



The Book of Titus
(www.mensgroup.org - "Original Study")

PRAY: A suggested opening prayer for small group members or individuals to invite God to connect as we seek Him in his Word. Feel free to add your own words, "in prayer."

Dear Lord. Please help us to understand Scripture in Titus regarding good works and living a Christian principled life. Help us to personally apply what we learn in Titus to our everyday life and help us act as a beacon of light to others in living a faith-filled life.

INTRODUCTION:

It takes approximately seven minutes to read the entire Book of Titus. This letter from the Apostle Paul to Titus was written against the backdrop of First Century culture, but each chapter has much to say to today's Christian.

Titus was an early first-century gentile convert to Christianity who accompanied the Apostle Paul on several of his journeys and was also deputized by Paul to provide key leadership to the early church in both Corinth and on the Island of Crete. The Book of Titus focuses on his ministry to the Cretan church.

QUESTIONS

1. As you read Chapter One of Titus, what similarities do you see between the church of today and the early church in Crete to which Titus was sent to minister, that make the Apostle Paul's guidance to Titus relevant to today's church?

2. Looking beyond the radically different culture of today, as compared to that of first-century Crete (for example, no education gap exists today between men and women, equality of the sexes, absence of bondservants and slaves), does Paul’s instruction about how to teach the values outlined in Chapter Two still apply today? Why do they apply and why don’t they apply?

There are the admonitions to “older men, older women, young women, young men, husbands, wives” (some examples: self-control, integrity, kindness, submissiveness, sober-mindedness, dignity, good works, reverent behavior). Are these admonitions still appropriate and relevant today? Why?

3. How does Paul’s declaration in Titus 3:5 regarding “works” either compliment or create tension with his emphasis on works in Titus 3:1, 3:8, and 3:14?

APPLICATION:

The words “good works” appear six times (verses 1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:8, 3:15) in Titus, but the use of the word “works” in Chapter 3, verse 5, provides an important reminder that we are NOT saved by our “works.” A Christian’s “good works” are a result of (and flow from) what he is in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:8-10 further amplifies this truth. How important, then, are “good works” in the life of a Christian?

The word “sober” or “self-control” appears five times (verses 1:8, 2:2, 2:4, 2:6, 2:12) in Titus. What treatment does this character attribute typically receive in today’s culture (as reflected in social media, TV shows, and movies)?

A SUGGESTED CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, help us, individually or as a small group, apply Paul’s criteria for Godly Elders who love what is good and rebuke those who fail to do good. Amen.

All our Blessings,
Men’s Group Foundation, Inc.
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