

## Titus: A House in Order - Introduction

Icebreaker: Recount for your group how you brought in the New Year.

**The background...**

*“(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:11)*

*Even one of their own prophets has said, “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. (Titus 1:12-13a)*

Have you ever read the book of Titus? If so, when was the last time? Maybe take the next 10-15 minutes to read through the 3 chapters (46 verses) in order to familiarize yourself with this letter.

**The author** – “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ...” (Titus 1:1a)

- **Submitted to God’s lordship** – “...a servant of God...” (Titus 1:a) - In your definition, what does “lordship” mean? What does it mean to be submitted to God’s lordship?

**Worship 101: That which God redeems, God owns** – “But I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me.” (Hosea 13:4)

*You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor. 6:19b-20)*

Name one or two things you might bring under the lordship of God this 2021? Discuss how you might go about doing that.

- **Committed to God’s mission** – “...for the faith of God’s elect...” (Titus 1:1b)
  - **A truth that transforms** – “...and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.” (Titus 1:1b)

Paul is talking about the truth of the Gospel. By of introduction, what does “Gospel” mean? How did that Gospel change your life. How is that Gospel changing your life?

*This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:3-4)*

- **A reward that awaits** – “...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought His word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior.” (Titus 1:2-3)

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. And this is the word that was preached to you...Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation... (1 Peter 1:23, 25b;2:2-3)* Pastor Craig said, “scripture leads to maturity.” What is one (or two) way you can commit to the Scriptures (“crave pure spiritual milk”), in order to grow in your maturity this 2021 season? In other words, how can you add it to your daily routine?

**The recipient** – “To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.” (Titus 1:4)

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1 Gospel simply means “Good News.” According to Bible, what is the Good News?

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- *Grace: the means.*
- *Peace: the result.*

In the same way God extends grace and peace to us, how (and to whom) can we extend grace and peace to others this upcoming year?