

Opening Greeting of the Letter to Titus Titus 1:1-4

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Salvation is more than fire insurance.
2. Salvation was planned in eternity, but made known in time.

Practical Application

1. Aren't you glad that God cannot lie?

Questions

1. Under what conditions was the Book of Titus written?
2. What was the purpose of this letter?
3. Why was Paul a "sent one" for Jesus Christ?
4. What does it mean that salvation was planned in eternity?
5. What does it mean that salvation was "manifest in due time"?
6. Is there anything God cannot do?

Answers

1. Titus was written in between Paul's two Roman imprisonments. Titus had been left by Paul on the Isle of Crete to help build up the churches there.
2. The purpose of this letter was to encourage Titus and to remind him of his responsibility to help establish the young churches on the Island of Crete. According to Titus 1:5, he was to "set things in order that are lacking and appoint elders."
3. Paul said that he was a sent one for the purpose of a) bringing to faith those God had chosen for salvation and b) perfecting that faith by teaching the truth that leads to godliness.
4. Eternal life was promised in the eternal counsels of God before time began.
5. Salvation was made known by the coming of Jesus Christ and the preaching of the gospel.
6. God cannot lie, nor can He do anything inconsistent with His moral character.

Discuss / Consider

1. What does it mean, "Salvation is more than fire insurance"?

2. Discuss, "Teaching is not just the accumulation of Bible knowledge. It should lead to godliness."

Challenge

1. Are you accumulating Bible knowledge? Is this knowledge leading to godliness in your life?

Qualities that Should Characterize Elders
Titus 1:5-9

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Elders are men who have family lives that are blameless.**
- 2. Elders are men who live sensitive, sensible, and sacrificial life styles.**
- 3. Elders are men who know sound doctrine.**

Practical Application

- 1. Send me a few good men if you want to build a church.**

Questions

1. When did the gospel come to Crete?
2. What is meant by the terms “elder,” “overseer,” and “bishop”?
3. How are elders to be appointed today?
4. What kind of men are qualified to be appointed as elders?
5. Is it necessary that elders be gifted in the area of preaching?
6. What is unsound doctrine?

Answers

1. Possibly when some Cretans were in Jerusalem during Pentecost and brought the gospel back to Crete, or during Paul's voyage to Rome when his ship stopped at Crete, or during Paul's fourth missionary journey between his two Roman imprisonments when he left Titus in Crete.
2. The terms are used for the same church position, but with different emphases. The term "elder" is used to emphasize the spiritual maturity of those who hold this office. The term "overseer" emphasizes the spiritual responsibility of those who hold this office. "Bishop" is the same word; he is a spiritual overseer.
3. There are no apostles or apostolic delegates today, so it is the function of the church to recognize and appoint elders.
4. Men who have family lives that are blameless; men who live sensitive, sensible and sacrificial life styles; and men who know sound doctrine.
5. No, but they should be able to exhort people with sound doctrine and be able to convict or refute those who are involved in unsound doctrine.
6. It is heretical doctrine or unbalanced doctrine (with an emphasis on demonology, for example, to the neglect of other doctrine).

Discuss / Consider

1. Why is it important for a church to have a plurality of elders?

2. Discuss / consider the importance of the qualifications of elders. These are excellent standards for any believer to aim for. If you are a man, are you becoming the type of man described here? If you are a woman, are you striving to be a woman who would complement this type of man?

Challenge

1. Make sure that your elders are living examples of the qualifications of godly elders, as listed in Titus 1:6-9.

Silencing False Teachers on the Island of Crete
Titus 1:10-16

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. **The church is not a democracy.**

Practical Application

1. **Are you a Cretan Christian?**

2. **Make sure it says so in the Bible.**

Questions

1. Who were the false teachers spoken of in this section?
2. What did the false teachers say was necessary for salvation?
3. What did the Cretan prophet say about Cretans?
4. What was Titus supposed to do about these false teachers?
5. What are overseers supposed to do today about false teachers?
6. What is the hallmark of a cult?

Characteristics for Godly Living to Various Age Groups **Titus 2:1-5**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Older Christian men who are sound in doctrine will be respected for their disciplined and unselfish lifestyle.**
- 2. Older Christian women who are sound in doctrine will teach by their reverent and loving lifestyle.**
- 3. Younger women who are sound in doctrine will witness by their pure and caring lifestyle.**

Practical Application

- 1. “I’m stuck at home with the kids” is not a biblical concept.**

Questions

1. Why is Titus a good book for any church to study?
2. Which three groups are spoken to in this section?
3. Explain the characteristics required of older Christian men: sober, reverent, temperate, and sound in patience.
4. Which two characteristics are especially important for women?
5. What do the characteristics of the younger women include showing love, being discreet, & being chaste mean?
6. What should be the primary focus of younger women?

Answers

1. Titus was to set in order things that were lacking in the church. These things are still important today. There must be good spiritual leadership, the teaching of sound doctrine, and the refutation of unsound doctrine.
2. The older Christian men, the older Christian women, and the younger Christian women.
3. Sober – rational in thought, word, and action; reverent - dignified, worthy of respect; temperate – sensible and self-controlled; sound in patience – perseverant.
4. They should not be malicious gossips or slanderers.
5. Love - tender affection; discreet - self-control; chaste - pure.
6. Her family and home.

Discuss / Consider

1. Exhortations for young men were noticeably missing from this lesson. Yet all men will one day be older men. A young man who is not sober, reverent, and temperate in his youth, will not gain these qualities instantly when he becomes old. Discuss how the character you develop early in life affects you as you age.

2. The thought of a younger woman being primarily focused on her husband and children is not a popular concept in our society today. Should we then downplay this teaching in our churches? How has the Church let society affect its teaching of the roles of men and women? Is your church different?

Challenge

1. How do you measure up?

Characteristics for Godly Living to Young Men and Christian Slaves
Titus 2:6-10

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Younger men who are sound in doctrine will display integrity, dignity and good works in their lifestyle.
2. Employees who are sound in doctrine will make Christ attractive by their honest and trustworthy lifestyle.

Practical Application

1. Let's not provide ammunition to the enemy.
2. Let's be attractive ornaments on the Christian tree.

Questions

1. How do we know that some of the false teaching in Crete had to do with the family, the roles of men and women, and the authority structures in the home and in the church?
2. Name the five different groups of Christians addressed in Titus 2:1-10. What was the teaching common to all?
3. What does sound doctrine lead to?
4. Why was Titus wise in having the older women teach the younger women, rather than doing it himself? How does this apply today?
5. How are young men to use their zeal and energy?

Motivation for Godly Living and Christian Conduct
Titus 2:11-15

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The grace of God should motivate the believer to live a more godly life.
2. The second coming of Christ should motivate the believer to live a more godly life.
3. The sacrifice of Christ should motivate the believer to live a more godly life.

Practical Application

1. Be what you believe in the little things.

Questions

1. Explain what it meant when Paul wrote to Titus, "Let no one despise you."
2. Why were the exhortations for godly living aimed at Cretan Christians?
3. List the three motivating factors that should stimulate all believers to follow through on these exhortations.
4. What is the grace of God?
5. What was the sacrifice of Christ?

Obeying Civil Authorities and Being Good Citizens
Titus 3:1-2

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Godly believers are good citizens.

2. Godly believers are good neighbors.

Practical Application

1. Has anyone asked you lately, “Won’t you be my neighbor?”

Questions

1. List the three possible themes of the Book of Titus.
2. What did Paul write in addition to his reminder to Titus to build up the churches and appoint elders?
3. List the four areas through which God channels His authority.
4. Are Christians always obligated to obey civil authorities?
5. How is civil authority appointed?
6. What does it mean to be ready for every good work?

Answers

1. “Adorning the Doctrine;” “Making Christianity Attractive;” and “Be What You Believe.”
2. He told him to exhort the Cretan Christians to live more godly lives, particularly in view of the ungodly culture of the Cretans.
3. the home, the church, in the area of labor, and through civil government.
4. Yes, with the exception when civil authorities issue a law which is directly contrary to the word of God.
5. By God. See Romans 13:1-2.
6. It means to be open to community and civil service.

Discuss / Consider

1. We often hear people bad-mouthing the authorities. As Christians, how should we deal with this?

2. How are you being a good neighbor?

Challenge

1. Are you praying for those in authority over you? See 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

Our Past, Present, and Future Position in Christ
Titus 3:3-7

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God loves people, but He hates their sin.

2. God saves people, but He rejects their works.

Practical Application

1. Let's love the sinner but hate the sin.

Questions

1. In Titus 3:3, was Paul describing only the native Cretans?

2. Compared to God's standard of righteousness, who else is described in Titus 3:3?

3. What is the significance of these two Greek words for love – agape and phileo?

4. Is anyone saved by good works?

5. What is meant by, "The package of our salvation is more than just the forgiveness of sins?"

6. Is the washing of regeneration the same as baptism?

7. When does the Holy Spirit begin His renewal work in our lives?

Foolish Arguments and Factious People
Titus 3:8-11

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. **Avoid trivial discussions which are unprofitable.**
2. **Warn divisive people who promote friction.**

Practical Application

1. **Let's not major on the minors.**
2. **Do you have a good work schedule?**

Questions

1. Paul wrote four "prison epistles." Titus, however, is called one of his _____ epistles.
2. In this epistle, where is the great summary of the gospel?
3. Why did Paul tell Titus to avoid trivial discussions?
4. Who else condemned this practice?
5. What are the elders to do with divisive people in the church?
6. When leaders have been lax in dealing with this problem, what are some of the results?

Answers

1. Titus is one of Paul's "pastoral epistles."
2. In Titus 3:5-7.
3. Because they are irrelevant, trivial, and unprofitable.
4. The Lord Jesus, in Matthew 15 and Mark 7.
5. The elders are to give them two warnings: that they are sinning by their conduct and are warped in their character. These warnings are to be given with as much love as possible, but with severity. If they will not respond, they are to be rejected.
6. Churches have split or closed their doors.

Discuss / Consider

1. Have you ever been involved in discussions in a church setting that you consider unprofitable? If so, what did you or what could you have done about the situation?

2. Discuss the value of a good work schedule.

Challenge

1. Do you have a good work schedule?

Paul's Closing Remarks and Benediction
Titus 3:12-15

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. **The good life of a Christian servant is busy and exciting.**

2. **The good works of the Christian servant are learned and frequent.**

Practical Application

1. **Use your talents and training for the Lord.**

2. **Don't leave your ministry stranded.**

Questions

1. Where else in Scripture is Apollos mentioned?

2. What were some of the things with which Titus was occupied?

3. "The good works of the Christian servant are learned." What does this mean? What are the implications?

4. "The good works of the Christian servant are frequent." What does this mean? What are the implications?

5. How did Titus provide for his ministry in his absence? What does this say to us?

Answers

1. In Acts 18 and 1 Corinthians 1.
2. He was busy establishing the churches on the Island of Crete, appointing elders, setting things in order, exhorting the believers toward sound doctrine and godly lives, and dealing with teachers teaching false doctrine. Now he was asked to help the ones who would be replacing him when he traveled to visit Paul in Nicopolis.
3. The Christian is exhorted to learn to do good works. This is learned behavior because we are naturally selfish. We learn by doing through instruction and practice. Older Christians have a responsibility to be models and teach younger Christians how to do good works.
4. There are always pressing needs. Good works are not only learned, but they are frequent to meet urgent needs. These are the daily and unexpected needs, calling on the Christian servant to become involved on the spur of the moment. These needs can be disruptive to our schedules, but a biblical response is pleasing to the Lord, for it is good and profitable (Titus 3:8). A word of caution here – pray about meeting these needs. Be sure it's your job, and if it is, then move on it.
5. Paul did not leave Titus' ministry on Crete stranded. When Paul asked him to come to Nicopolis, he sent Artemas and Tychicus to cover for him. When we leave a ministry, we should make sure that it is covered.

Discuss / Consider

1. Tychicus was a Christian mailman. Was this an insignificant or important job? What does it say to us today?

2. Apollos was a more eloquent preacher than Paul, but Paul shows no jealousy. What does this say to us?

Challenge

1. Contrast the two views of “the good life” – the Christian view and the world's view. Are you viewing from the Christian view?

2. How are you using your talents and training for the Lord?