



The Book Of

TITUS





CHRIST'S CHURCH

**EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD BY
LEADING PEOPLE TO BECOME
FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS CHRIST.**



TITUS 1:1-9

Our goal at Christ's Church is for you to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. We want you to be equipped in your faith so that every area of your life is submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus requires your full devotion.

Perhaps you don't even know if you have a faith or what it means to follow Jesus. That's okay. Whether you have no faith or have followed Jesus ever since you were born, this workbook is for you to explore what it means to follow Jesus more fully. In Titus, one of the books of the Bible, the author Paul writes these words to Titus:

*I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to **teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives.***

Titus 1:1 NLT

Did you catch that? Paul is writing to Titus to inform him how faith leads to godly lives. Faith isn't just knowledge about Jesus, but faith in Jesus also leads to transformed lives. If the churches in Crete are going to live godly lives, then they must follow the instruction that Paul gives to Titus.

Take time right now to pray that God would use the book of Titus to convict, train, and shape how you live.



- *Do you think Jesus cares about your character? Why is character crucial for all believers? Look at James 2:14-17*

If you want to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, you are going to have to work at it. This isn't something that happens overnight. It happens throughout your lifetime as God transforms your heart and actions to become more like his Son Jesus. Your character and integrity matter because that is what the world sees and equates God to. If your character is growing in the image of Jesus, then the world can see how truly transformational the power of the Holy Spirit can be in a person's life.

To be honest, following Jesus is hard and letting the Holy Spirit transform your character is even harder. One of the tactics Satan uses against the community of God is to cast doubt in the minds of believers. He wants us to stay focused on our inadequacies and failures. He wants us to wallow in our shame and guilt instead of boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus to those around us. Satan wants us to forget the truth that Jesus has already triumphed over him. Jesus defeated Satan through his death on the cross and the resurrection from the grave three days later.

Jesus' resurrection changes everything. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now at work in the lives of believers to bring life to our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11). Check out how Paul reminds Titus and the believers on the island of Crete about the transformational power of Jesus Christ.



*This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. **This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.***

And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone.

Titus 1:1-3 NLT

Because of what Jesus achieved through the cross and resurrection, we can have confidence about our salvation. Read Titus 2:11-14 and 3:4-7 for a spoiler on what salvation means for the believer of Jesus Christ.

Paul wants the believers on the island of Crete to know this truth. In Titus 1:5, we learn why Paul left Titus on the island of Crete. The churches on the Island of Crete need mature leaders of the faith to help guide the church in godliness.

One of the greatest mistakes we make when we read scripture is to think that it does not apply to us. Paul instructs Titus what a godly leader in the church should look like and the temptation that we face is to skip that section. However, we all should be maturing in our faith so that we can be respected leaders in the church.

- *Do you desire to be a leader in the church? Do you desire to be a godly example for other people? Why or why not?*



I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money. Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life. He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

Titus 1:5-9 NLT

- *Which attributes of this list come easier for you? How can you still work to improve those character traits that are easier for you?*

- *Which attributes of this list are harder for you to live out? How can you work to improve those character traits that are not natural for you?*

Spend time praying to God about the areas of your life that still need to be transformed.



TITUS 1:10-16

- *What do you think of the statement: Christianity is not a religion but a relationship?*

- *In what ways do you view Christianity as a list of do's and don'ts? In what way do you think Christianity is a bunch of rules that are meant to keep us from having fun?*

- *What type of emotions/feelings do you have when you think about following Jesus?*

In some respects, Christianity is a religion. It has a standard of beliefs and practices that believers participate in. When referring to Christianity as a global belief system then it is a religion. So, we must be careful when we say "*Christianity is not a religion but a relationship*" because on one level it is a religion. However, there is still much more to Christianity than a list of rules to follow. When we view Christianity as just a list of do's and don'ts, we miss the good news of Jesus. Instead of being life-giving, Christianity becomes life-taking.



*Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep...I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.***

John 10:7,9-11 ESV

Maybe at some point in your life you thought that living as a Christian is restrictive and boring. That is not the picture that Jesus gives us. It is so important to both understand and embody the truth that Jesus is good news for all humanity.

The message Jesus proclaimed is called the gospel message (literally means good news). Not restrictive and boring news, but life-giving good news.

When reading and studying the bible it is important to notice and understand the literary context of the verses that you are reading because they often shed light on the challenges the first followers of Jesus were facing in their understanding and application of the gospel message.

- *Are there any literary context clues in Titus 1 that shed light on why Paul is writing to Titus?*



One of the problems that Titus is facing with the churches in and around Crete is that there are people teaching a false gospel. That is why Paul instructs Titus to establish good leadership within the churches. The church needs to be taught the message of Jesus without distortions.

*For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, **especially those of the circumcision group**. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.*

Titus 1:10–11 NIV

Read Acts 15:1-21

- *What was the “circumcision group” teaching? (vs 1 and 5)*

- *How is their teaching wrong? How are we saved? (vs 7-11)*

Legalism tells us that there are certain rules or traditions that we must follow to earn God's love and receive salvation from him. However, the true message of Jesus is that we cannot save ourselves. If we could, then we wouldn't need Jesus' sacrifice. We are saved from a life of sin to a life of following Jesus. We live obedient lives to the commands of Jesus because he has saved us not because



- *How does legalism threaten the message of the gospel? How does it threaten the ministry of the church?*

Another important thing to notice while studying scripture is to take note of the cultural context of the text. Paul writes this letter to Titus, but where is Titus? Do we know anything else about Crete? What is the culture like in Crete? What are the challenges facing Christianity on the island of Crete? Researching the cultural context can clarify the meaning of the text. Sometimes, the authors of scripture include a little cultural context to help us understand why they are writing. Paul says this about Crete:

*One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "**Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.**" This saying is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. To 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. **They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.** They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.*

Titus 1:12–16 NIV

That is quite a reputation that Cretans have! If the church in Crete is going to follow Jesus, then they can't live as other Cretans do. Once again, their faith in Jesus must be lived out by their actions.



- *What similarities do you see between the culture of Crete and the world we live in today? If Paul were writing a letter to us, what would he identify as areas in need of correction?*

- *Are there aspects of American culture that you follow even though they may not be Christian? In what ways are you living as an American rather than living as a Christian in America?*

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me (Paul), I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.*

Romans 12:1–3 NLT

Stop and spend a couple minutes asking God to continue to transform you and your mind. Be open and honest about your struggles.



TITUS 2

*As for you, Titus, **promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching.** Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.*

*Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. **Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.** In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. **Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us.** Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. **Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.***

Titus 2:1-10 NLT

- *What are the five groups addressed and what are the common traits between the groups?*



- *Which group best corresponds to your current stage of life?*

- *In what ways do you practice self-control? When you think about the importance placed on it in this passage, what could you do practically to grow in self-control?*

No matter your stage of life or the circumstance in which you find yourself today, you have an opportunity to live a life that reflects the goodness of God. Whether young or old, male or female, your life is preaching a message to those around you. Christian behavior plays an important role in the way we communicate our faith to those around us. According to this passage, good works have a strong impact on how unbelievers think of Christianity. By maintaining the integrity of God's Word (v. 5) and living above reproach among those who oppose the faith (v. 8) we can attract the lost to the beauty of God's truth (v. 10).

- *Where do you believe God is calling you to greater discipline in your life?*

- *What difference do you think it would make in the lives of those around you?*



“No” is one of the first words that we learn and use as children. However, we also quickly learn to disobey the command “no”. For some reason, there is an added thrill when you do something that you know you aren’t supposed to do. Even though we have been commanded “no”, we still do it!

Sin separates us from God. There is no way around that. Whatever sin struggles you have in your life, it will always rip you further away from God and wreak havoc in your life. However, there is good news to be had. Jesus is the one who brings us back to God the Father and restores our relationship with God the Father.

One of the best verses in the Bible comes from the book of Titus. The truth found in these verses have the power to transform our lives because it clearly tells us what God the Father has done for his creation. It says:

*For the **grace of God** has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the **blessed hope**—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who 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.*

Titus 2:11-14 NIV

Read it again and let the truth of that scripture soak into your life. This is the part of the biblical understanding of salvation for the believer in Jesus Christ.



The grace of God (demonstrated through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and then again demonstrated by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit) teaches us to say "No!" Most of the time when we are tempted by our sinful desires, we try to rely on our own willpower instead of the power of God dwelling inside of us.

- *When was the last time you told your sin struggle "NO"?*

Overcoming sin addictions and habits requires focus and active determination. However, the object of our focus is the key. Here is how the book *Hobbies and Habits* by Covenant Eyes puts it:

*Often, when we decide to quit porn (insert whatever sin you struggle with) we fixate on it, making it harder for ourselves to resist. We may believe that mentally thinking, "No, don't go there! Don't click that," will help us resist the temptation, and in the heat of the moment, it may help. But in the end, when we focus all of our willpower on NOT doing something, it ironically makes it harder to resist that thing... and at the same time it makes it harder to resist other temptations as well. So where does this leave us? **The better option is to not simply not think about pornography (insert your sin struggle) anymore, but to think about something else instead. If we want to find lasting freedom from pornography, simply quitting porn won't be enough. We need to find community, and change our environment, and train ourselves to new habits.***



Go back and read Titus 2:11-14.

- *Where should our focus be?*

When was the last time that you were waiting for something, and you forgot about it? It can happen, but normally when we are really waiting for something great, we do not forget about it. We anticipate it and look forward to when we will receive it. Most of the time it dominates and controls our thoughts and actions.

Titus 2 tells us that Jesus sacrificed himself to redeem and purify us and it is because of that gracious act that Jesus teaches us to say "No" to sin *while we wait* for his return. Our focus in life is supposed to be on Jesus' return and redemptive work rather than ourselves. When our focus is on Jesus, it changes our perspective about the circumstances of our current lives and helps us live godly lives. Through Jesus we have been saved from the penalty of sin, are being saved from the power of sin, and will one day be saved from the presence of sin.

The song *That's The Thing About Praise* by Benjamin William Hastings explains how worshiping God changes how you should respond to the trials of life. The lyrics read:

*Sometimes the only way through it is a hallelujah
Hallelujah (hallelujah)
That's why I say hallelujah, hallelujah*



*It don't always fix your problems, but it'll tell ya how small they are
That's the thing about praise*

*It won't always move the mountain, but it's good for the heart
That's the thing about praise*

*You'll never know what it's gonna change, but it'll always leave a mark
That's the thing about praise*

*Yeah, I might see walls start falling, or it might just change my heart
That's the thing about praise*

God truly cares about humanity and wants to work in our lives for his glory! If we are willing to stop worshiping ourselves and our sinful desires and instead worship and focus on God, then and only then can God's grace transform our lives. God is better than our sinful desires!

- *Are you more concerned about your physical desires rather than your spiritual desire for God?*

- *How can you cultivate a rhythm of worship in your life?*

- *How am I going to remind myself that God is full of love and grace and wants to work in my life?*



- *What scriptures can I use to remind me of God's attributes (His love, perfect timing, control, grace, and power)?*

- *How does scripture declare truths about who God is and what he has done?*

- *In what ways has God previously shown himself (his love, perfect timing, control, grace, or power) in my life that I need to remember?*

- *Who can I have speak the truth of God's goodness into my life when I am struggling with my faith and temptation?*



TITUS 3

*These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. At 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. **But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he 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, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.***

Titus 2:15-3:7 NIV

- *In Titus 3:1-2, what are the seven characteristics of the Christian life?*

- *In Titus 3:3, what are the seven characteristics Paul used to describe humanity's former state apart from Christ?*



- *How has your life been changed/transformed by God? What were you like before following Christ? In what ways do you still struggle with these areas listed in Titus 3:1-3?*

- *According to Titus 3:4-7, what role does God the Father play in salvation? What about Jesus? What about the Holy Spirit?*

In contrast to the circumcision group (Titus 1:10), Paul once again reminds the believers that salvation is completely because of God's kindness and love. God offers us salvation because of His mercy, not because we earned it. Because of what God the Father does through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, believers become a new creation (2 Corinethian 5:17). The transformational power of the Holy Spirit is evident in the lives of believers who have been reborn through baptism, a ceremonial washing that symbolizes the transition from death to life (John 3:3-8). Then as the believer lives a life fully devoted to God, they experience the power of the Holy Spirit as He daily renews our minds and makes us new (Romans 12:2).

Because God has justified and reestablished our relationship with Him, we can have confidence in our inheritance of eternity (Titus 1:2). We can confidently expect the future redemption of our lives when Jesus returns, because we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:3-14).



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. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Titus 3:8-11 NIV

- *How does God's mercy motivate you to desire to do good works?*

- *How does the good news of Jesus change the way you behave and act? What should we avoid?*

- *When you think about your immediate context (neighborhood, workplace, family, etc.) how could you begin to live with a greater eagerness to do good where God has placed you?*



Hopefully, this workbook has helped you focus on God and challenged you to let Him transform you into the image of Jesus. Our goal at Christ's Church is for you to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. We want you to be equipped in your faith so that every area of your life is submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Take some time to focus on what step God is convicting you to take.

- *Next Step – What is it? How are you going to take it? When are you going to take it? How long are you going to practice it? Who is going to hold you accountable?*