



The Titus Ten: Introduction & Overview of the Epistle to Titus

Noel R. Vincent (29-Mar-2025)



*** [Start the Recorder](#) ***

Opening Prayer

Introduction:

Today, we kick-off our study through the book of Titus. This will be a temporary departure from our current structure and format of 45-minute verse-by-verse Bible studies followed by 45-minute small groups. Our outline for this morning will be as follows:

- Watch an 8-minute animated summary of the Book of Titus.
- Do a read through of the 46 verses of Titus together.
- I'll offer some light commentary during the read through.
- Discuss becoming the kind of men the Church needs today.
- Break into new small groups reshuffled for this study.

At our next Iron Men meeting in two weeks, we will begin working through the book, *Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Living*. I first came across the book while looking for something to change up our Iron Men routine after two years in Colossians. I read the book and loved it. Titus Ten was written by Pastor Josh Smith, whom you'll get to know as we watch his teaching videos each session. He wrote, field-tested, and refined the manuscript for this book in his own church over ten years with hundreds of men going through the study. I know you're going to enjoy it. Starting next meeting, our format will be as follows:

- Announcements and opening prayer.
- Different facilitator each session: (Noel + each of our 3 Pastors + each of our 5 Elders)
 - 2 - 3 follow-up discussion questions on the previous session.
 - 10-minute summary of the current session
- Watch the session teaching video by Pastor Josh Smith.
- Break for small groups:
 - Small Group Leaders lead the group through each question.
 - Each man should participate in the discussion.
 - End with prayer requests, and pray for the man on your left.

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The author's objective, and ours, is to build up godly men in our church to help carry the burdens of leadership, to serve well in the behind-the-scenes work, to meet the ministry needs of the church, and to faithfully lead and serve our own families. God wants to grow us and mature us and strengthen us and use us to advance His Kingdom and glorify His Name.

Group Discussion – Reflection Questions from the Last Session:

- What does it mean to be a man? What is your definition based on?
- What biblical character, other than Christ, can you identify with? Why?
- How does that character represent godly manhood?

Titus Video Summary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUEYCVXJM3k>

Overview of the Epistle to Titus: Read Titus 1:1 – 3:15

Titus 1

1 *Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness, (NASB95)*

Titus 1:1 (VincentNotes)

- "for the faith of those chosen of God" - Paul is writing not just to Titus, but to all the believers under his charge on Crete. His aim is to give Titus tools to guard and develop their faith.
- "for ... the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness" - Paul desires to see the believers at Crete conformed to the image of Christ (sanctified, living more godly lives) which comes through a knowledge of God as revealed in His Word (the Truth) via one's conscience. The more we know and understand, memorize and meditate upon God's Word, our consciences are built up and strengthened. The stronger the conscience, the harder it is to act in a manner inconsistent with it. John 17:17

2 *in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, (NASB95)*

3 *but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, (NASB95)*

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4 *To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. (NASB95)*

5 *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, (NASB95)*

Titus 1:5 (VincentNotes)

- "Crete" = fleshy. Again, perhaps, a Holy Spirit pun to underscore the condition of the Cretans, that being of the flesh.
- "Elder" = presbuteros-refers to the rank and dignity of the office held by an overseer (males only). In the church sense it regards the gravity or power of those with authority over the church (or churches). Perhaps similar to "Your Honor" or "Your Highness," "Your Holiness," etc. 1Ti 5:17-20
- "Bishop" = episkopos-is a related and often interchangeable title with "elder" which refers to the office or function of the overseer (males only). Perhaps, similar to "Senator" or "President." In some cases, elders/bishops oversaw multiple churches/congregations while pastoring as well. 1Ti 3:1-7
- "Pastor" = poimēn-refers to the front-line shepherd/care-giver who holds the office. In many cases, today in particular, pastors also serve as independent elder/bishops (males only) of their own congregations (Southern Baptist, non-denominational, Calvary Chapel, etc.). Other denominations hold to a more traditional, hierarchical system of elders, bishops and pastors (Presbyterian, Episcopal, Catholic, etc.).
- "Deacon/Minister/Servant" = diakoneo-one who serves others (males and females). Deaconate was originally established as helpers or assistants for the Apostles. They were essentially table servers. In some churches today, deacons hold the dual position of elders/bishops, exercising authority over their pastors. Acts 6:1-6, 1Ti 3:8-13

6 *namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. (NASB95)*

Titus 1:6 (VincentNotes)

- Qualifications for elders/bishops. #1Ti 3:1-7

7 *For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, (NASB95)*

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Titus 1:7 (VincentNotes)

- "For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward" -as referring to his wife and children. The overseer must also conduct the affairs of the church as a steward in service to God. His conduct should be such that there is nothing for which he could be called to account. The church belongs to God and the overseer serves the church at God's pleasure.
- "not pugnacious"- (Pugilist = boxer) not contentious, quarrelsome or verbally attacking or abusive.

8 *but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,* (NASB95)

9 *holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.* (NASB95)

10 *For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,* (NASB95)

Titus 1:10 (VincentNotes)

- The description of false teachers.

11 *who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.* (NASB95)

12 *One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."* (NASB95)

Titus 1:12 (VincentNotes)

- "a prophet" -actually an ancient poet of their own, Epimenides. In fact, a form of the word "Cretan" became synonymous with the term "liar."

13 *This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,* (NASB95)

14 *not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.* (NASB95)

15 *To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.* (NASB95)

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Titus 1:15 (VincentNotes)

- "To the pure, all things are pure" - this is a refutation of the dietary laws which were also being asserted by these false teachers. Matt 15:11, Acts 10:9-16

16 *They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.* (NASB95)

Titus 2

1 *But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.* (NASB95)

Titus 2:1 (VincentNotes)

- These instructions are Paul's method of dealing with false teaching in the churches on Crete.
- What is sound doctrine? Discuss. The Truth, the Gospel, which encompasses all those doctrines which are revealed in the Bible, such as sin, condemnation, death, hell, creation, salvation, deity, eternity, morality, etc. 1Ti 1:6-11
- Why do people reject these doctrines? Discuss. They are offensive to sinful man just as light invades, reveals and offends the darkness. Matt 10:34, Eph 6:17
- Why does Christ use a sword to describe His Word? Discuss. Is it the only offensive weapon in the arsenal/armory? I would argue that it is also defensive for the believer, as Christ used it to defend against the temptations of Satan. Heb 4:12
- What are the primary motivating factors for false teachers? Discuss. Greed and pride. 1Th 2:1-6, Tit 1:11, 2Pe 2:3, Matt 16:6-12, Luke 12:1, 1Cor 1:8, Col 2:18
- What are the benefits of sound doctrine? Discuss. Salvation for the lost. Abundant life for the believer. John 10:10, 17:17, Rom 1:16, 2Ti 3:14-17

2 *Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.* (NASB95)

Titus 2:2 (VincentNotes)

- This list is antithetical to the characteristics of false teachers. 2Ti 3:1-3, 2Pe 2:10-19

3 *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,* (NASB95)

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4 *so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (NASB95)*

5 *to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. (NASB95)*

Titus 2:5 (VincentNotes)

- "subject to their own husbands" - What does this mean? Discuss. Paul's opinion? Cultural application? Universal principle? Paul is an Apostle commanded to speak this message, and it carries the weight of God's Word, it being one in the same. Paul appeals to historical, doctrinal and eternal sources to make his case. He does not appeal to his contemporary culture. For the inerrantist, this is a universal principle. For the errantist, anything goes, for he is free to decide what is truth and what is not truth. Eph 5:22-24, Col 3:18, 1Pe 3:1-6, 1Ti 2:9-15, Gen 3:15
- To God, woman are created and valued equally with men. Women were created to be helpmates to men. Men were created to be aggressors (male organ) and women were created to be receivers (female organ). Men and women are different. Gen 2:20-24
- This is a matter of role distinction, not value or equality. One steering wheel per car, etc. Prior to the fall, there was no need for a leader among the two as there was no rebellion. Gal 3:28, Gen 3:16
- "so that the word of God will not be dishonored" - Paul's purpose in writing these things is to squelch and prevent future false teaching. This may be a reference to God's prior Word concerning Adam's ruling over Eve' as a part of the curse of the fall or else it may be a reference to women being more susceptible to false teaching as women are created with a strength toward relationships and feelings as men are created with a strength toward logic and actions.

6 *Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; (NASB95)*

7 *in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, (NASB95)*

8 *sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. (NASB95)*

Titus 2:8 (VincentNotes)

- "opponent" -false teacher.

9 *Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, (NASB95)*

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10 *not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.* (NASB95)

11 *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,* (NASB95)

Titus 2:11 (VincentNotes)

- "grace of God" - a title of Jesus Christ.

12 *instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,* (NASB95)

13 *looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,* (NASB95)

14 *who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.* (NASB95)

Titus 2:14 (VincentNotes)

- "purify for Himself a people" - Christ does the work of making us pure. If it were up to us, we would fail and, thus, never obtain our salvation. Jude 1:24

15 *These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.* (NASB95)

Titus 3

1 *Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,* (NASB95)

2 *to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.* (NASB95)

Titus 3:2 (VincentNotes)

- "malign" = speak evil of (Gr. -blasphemeo).

3 *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.* (NASB95)

4 *But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,* (NASB95)

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5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, (NASB95)*

6 *whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (NASB95)*

7 *so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (NASB95)*

Titus 3:7 (VincentNotes)

- "justified" = declared not guilty. (Heb. -tsadaq, Gr. -dikaioo).
- "heirs" - refers to our adoption.

8 *This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. (NASB95)*

9 *But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. (NASB95)*

10 *Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, (NASB95)*

Titus 3:10 (VincentNotes)

- "factious" = heretic. Grace, then judgment. Such men were divisive, their doctrines diluting the central issue of salvation. Paul's command involved the avoidance of discussion and debate. Continuing in such a fruitless effort would not represent good stewardship of Titus' time. Matt 18:15-16

11 *knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned. (NASB95)*

12 *When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. (NASB95)*

13 *Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them. (NASB95)*

14 *Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. (NASB95)*

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15 *All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.
Grace be with you all. (NASB95)*

Questions or Comments?

Small Groups