

## TITUS 1

-Now we will study God and Paul's letter to Titus and to all Christians.

-Who was Titus?

-Paul calls Titus "my true child in a common faith," so we understand that Paul led Titus to faith in Christ (1:4).

-It is possible that Paul met Titus during his first missionary journey, and that they traveled and taught together.

-After Paul's first missionary journey, he took Titus and Barnabas to Jerusalem for a meeting with the elders of the church.

-In the meeting in Jerusalem, it was decided that the Gentiles were not required to be circumcised nor to follow the laws of Moses.

-It may be that Titus also spoke at the meeting, for he was a Gentile and was not circumcised.

-It is also possible that Titus went with Paul on both of his second and third missionary journeys.

-On his third missionary journey, after leaving Ephesus, Paul went to Macedonia where he met up with Titus who had been teaching in Corinth.

-It was Titus who took the letter 2 Corinthians to Corinth, and organized a collection of money in Corinth for the Christians in Jerusalem.

-When Paul was released from prison in Rome, Titus went with Paul to Crete to teach the churches there.

-After a time of teaching, Paul left Titus in Crete to continue teaching as well as to choose elders for the churches there.

-We know that Paul loved Titus because he called him his beloved brother and fellow worker in Christ (2 Co 2:13 & 8:23).

Let's read Titus 1:1

1-Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—

-Paul had much reason to be proud.

-He had much education, and was a Roman citizen.

-Instead of being proud, what did Paul call himself at the beginning of the letter to Titus?

-A servant or slave of God.

-To be proud of our flesh can cause us many problems.

-Is it better to be a servant of Christ or to be a servant of sin, death, and Satan?

-It is eternally better to be a servant or slave of Christ.

-It is also true that the more we give to God, the more He will give back to us.

-As our Jesus said in Luke 6:38:

-“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

-The more we surrender our own will to God, and the more we allow God to be God in our lives, the more we will be amazed by all that God has for us.

-To be a servant or slave of God is the best we can be.

-What leads to godliness?

-To continue to study the Word of God.

-How is the Word of God like gold?

-The deeper that we dig into the Word of God, the more gold we will find.

-The more we study the Word of God, the more our faith and knowledge of the truth will grow.

-The more we study the Word of God, the more we will become like our God.

Let's read Titus 1:2-3

2-In the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

3-and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior.

-When did God promise to give eternal life to all who believe in Christ?

-Before the beginning of time.

-Can God forget His promise to give us eternal life?

-No.

-It is impossible for God to forget His promises.

-When did God choose us Christians to be holy and blameless?

-Before the creation of the world.

-We learned this in Ephesians 1:4:

-“For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

-Is God able to keep His promise to make us holy and blameless?

-Yes.

-It is impossible for God to break even one of His promises.

-For us Christians, what is our greatest hope?

-Eternal life with God Himself.

-It was the command of God for Paul to teach of this hope of eternal life with Christ.

-It is the command of God for all Christians to teach of this hope of eternal life with Christ.

-And our hope of eternal life with Christ is built on the promises of God who cannot lie.

Let's read Titus 1:4

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

-At the beginning of the letter 1 Timothy, Paul called Timothy his true son in the faith.

-Here at the beginning of Titus, Paul called Titus his true son in the faith.

-From this, we can understand that Paul led both Titus and Timothy to faith in Christ.

-Paul taught both Titus and Timothy so that they could teach the Word of God to others.

Let's read Titus 1:5

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

-Crete is a large island south of Corinth, and is a part of Greece.

-As we have already learned, Paul and Titus went to Crete together, and after they had taught for a time, Paul left for Ephesus, leaving Titus in Crete.

-Why did Paul not choose elders before he left Crete?

-Because the faith of the men in the churches was not yet strong.

-In the book of 1 Timothy, Timothy was also told not to choose elders until the faith of the men in the church was strong.

-Here is what God and Paul wrote to Timothy:

-“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not

share in the sins of others” (1 Ti 5:22).

-This is why Paul left Titus in Crete so that Titus could continue teaching the Word of God until the faith of the men was strong.

-As we learn in 1 Timothy, if the elders are well chosen, then the church will do well.

-If the elders, however, are not well chosen or are chosen too quickly, then the church will not do well.

-Who should choose the elders of the church?

-God the Holy Spirit through men with a strong faith.

-Since the church belongs to God, we must ask God to choose the elders.

-And God is able to choose elders through men with a strong faith.

-Like 1 Timothy 3, God through Paul writes once again about how elders must be.

Let's read Titus 1:6

6-An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

-An elder must be blameless or above reproach.

-This is so important that it is repeated in the next verse.

-For an elder to be blameless means that no one is able to accuse him of doing wrong.

-In the Old Testament, Job and Noah are examples of those who were blameless:

-“Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil’” (Job 2:3).

-“Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God” (Ge 6:9).

-The father and mother of John the Baptist, Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly (Lk 1:6).

-While no one is without sin, an elder must not allow any sin to continue in his life.

-An elder must also be faithful to his wife.

-If an elder is married, he must have only one wife, and must remain faithful to his one wife.

-If the wife of an elder dies, can he remarry?

- Yes.
- She must, however, be a Christian woman.
- If a man committed adultery before he believed in Christ, but as a Christian no longer commits adultery, can he become an elder?
- Yes.
- A person should be seen by his life as a Christian, and not by his life before he believed in Christ.
- Can a man who married two wives before he became a Christian become an elder?
- No.
- Should a man who married two wives before he became a Christian divorce one wife so that he can become an elder?
- No.
- God hates divorce, and if a man marries two wives before he becomes a Christian, he must continue to be the husband of both wives (Mal 2:16).
- Does the Word of God say that only married men can be an elder?
- No.
- Yet, if a man who is not married becomes an elder, he must be careful with women.

- An elder must have children who believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.
- As 1 Timothy 3:5 teaches us:
- “If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?”
- What should be the greatest work of a father?
- To lead his children to Christ.
- Someone who is not able to lead his own children should not be allowed to lead the church.

Let’s read Titus 1:7

- 7-Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.
- What is an overseer?
- It is another name for an elder.
- What is the work of an overseer?
- An overseer cares for that which belongs to someone else.
- Why is an elder an overseer of God’s work?

-Because elders must care for the church which belongs to God.

-As Titus 1:7 teaches us, an overseer or an elder manages God's household or the people of God in the church.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must not be overbearing.

-What does it mean to be overbearing?

-To be overbearing means to want your own will above the will of God.

-In Mt 20:26-28, Jesus said this to His disciples:

-“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

-An elder must want the will of God above his own will.

-To want your own will is the root of all sin.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must not be quick-tempered.

-While even Jesus became angry at the sin of people, an elder must not easily become angry.

-“Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” (James 1:20).

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must not be given to drunkenness.

-God told Aaron and his sons not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever they went into the tabernacle, or they would die (Lev 10:9).

-Before John the Baptist was born, God told Zechariah, his father this:

-“He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born” (Lk 1:15).

-While the Word of God never condemns drinking wine, an elder must not drink wine in excess.

-This is because an elder is a leader of the church, and a leader of the church must set a good example for others.

-Instead of being controlled and drunk with wine, elders and all Christians should be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must not be violent.

-No elder should fight anyone with his hands, nor should he fight anyone with his words.

-Our example is the Lord Jesus before He was crucified:

-When the high priest asked Jesus to respond to the accusations against Him, He remained silent and gave no answer (Mk 14:60-61).

-When Pilate asked Christ if he heard the false testimony against Him, Jesus made no reply, not even to a single lie against Him (Mt 27:13).

-As we read in Isaiah 53:7:

-“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He did not open his mouth.”

-The way of Christ is the way of elders and all Christians.

-We should not fight with our hands, nor with our words, knowing that God is in control of every part of our lives.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must not run after dishonest gain.

-Should a man who loves money more than God become an elder?

-No.

-Will a lover of money serve God and His people with his whole heart?

-No.

-He will look after himself more than the church.

-Yet, can a rich man be an elder?

-Yes, but only if he puts God before his wealth.

Let's read Titus 1:8

8-Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must be hospitable.

-To be hospitable means to truly love and care for all people in need.

-In Luke 14:12-14, Jesus said this:

-“When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must love what is good.

-What does it mean to love what is good?

-An elder should love to do good that will help others and also love others who do the same.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must be self-controlled.

-To be self-controlled means to not allow ourselves to think or talk about anything which would hurt us or others.

-If we have a bad thought, we should ask our God to take it away.

-If we want to speak words which would hurt ourselves or others, we should ask our God to take them away.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must be upright.

-To be upright means to be just to all people without favoring one person over another.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must be holy.

-What does it mean to be holy?

-To be holy means to be set apart for God or to give ourselves completely to God.

-If we give ourselves completely to God, what will happen?

-God will become our holiness.

-The Word of God teaches us that an elder must be disciplined.

-What does it mean to be disciplined?

-To be disciplined means to continually call on God that our flesh would be crucified, and that God alone would be the One who would think and speak and act in our lives.

Let's read Titus 1:9

9-He 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.

-Finally, an elder must be able to teach the Word of God.

-To teach means to be able to explain the Word of God as well as to encourage people with the Word of God.

-In order to teach, elders must spend time reading and studying the Word of God.

-By reading and studying the Word of God, elders will be able to show false teachers that their teaching is wrong.

-To be able to teach others the Word of God is the greatest work we can ever have.