



**ST. LAURENCE
CHURCH**
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BIBLE STUDY

Titus

Lesson 2: Titus 2

Handed out Jan. 24 for discussion on Jan. 31

Review from Chapter 1

Titus is one of three Pastoral Epistles written by the apostle Paul, along with 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy. Paul left Titus in Crete to serve as a bishop with the important task of selecting presbyters for individual churches on the island (Titus 1:5). Chapter 1 addresses two major topics: church leadership qualifications (Titus 1:5–9), and dealing with offenders in the church (Titus 1:10–16).

Verses 5–9 provide a list of qualifications which Titus was to use in selecting or appointing church leaders. This list, along with 1 Timothy 3:1–7, includes the qualifications which have been used to select bishops and presbyters (priests)—church leaders—since New Testament times. They include character, family leadership, and teaching ability. This last trait includes an ability to "rebuke those who contradict" sound doctrine (Titus 1:9).

Verses 10–16 speak about false teachers in Crete. These men taught that circumcision was required for Christians (Titus 1:10), upsetting entire families in the process (Titus 1:11). Paul commanded Titus to rebuke them sharply, with the goal that they would be "sound," or accurate, in their faith (Titus 1:13).

REVIEW QUESTION:

1. Of the qualifications listed for bishops and priests listed in Titus 1, which is the most important to you? Why?

Truth at Home

"Because I told you" worked as an incentive to do something when we were young children who accepted everything our parents told us. But as we grew into teenagers, it was no longer a sufficient reason for changing our actions. We wanted to know why and needed a greater incentive.

Being the rational people we are as human beings, we need to know not only how we ought to behave as Christians but also why. We certainly need instructions about the kind of people we ought to be, but we also need incentives. So what is Christian behavior? And what are its grounds? These questions belong to each other, and Titus 2 is an outstanding example of this double theme.

OPEN

2. What motivates you to change your behavior? Why?

Read Titus 2:1-10. From the activities of false teachers, Paul turned to Titus's responsibilities as a true teacher. In fact the opening words of chapter 2, which almost all bible translations include, are "but as for you," emphasizing Titus's distinctive role in contrast to the false teachers. In this case, Titus was to behave in a way that is entirely unlike the false teachers. They professed to know God but denied Him by their actions (1:16). They failed to practice what they preached. In Titus, however, there was to be no dichotomy in his teaching between belief and behavior. "But as for you," Paul wrote, "you must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine" (v. 1).

3. Paul gave specific instructions for five groups of people in addition to Titus. List each group along with what Paul told Titus to teach them.

	Group	Teaching
v. 2		
vv. 3-4		
vv. 4-5		
v. 6		
vv. 9-10		

4. What instructions are given specifically for Titus in ch. 2?

We human beings seem to be imitative by nature. We need models; they give us direction, challenge, and inspiration. Paul did not hesitate to offer himself, as an apostle, for the churches to imitate. "Follow my example," he wrote, "as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). And Paul expected both Timothy and Titus to provide a model the churches could follow.

5. Why did Paul give all of these instructions?

Three times in these verses about the Christian behavior of different groups, Paul highlighted his concern about the effect of the Christian witness on the non-Christian world. In two of them he referred to Christian doctrine, which is salvation doctrine. So either we give no evidence of salvation, in which case the gospel is tarnished, or we give good evidence of salvation by living a manifestly saved life, in which the gospel shines. Our lives can bring either adornment or discredit to the gospel.

6. How do we draw unbelievers to the gospel and our Savior by the way we live?

7. What does your lifestyle reflect about your beliefs?

Read Titus 2:11-15. Paul moved on from duty to doctrine. His usual method was to begin with doctrine and then with a mighty "therefore" go on to its ethical implications. Here, however, the order is reversed. Paul began with ethical duties and then laid down their doctrinal foundation. Because of what Christ has done for us, our lives are to be transformed.

8. Describe the doctrine that is highlighted here.

9. What behavior did Paul expect as a result of knowing this doctrine?

10. What is our motivation for godly living?

11. How can this encourage us today?

12. Why is teaching the truth so important?

13. What charge did Paul give Titus? Why?

APPLY

14. Find the group you belong to in verses 1-10. (Think of slaves as employees.) Which qualities do you need to learn?

15. How can you begin to develop one of them this week?"

16. How can you help an older or younger Christian this week?

PRAY

Pray that God will show you specific ways to make the gospel attractive to unbelievers and to follow through in helping an older or younger Christian this week.