisor and companion; **c)** respected leader and administrator; **d)** neither.

Q7 What are the major themes of Paul’s epistle to Pastor Titus? **a)** the meaning of regeneration; **b)** qualifications for politicians; **c)** principles for disciples’ interactions with governments; **d)** neither.

PHILEMON_BACKGROUND — QUIZ (select all that are correct)

Q1 Which of the Apostle Paul’s letters are known as his “*Prison Epistles*”? **a)** Hebrews, Galatians, 1st & 2nd Corinthians; **b)** Titus, 1st & 2nd Timothy, Jude; **c)** Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon; **d)** neither.

Q2 Why does Paul write Philemon? **To urge...** **a)** Onesimus to forgive his slave; **b)** Titus to forgive his friend Timothy; **c)** masters to free their slaves; **d)** neither.

Q3 What does Paul want Philemon to do? **To...** **a)** severely punish Onesimus when he return; **b)** free Onesimus when he return; **c)** encourage Onesimus to join his ministry team; **d)** neither.

Q4 What does Paul want Onesimus to do? **To...** **a)** fight against slave owners like Philemon for justice and freedom; **b)** repay Philemon for stolen items with funds Paul offered to provide; **c)** return to Philemon and make things right; **d)** neither.

TITUS CHAPTER 1 — GREETING

¹ Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ²in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, ³but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; ⁴To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Qualified Elders

⁵For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— ⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

The Elders' Task

¹⁰For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹²One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. ¹⁵To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

YOUR NOTES:

TITUS CHAPTER 1 — QUIZ (select all that are correct)

Q1 Why does the Apostle Paul call himself God's bondservant (vv1-3)? **Because he...** **a)** wants Pastor Titus to see that all God's elect are Christ's servants (slaves); **b)** wants Pastor Titus to see that all who accept the truth of godliness put divine faith to work in their lives; **c)** wants Titus to see that all who hope for eternal life must trust in God's preached word (eternal promises); **d)** neither.

Q2 Where does Paul remind Pastor Titus that true grace, mercy and peace come from(v4)? **From...** **a)** The Holy Trinity (Holy Spirit, Son, Father); **b)** The US Leaders (President, Vice President, Congressional Leaders); **c)** BFFs (High School, College, Work); **d)** neither.

Q3 Why does Paul tell Titus that he left him to be the Pastor of the Christian Churches in region of Crete (v5a)? **For Titus to...** **a)** become the biggest and most well-known evangelist in that region; **b)** build the biggest worship facility and congregation in Crete; **c)** fix what is spiritually broken and set what is temporally lacking in order; **d)** neither.

Q4 What does Paul tell Pastor Titus is critical to his mission in the region of Crete (v5b)? **Titus must...** **a)** identify, cultivate, and engage local political leaders; **b)** find, develop, and appoint qualified Elders; **c)** spark, energize, and motivate praise and worship teams; **d)** neither.

Q5 What does Paul tell Titus are the qualifications for Church Leaders (especially, Elder and/or Bishops; vv6-9)? **They should...** **a)** be self-will, egotistical, quick-tempered; **b)** have 1-wife, but friends on the side; **c)** seek money, big spenders, dislike those who question them; **d)** enjoy drinking and a good time, play favorites, expect others to do what they say not what they do; **e)** neither.

Q6 What kind of Christians does Paul tell Titus are a threat to the health of the Christian Church (vv10-11)? **Those who...** **a)** subvert entire households by teaching false doctrine; **b)** are deceivers and idle gossipers; **c)** misrepresent the Christian faith for dishonest gain; **d)** claim to know God, but their actions and living don't reflect godliness; **e)** neither.

Q7 How does Paul tell Pastor Titus these persons should be treated (vv11-15)? **a)** applaud them for speaking their mind; **b)** encourage their racism and lies; **c)** respect their views as just alternative ways to look at the Christian faith; **d)** neither.

TITUS CHAPTER 2 — QUALITIES OF A SOUND CHURCH

¹ But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: ² that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; ³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. ⁶ Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, ⁷ in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. ⁹ *Exhort* bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Trained by Saving Grace

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

YOUR NOTES:

TITUS CHAPTER 2 — QUIZ (select all that are correct)

Q1 How does Paul instruct Titus to provide Pastoral Leadership to mature men and women (vv1-3)? **Paul tells him...** **a)** to preach and teach them sound doctrine; **b)** to challenge older women to have reverent behavior and set an example of good Christian thoughts, conversation, and home life; **c)** to challenge older men to also have reverent behavior and set an example of Christian love, temperance, and home life; **d)** neither.

Q2 How does Paul instruct Titus to provide Pastoral Leadership to young men and women (vv4-8)? **Paul tells him...** **a)** to preach and teach them the latest fad or philosophy; **b)** to challenge younger women to enjoy their youth, night life, and “do me” while they can; **c)** to challenge young men to sow their wild oats, avoid worrying about their reputation or taking responsibility, and feel free to express themselves—including denouncing their mothers and demeaning their sisters; **d)** neither.

Q3 How does Paul instruct Titus to provide Pastoral Leadership slaves in their times (vv9-10)? **Paul tells him...** **a)** to preach and teach them how to embrace God's doctrine in all things; **b)** to challenge them to be humble and pleasant in all things; **c)** to challenge them to always be resistant and rebellious against their masters; **d)** neither.

Q4 What general principles does Paul encourage Pastor Titus to repeatedly teach the Church Leaders and Disciples (vv11-15)? **Paul reminds him that...** **a)** it's ok to occasionally enjoy some worldly lusts and ungodly behavior; **b)** Christians should live like Christ could appear at any time; **c)** God's salvation through Christ is for all people—including masters and slaves; **d)** never let others (Christians or non-Christians) keep him from preaching and teaching on Christ's redemption of all humanity; **e)** neither.

YOUR NOTES:

TITUS CHAPTER 3 — GRACES OF THE HEIRS OF GRACE

¹Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. ³For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

AVOID DISSENSION

⁹But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Reject a divisive person after the first and second admonition, ¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

FINAL MESSAGES

¹²When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. ¹⁴And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

FAREWELL

¹⁵All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

YOUR NOTES:

TITUS CHAPTER 3 — QUIZ (select all that are correct)

Q1 What behavior does Paul remind Pastor Titus to encourage Church Leaders and Disciples to embrace (vv1-2)? **Titus is to encourage them to...** **a)** be humble and gentle with all people; **b)** speak no evil of anyone and be peaceable; **c)** be ready to do good works; **d)** be obedient to rulers and authorities of their day; **e)** neither.

Q2 Why does Paul remind Pastor Titus to encourage Church Leaders and Disciples to embrace these behaviors (vv3-8)? **Because...** **a)** God delivered and saved them since they were “*basically good people*”; **b)** God justified us through our good works and intensions even before we were saved; **c)** like non-Christians they too entrapped in worldly and sinful behavior; **d)** God saved us since we were faithful to Him even before He sent Jesus to save us; **e)** neither.

Q3 How does Paul advise Pastor Titus to handle strife and dissension (vv9-11)? **a)** reject divisive people after their 3rd admonition (i.e., “*3-strikes and you’re out*”); **b)** avoid foolish disputes and arguments about the law (i.e., the Bible); **c)** embrace interesting and thoughtful discussions, even if they make no sense; **d)** neither.

Q4 Why does Paul dispatch Artemas, who is a member of his ministry team (vv12-15)? **a)** for Timothy and Titus to him in Macedonia; **b)** to ensure Zenas and Apollos go to serve as Pastoral leaders in the region of Nicopolis; **c)** to remind the Congregations in the region of Crete to fruitful in good works and meeting the needs of the poor; **d)** to extend Paul greetings and God’s grace to all the Congregations he encounters on Paul’s behalf; **e)** neither.

YOUR NOTES:

PHILEMON — GREETINGS

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, ²to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILEMON'S LOVE AND FAITH

⁴I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, ⁵hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, ⁶that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. ⁷For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.

THE PLEA FOR ONESIMUS

⁸Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, ⁹yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ—¹⁰I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, ¹¹who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, ¹³whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. ¹⁵For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

PHILEMON'S OBEDIENCE ENCOURAGED

¹⁷If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. ¹⁸But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay—not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. ²¹Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²²But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.

Farewell

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, ²⁴as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. ²⁵The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. **AMEN.**

PHILEMON — QUIZ (select all that are correct)

Q1 How does the Apostle Paul view his relationship with his missionary ministry team (vv1-3)? **Paul views...** **a)** Timothy and Titus as brothers; **b)** Philemon as his beloved co-laborer and friend; **c)** Apphia Archippus and his congregation as fellow Christian soldiers; **d)** himself as a prisoner of Christ; **e)** neither.

Q2 How does Paul describe Philemon and what does he think of him (vv4-7)? **a)** someone known to share his faith and good things with others because of Christ's love in him; **b)** someone known to refresh and encourage other Christians' hearts; **c)** someone known for his faith in Christ and love for other Christians; **d)** someone to fondly thank God always for in his prayers; **e)** neither.

Q3 How does Paul intercede for Onesimus with Philemon (vv8-16)? **a)** Paul commands Philemon to take his request about Onesimus; **b)** Paul shares with Philemon that Onesimus is now a slave to Christ just as they both are; **c)** Paul suggests to Philemon that perhaps the purpose for Onesimus escaping was to be saved; **d)** Paul argues that Onesimus would be more valuable to Christ's ministry as a servant than returning to Philemon as a slave; **e)** neither.

Q4 What actions does Paul recommend be taken (vv17-22)? **Paul asks that...** **a)** Onesimus return and humble himself to Philemon as his master; **b)** Philemon receive Onesimus as he would Paul, i.e., as a brother beloved; **c)** Philemon to allow Onesimus to repay what he stole over time; **d)** Philemon do even more for Onesimus because Philemon owes Paul his new life in Christ also; **e)** neither.

YOUR NOTES:

[illegible]