



Paul's Letter to Titus

Chapter 3

a verse by verse study

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Paul's Epistle to Titus

Chapter 1: All things set in order

Chapter 2: Sound in doctrine;

Chapter 3: Perform good works.

Faith With Works

- Paul and James were never in disagreement: they both emphasized that faith without evidentiary works is dead.
- A saving faith produces a godly life.
- “Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone” --Calvin

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

Titus 3:1

- Subjection to authority: (The office, not the person.); Cooperation in those matters involving the whole community.
- Our heavenly citizenship **Phil 3:20** does *not* absolve us from responsibilities as citizens on earth.

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

Titus 3:2

- We are to malign no man.
- Not to repeat gossip. ..
 - “Some people will believe anything if it is whispered to them!”
 - “A secret is something you tell one person at a time.”

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

Titus 3:3

- This is the natural condition of man

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Titus 3:4

- [Example of Mephibosheth: the lame prince of Saul's family, treated as David's own at the palace table **2 Sam 9**]

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Titus 3:5

- “Washing” = speaks of the OT laver;
- Paul relates of this cleansing experience to the Word of God **Eph 5:26**
- The laver of the OT for washing appears in Revelation as the “glassy sea” which the saints are *standing on*. The Holy Spirit deals in puns!

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born of water and *of* the
Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that
which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born
again.

John 3:5-7

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus
Christ our Saviour;

Titus 3:6

- He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. **Eph 3:20**

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:7

- Washed, made new, and now also *justified*.
Cf. Rom 3:21-8:39
- “Heirs” of God!? Ties to, the Blessed Hope.
Titus 2:13

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Titus 3:8

- Good works are good for two reasons:
 - 1. they are good (so bring blessing to the recipient/s)
 - 2. they help to maintain focus and direction for the doer (Prov 29:18)

But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. **Titus 3:9**

- Debates have never led anyone to the Lord.
 - Warren Wiersbe suggests that professed Christians who like to argue about the Bible are usually covering up some sin in their lives, are very insecure, and are usually unhappy at work or at home...

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

Titus 3:10

- “Heretic” = one who causes divisions. Usually self-willed; given to works of the flesh.

Gal 5:20

Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

Titus 3:11

When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.

Titus 3:12

- Artemas: possibly one of the seventy disciples and the bishop of Lystra
- Tychicus was with Paul in his first Roman imprisonment and carried Paul's epistles to the Ephesians and the Colossians and to Philemon. **Acts 20:4**
- Either would replace Titus on Crete to allow Titus to join Paul at Nicopolis.

Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.

Titus 3:13

- Zenas: contracted for Zenodorus; a Jewish scribe, learned in the Hebrew law
- It is possible that Zenas and Apollos carried this letter to Titus. **Acts 18:24ff**

Apollos

- Apollonius, or Apollodorus; an Alexandrian Jew, "eloquent (or learned) and mighty in the Scriptures"
 - (which had been translated into the famous Greek version, the Septuagint (LXX), at his birthplace)
 - Initially he only understood the baptism of John, but Aquila and Priscilla, on hearing him, "took him unto them and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." *Acts 18:24-26*
 - Thus having received new light he went forth to Achaia, watering the seed there that Paul had already planted *1 Cor. 3:4-6*

Apollos

- His deep knowledge of the Old Testament gave him especial power with the Jews,
- So popular that some at Corinth abused his name, into a party watchword, saying, "I am of Apollos"
 - But Paul, while condemning their party spirit, commends Apollos, and writes that he had "greatly desired our brother Apollos to come" unto the Corinthians 1 Cor. 16:12
 - But Apollos was disinclined to come at that time; probably to give no handle for party zeal, until the danger of it should have passed away.

Apollos

- Jerome states that Apollos remained at Crete until he heard that the divisions at Corinth had been healed by Paul's epistle; then he went and became bishop there.
 - Apollos's main excellency was as builder up, rather than founder, of churches.
 - His humility and teachableness in submitting, with all his learning, to the teaching of Aquila and even of Priscilla (a woman), his fervency and his power in Scripture, and his determination in staying away from where his popularity might be made a handle for party zeal, are all lovely traits in his Christian character.

And let ours also learn to maintain good works
for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Titus 3:14

- “Learn” = efforts are required to modify behavior.

All that are with me salute thee.

Greet them that love us in the faith.

Grace *be* with you all. Amen. **Titus 3:15**

- Paul's unique signature salutation.
- (He is the only epistle writer that uses the term "Grace" in a closing salutation.)

<It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.>

