



The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to **TITUS**

Intro: This epistle is named for its recipient, *Titus (Pleasant)*, who is mentioned by name 13 times in the New Testament.

Author and Date: Authorship by the Apostle Paul (1:1) is essentially uncontested. Titus was written between A.D. 62–64, while Paul ministered to Macedonian churches between his first and second Roman imprisonments, from either Corinth or Nicopolis (cf. 3:12). Most likely, Titus served with Paul on both the second and third missionary journeys. Titus, like Timothy (2 Tim. 1:2), had become a beloved disciple (1:4) and fellow worker in the gospel (2 Cor. 8:23). Paul's last mention of Titus (2 Tim. 4:10) reports that he had gone for ministry in Dalmatia—modern Yugoslavia. The letter probably was delivered by Zenas and Apollos (3:13).¹

Titus was left to minister in Crete, one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, measuring 160 mi. long by 35 mi. at its widest, lying S of the Aegean Sea, had been briefly visited by Paul on his voyage to Rome (Acts 27:7–9,12,13,21). He returned there for ministry and later left Titus to continue the work, much as he left Timothy at Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3), while he went on to Macedonia. He most likely wrote to Titus in response to a letter from Titus or a report from Crete.

- **Theme:** “*Truth accords with godliness*” (v1)

- **Key Verse:** Titus 2:11-14 - *For the grace of God that brings **salvation has appeared to all men**, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great **God and Savior Jesus Christ**, 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.*

- **Doctrines that this epistle affirms include:**

- 1) His saving grace (2:11; 3:5)
- 2) Christ's deity and second coming (2:13)
- 3) Christ's substitutionary atonement (2:14)
- 4) Regeneration and renewing of believers by the Holy Spirit (3:5)

- **Chapter Themes:**

Chapter 1 - *Godliness In The Church!*

Chapter 2 - *Godliness In The Home!*

Chapter 3 - *Godliness In The World!*

¹John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

> Chapter 1 - Godliness In The Church!

- Key #1 - (v1-4) Preach His Word, His Word Is Truth!

- Key #2 - (v5-16) We Must Practice What We Preach!

- What is GODLINESS?

From the Holman Bible Dictionary GODLINESS is an attitude and style of life that acknowledges God's claims on human life and seeks to live in accordance with God's will. Individuals can be trained in godliness (1 Tim 4:7). Godly teaching (1 Tim 6:3) is that which results in godly lives (Titus 1:1). False teachers sought to make their godliness a source of financial gain (1 Tim 6:5). When "godliness" appears in lists with other virtues, it perhaps retains its earlier sense of respect for God and divinely ordained institutions (1 Tim 6:11; Titus 2:12; 2 Peter 1:3-7). The form of godliness lacking the power of godliness (2 Tim 3:5) likely refers to professed godliness that failed to shape moral lives since the profession was not accompanied by a vital relationship with God.

1 Timothy 4:8 - *For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*

2 Peter 1:2-9 - *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

> Key #1 - (v1-4) Preach His Word, His Word Is Truth!

a) Truth regarding "godliness"- That is "to be devout," denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him.

- In Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words there are four places where specific guidance is given for "godliness":

1st- In 1 Timothy 6:3, "the doctrine which is according to godliness" signifies that which is consistent with "godliness," in contrast to false teachings;

2nd- In Titus 1:1, "the truth which is according to godliness" is that which is productive of "godliness";

3rd- In 1 Timothy 3:16, "the mystery of godliness" is "godliness" as embodied in, and communicated through, the truths of the faith concerning Christ;

4th- In 2 Peter 3:11, the word is in the plural, signifying acts of "godliness." (Let us read 2 Peter Ch. 3)

b) Truth regarding "Eternal Life" - John 3:14-15 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 5:39 - Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 17:3 - And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

c) Truth regarding "our Savior" - John 3:17-19 - "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

(v3) Preach what? We must:

- Preach the Word! - Acts 13:1-5, 38,39; 28:30,31

- Preach the Gospel! - Romans 1:15-32

- Preach Christ Crucified! – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."*

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and

to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

Warren Wiersbe writes in his Bible commentary, “Throughout all three of the Pastoral Epistles there is an emphasis on teaching the Word of God. Local churches ought to be “Bible schools” where the Word of God is taught systematically and in a practical way.”

(v4) Let’s look into the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior:

- From the Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary we read the following definition for SAVIOR - A person who rescues others from evil, danger, or destruction.

The Old Testament viewed God Himself as the Savior: *“There is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior”* (Isa 45:21). God is the source of salvation.

In the New Testament the word for savior describes both God the Father (1 Tim 1:1; Jude 25) and Jesus Christ the Son (Acts 5:31; Phil 3:20). The apostles rejoiced that in Christ, God had become the “Savior of all men” (1 Tim 4:10). He was the Savior of Gentiles as well as Jews. As Christians, we are exhorted to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18).

- We have been saved through AMAZING GRACE!

- We have been given TENDER MERCIES which are new every morning!

- And, we have a PEACE that passes all understanding!

All glory be given to God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

> Key #2 - (v5-16) We Must Practice What We Preach!

(v5-14) Elders - (Gk. *Presbuteros*) & Bishops that is “overseer” (Gk. *Episkopos*) designate the same office. Elder refers to Christian maturity and overseer to the function of the office.

~ The function of the Elder is:

- *to rule his own house well, thus being capable to care for the church of God* (1Tim. 3:4-5; 5:17)

- *to teach God's Word in sound doctrine (1Tim. 5:17)*
- *to guard the body of revealed truth from perversion and error (Titus 1:9)*
- *to oversee the church as a shepherd over His flock (Jn. 21:16; Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17; 1Pet. 5:2)*

~ *Qualities of Godly Leaders (or men)*

- *Blameless*
- *Husband of one wife*
- *Faithful children*
- *Steward of God*
- *Not self-willed, quick tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy*
- *Hospitable, lover of good, sober minded, just, holy, self-controlled*
- *Holding fast the faithful Word in sound doctrine & teach with encouragement and conviction*
- *Rebuke the deceivers to make them sound in the faith*

(v15) Let us understand "defilement" – Jesus said in Matthew 15:15-20 - *Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us." So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? "Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. "These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."*

(v16) Many will profess they know God, but their lives are a different story! Jesus said in Matthew 7:15 - *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."*

And Matthew 7:21-23 - *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*