

Bible Thoughts

with
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Pauls Letter to Titus

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analysed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

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Introduction

Paul's letter to Titus

WRITER.

Paul, written to Titus to help in the ministry in Crete.

Reason

Titus was a Greek believer [Gal 3:2](#). He had come to know Jesus as his Saviour due to some personal ministry of Paul [Titus 1:4](#). There must have been a close relationship with Paul as he wrote in [2 Cor 8:23](#) "If any should inquire about Titus, he is my partner and fellow helper." It is probable that Titus was a young man like Timothy but not suffering from an health problem.

The people who lived on the island of Crete were apparently causing problems for Titus, they needed leadership because they were mixing the Jewish law with the Gospel. [Titus 1:10,14](#). In addition some of the Greek believers were taking the freedom through grace as a licence to do anything. [Titus 2:11-13](#)

This letter covers similar subjects as 1 Timothy.

The letter is broken up as follows:

Organization of the church work

Preaching the Word of God [Titus 1:1-4](#)

Appointment of the right leaders [Titus 1:5-9](#)

False Teachers [Titus 1:10-16](#)

What Christians are expected to do.

For older saints [Titus 2:1-4](#)

The Younger Men and Women [Titus 2:4-8](#)

Slaves who are Believers [Titus 2:9-15](#)

Christians in the World [Titus 3:1-8](#)

Problem People [Titus 3:9-11](#)

Greetings [Titus 3:12-15](#)

Chapter 1

Paul's initial greeting was longer than normal but he has included relationships between the Word of God and the ministry.

v1-4 Preaching the Word of God.

v1 "According to the faith of God's elect." Paul was controlled by the Word of God, *a servant* (or slave) to God. He was one of those who have trusted Jesus as their Saviour, *God's elect*. See [1 Peter 1:1-5](#); [Eph 1:4](#).

"Truth which is according to godliness," A changed life due to the Truth of the Gospel.

v2 According to the promises made by God before the beginning of the world. A hope for the future because God cannot lie. Even right now believers have this eternal life [1 John 5:11-12](#); [John 3:16](#), but we will be given a changed life when He returns.

v3 "According to the commandment of God" God decided to use men and women to spread His message [1 Cor 1:21](#). The command came from God [Gal 1:10-12](#)

v4 All believers have a "common faith," we may attend different churches but we are all one in Christ.

v5-9 Appointment of the right leaders.

Following his preaching during his short visit to Crete Acts 27 Paul appears to have left Titus on the island to organize the leadership of the churches. It is Possible the message had already reached the island following the events at Pentecost. [Acts 2:11](#)

v5 Paul has instructed Titus to appoint elders and provides a list of qualifications, this list is similar to [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#) but Paul has added additional requirements.

v6 *Faithful children* . If a church leader is unable to win his own children for Christ, what success will he have with others?. Christian service begins in the home [1 Tim 3:5](#). This is a warning to new Christians who feel a call to a ministry.

v7 "The steward of God." A steward does not own but controls and manages the property of his master. Compare [Matt 25:14-30](#). All Christians should be faithful stewards, not just the pastors and elders. All we have comes from God.

"Not self willed," Not wanting his own way, an elder or pastor must not be a dictator, thinking they are very important, full of pride.

"Not quick to anger," We can have anger against the evil of the world, but we must not have anger against another believer.

v8 "A lover of good men," A person who loves things which are good, people, goods, books, and so on.

"Just" A person who practices what he preaches, his life is right with God.

"Holy" [1 Peter 1:16](#) Set apart for God.

"Temperate," Able to control his desires, and work load, he is under the control of the Holy Spirit. See fruit of the Spirit [Gal 5:22,23](#).

v9 "Holding to the faithful Word" God cannot lie so we must have faith and trust in all He has said and promised. They must make sure that they only teach the true Word of God, false teachers soon appeared in all of the churches and healthy doctrine was very important.

v10-16 False Teachers

Titus was facing a similar enemy to Timothy, a mixture of Jewish traditions and East-

ern [mysticism](#) was taught by the false teachers.

v10,11 These teachers would not accept the Word of God or the apostles authority. Their words had no meaning, *vain talkers*, all they did was talk and tell others what to do but did not do it themselves. *Deceiving*, many people with their false doctrine, often for financial gain. Note v16.

v12 They were living and teaching for fulfilment of their own desires.

How were they spreading their teaching? They told lies by going from house to house v11. Possibly a warning of the danger of house groups today, which can be open to anyone.

They were including Jewish legalism and traditional worship v10 *those of the Circumcision*,. *Jewish fables* probably as [1 Timothy 1:4](#), making up their own interpretation of scripture.

v15 A verse which is often used by weak Christians to defend their wrong actions and sins. These false teachers were actually talking about the Jewish rules for food, see 1 Tim 4:3-5, according to them, eating the right food made you 'holy.'

Titus was to fight these false teachers with sound doctrine v9, the Word of God. He must *stop their mouths* v11, *rebuke them sharply*, v13 that they may turn to the truth. We can all chose what we believe, but not the result of your belief. [John 8:32](#)

Chapter 2

Paul now examines and discusses different areas of the ministry.

v1-4 The mature / older members

Titus was a young man so he may have had problems relating to older members of the fellowship. Paul lists areas of responsibility that he expected the older men members to be reliable in. v2 *Sober* Avoid excess of wine, with time on their hand they might be tempted to over use wine.

Serious not someone who never laughs, but he is respected by others, people know that he has put some serious thought to any matter under discussion.

Temperate able to self-control their life, does not behaving frivolous or in a childish way.

Sound in faith These men should know and understand what they believe in. As a result of their faith they should have charity (love) and patience with others.

v3 In the same way the older women should have the same qualities as the older men plus a few others. They should be holy in their life, they should behave as believers, not spreading tales and possible lies about others. Their experience and attitude to others should make them good teachers, helping the younger women .

v4-8 The younger saints.

v4 The older women have the responsibilities to teach the younger women. The Christian home was something new in the Roman Empire. Often marriages were arranged, love was not often the reason for a marriage.

Look at [Eph 5:21-33](#) for what a Christian home should be like.

v5 *Discreet* as v2 *temperate*, sober-minded, thinking things out.

Chaste Pure in mind and heart.

Keepers at home. Caring for the home. [1 Tim 5:14](#). Making sure that their actions and

behaviour are all to the glory of God. Family problems like divorce etc. amongst believers is a poor witness to the world.

v6 Paul suggested that Titus was to let the older women teach and monitor the women of the fellowship while he concentrated on encouraging the younger men. This was a good idea as Titus may have had problems with dealing with young ladies.

v7 The word translated *pattern* is used to describe an *impression made by a die*, that is a perfect copy of a master. Titus was to be a copy of his Master, Jesus, good works, good doctrine and teaching, a life which was to give glory to God.

v9-15 Christian Servants or Slaves See also [Eph 6:5-9](#); [1 Tim 6:1-2](#). The Roman Empire was had a very large slave population, so they would often become believers. v9 Paul gives three warnings to these servants, or as in most homes, slaves.

Obedience. They were to avoid being disobedient to their masters, working to please the master. [Eph 6:6](#)

Gainsaying. Not to answer back, slaves were permitted to discuss a job with their master as they may have known more about the work, but they were not allowed to argue with the master.

v10 *Not purloining.* Not to steal. *Good fidelity*, the Master could trust the slave in all things.

Their life should be showing their Saviour and teaching to the world.

v11-15 Our Saviour

v11 Why should the believers behave this way? Because of the grace of God through His Son Jesus, our Saviour. We do not deserve salvation, we cannot save ourselves, but through His grace we have a way back to God, our wrong life forgiven.

v12 Grace helps us live a life pleasing to God. Our attitude is changed by the Grace of God, the same grace which saved us is now changing us. [1 John 2:15-17](#)

v13 We live in this present world but we are looking towards a new, wonderful life in the future, when Jesus Christ comes back to take us out of this world. The rewards of Grace.

v14 A Saviour who gave Himself for us so that all the grace of God could be poured out on us, making us His special (peculiar) people, holy and pure through His power.

v15 Our behaviour shows the love and grace of God, but Paul encourages Titus to keep telling the world of this love and grace. Make sure that your ministry does not put people off of the message of salvation. Remember you speak with the authority of God's Word.

Chapter 3

v1-8 Christians in the world. [1 Peter 2:11-25](#)

Paul speaks on how Christians should behave in the world. In the Roman Empire Christians behaviour was so different to the normal that they were often looked on with suspicion by the unsaved world. Paul reminds the believer that they are still subject to the government because they are subject to God. [Romans 13:1-7](#).

v1 "Ready for every good work," Paul is telling the believer to help, join in with anything which affects the community. Though we are heavenly citizens [Phil 3:20](#) [Eph 2:18,19](#); [Col 1:13](#) we are still in this world as witnesses for our Saviour Jesus.

v3-5 Paul reminds us that we were once part of this old world before we found Jesus, due to the kindness of God. Not only due to his kindness but also due to His mercy.

v5-7 How did He do it? By the work of the Holy Spirit, washing us of sin to make us clean, through Jesus Christ. [Eph 5:26](#); [John 3:5-6](#). Because of this act of love, mercy, kindness by God we are now heirs, part of His family, with a future of eternal life. We are now justified by this grace, made right in the eyes of God.

v8 Believers should live a life which not only pleases God but has a good effect upon the world - "good works" can be 'good' to the world as well as 'good' to the church.

v9-11 People with problems.

v9 Paul issues a warning to Titus, to avoid people who like to argue about unimportant points of the doctrine and things which were not important to the faith. Paul said that they are not worth the effort.

v10 Paul also warns to avoid the heretic, a person who thinks they are right and makes, sometimes forces others to make a choice. This behaviour is listed as one of the works of the flesh [Gal 5:20](#). Paul recommends that the person is told of his problems twice then be rejected by the church. Paul tells Titus that this person has already condemned themselves by sinning again and again even though they have been told.

v12-15 Final Thoughts

Paul asks Titus to join him in Nicopolis. We know nothing about Artemas, Tychicus we initially met in [Acts 20:4](#). He was with Paul in prison and carried his letters to Ephesians, [Eph 6:21](#); Colossians, [Col 4:7-8](#). Perhaps either or both were to replace Titus on Crete.

Apollos we initially met in [Acts 18:24ff](#)

v14 Paul reminds Titus for the reason for his letter, for believers to learn to only do good works which are to God's glory.

v15 A final greeting and prayer, benediction.