

***THE EPISTLES  
OF PAUL TO  
TITUS  
AND PHILEMON***

**STUDIES 1 - 10**

***TEACHER MANUAL***

## **Stephen Nemeth Lectures**

# *The Epistles Of Paul To Titus And Philemon*

Studies 1 - 10

## Teacher Manual

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*Stephen Nemeth Lectures*

# ***PAUL'S FIRST WORDS TO TITUS***

## **STUDY 1**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 1:1-4**

It is almost certain that Paul wrote the three Pastoral Epistles in this order:

**1 Timothy,  
Titus,  
2 Timothy.**

After ministering for a period on the island of Crete, he had left Titus behind to consolidate the work and organize the churches there.

Now, Paul was on his travels.

As two of his companions (Artemas and Tychicus) were to visit Crete on their journeyings, he entrusted them with this letter to Titus.

In this first study -

**Titus 1:1-4** - *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;  
2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;  
3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;  
4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

Paul gives a fivefold description.

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### 1. HOW PAUL DESCRIBES HIMSELF.

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The first word in the letter is Paul, the writer's name. It was the custom in those days to begin a letter with the name of the writer, just as it is our custom today to conclude the letter with the writer's name.

Paul describes himself in two ways.

1. A servant of God.

This is characteristic of him.

Compare -

**Romans 1:1** - *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*

**Philippians 1:1** - *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

He was a bondman of God, God's slave, for God owned him and he owned the Lord as his Master. Paul's life was totally committed to the Lord. He was not his own.

Compare -

**Exodus 21:6** - *Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.*

**1 Corinthians 6:20** - *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

2. An apostle of Jesus Christ.

Here Paul gives us his official authority for the ministry in which he is engaged. He was 'a sent one' - sent by the Lord Himself.

Sometimes Paul's enemies questioned his right to call himself an apostle, but there was no valid ground for such questioning. He was the envoy of Jesus Christ, who had entrusted him with the gospel.

**Titus 1:3** - *But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;*

We also, by the grace of God, are servants of God, the sent ones of Jesus Christ.

Do we take our place before the Lord as His slaves and recognize that He has sent us into the world to be His representative?

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2. HOW PAUL DESCRIBES CHRISTIANS.

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Here again he gives us a twofold description in -

**Titus 1:1** - *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;*

3. God's elect.

Paul rejoiced in the doctrine of Election.

Compare -

**Romans 8:33** - *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

**Colossians 3:12** - *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

**2 Timothy 2:10** - *Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

**1 Thessalonians 1:4** - *Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.*

**1 Peter 1:2** - *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

**2 Peter 1:10** - *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

It is a difficult doctrine to understand but very precious indeed to the heart.

It was true of the Christians in the first century that they were God's elect. It is true also today of every real Christian.

Are you rejoicing in this truth?

4. Believers.

The expression 'the faith of God's elect' indicates that Christians are believers, men and women of faith. We are saved by believing.

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**John 5:24** - *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

**Acts 16:30-31** - *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?  
31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

**Romans 1:6** - *Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:*

But, faith, believing, trust in God are also the principles by which we are to live. We are to have faith not only for justification but also for the supply of our needs and for the sufficiency of God's grace.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** - *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Is our faith as comprehensive as this?

This, then, is Paul's twofold description of the Christians in Crete and of Christians everywhere. We, by the grace of God, are *God's elect* and we are believers, those who trust in the living God.

**1 Timothy 4:10** - *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

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3. HOW PAUL DESCRIBES THE GOSPEL.

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Again he gives us a twofold description in -

**Titus 1:2-3** - *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

*3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;*



5. It is the eternal gospel.

The good news of the gospel is the offer of eternal life.

**Verse 2** tells us that God promised this before the world began.

God's gracious and merciful plan of saving men and women was no afterthought. It was part of His eternal purpose.

**John 17:24** - *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

**2 Timothy 1:9** - *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

It is important to remember that the gospel we love, by which we have been saved and which we preach, is an eternal gospel.

**Revelation 14:6** - *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

6. It is a declared gospel.

The apostle tells us that this great and glorious message of God has been manifested by preaching. In other words, the gospel is committed to us, but we must preach it. Paul tells us that he had been faithful in this respect.

The gospel has been committed to us as a solemn trust. Our responsibility is to declare it so that others may be saved.

**1 Thessalonians 2:4** - *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

Notice that what Paul is saying about the gospel has its application to us as well as to those in Crete to whom Paul first wrote.

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4. HOW PAUL DESCRIBES THE LORD.

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**Titus 1:2-3** - *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

*3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;*

tells us two particular things about the Lord.

7. He cannot lie.

This is only one of the things God cannot do.

Compare -

**John 10:35** - *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*

**2 Timothy 2:13** - *If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

**James 1:13** - *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

Our God is *the never lying God*.

**1 Samuel 15:29** - *And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.*

**Hebrews 6:18** - *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

He is altogether free from falsehood. This means that every promise He has ever made in relation to His children, the church, the Jews, the world, and in relation to eternity, He will fulfil.

8. He is our Saviour.

Here we need to compare -

**1 Timothy 1:1** - *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;*

The most precious name we give to our Lord is the name **Saviour**, which means **Deliverer**.

Is He your Saviour? From what does He save you?

Christ is able and willing to save us from the guilt, pollution and power of sin, from worry, anxiety and fear. At His coming again, He will save us from the very presence of sin.

Compare -

**2 Kings 13:5** - *(And the LORD gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime.*

**Psalms 106:21** - *They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;*

**Isaiah 43:3** - *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.*

**Isaiah 45:21** - *Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.*

**John 4:42** - *And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.*

**Acts 5:31** - *Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

**Philippians 3:20** - *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

**Jude 25** - *To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.*

Are you rejoicing in the God who cannot lie and in the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal and all-sufficient Saviour?

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5. HOW PAUL DESCRIBES TITUS.

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We are not told very much about Titus, though his name is mentioned in -

**2 Corinthians 2:13** - *I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.*

**2 Corinthians 7:6** - *Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;*

**2 Corinthians 7:13-14** - *Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.*

*14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.*

**2 Corinthians 8:6** - *Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.*

**2 Corinthians 8:16** - *But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.*

**2 Corinthians 8:23** - *Whether any do inquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be inquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.*

**Galatians 2:3** - *But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:*

**2 Timothy 4:10** - *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

In - **Titus 1:4** - *To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

we are told that -

9. Titus was Paul's child.

He refers to him as *my son*. Paul was his spiritual father. We do not know where Titus was converted. Possibly it was in Iconium, though we cannot be sure. Perhaps Titus did not know the time and place of conversion.

Many Christians do not, but they do know they are the Lord's.

**2 Timothy 1:12** - *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

10. Titus was Paul's genuine child.

The words *mine own* quite literally mean *my genuine child*, or *my true child*. Titus was not a nominal Christian as so many are today.

**2 Timothy 3:5** - *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Is it possible that you are only a nominal Christian?

All this may, and should be true of us. Are we really the children of God?

**John 1:12** - *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

Have we been born again?

**John 3:5** - *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.*

In concluding this study, carefully consider the beautiful and prayerful greeting that Paul sends to his son Titus in -

**Titus 1:4b** - *.....Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

# ***SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH***

## **STUDY 2**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 1:5-9**

**Titus 1:5-9** - *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:*

*6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

*7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

*8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;*

*9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

These verses have to do with leadership in the church. There are several vital requirements if the local church is to be a true centre of spiritual worship, fellowship and service.

The members must be truly born again -

**John 3:3** - *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

They must be separated -

**2 Corinthians 6:14** - *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

They must be dedicated -

**Romans 12:1** - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

They must be spiritual people -

**1 Corinthians 3:1** - *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

There must be harmony and concord in the church.

**Psalm 133:1-3** - *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

*2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;*

*3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

However, one other vital requirement is that there should be right leaders. For, whether a church is strong or weak, powerful or lacking in vitality, will depend to a large extent upon the leadership in the church.

No one knew this better than Paul. It is one of the main reasons he wrote the Pastoral Epistles.

Here in **Titus 1:5-9** he authorizes Titus to appoint leaders in each of the established churches. Then he describes the kind of people who should be entrusted with this responsible position of leadership.

He uses three words to describe leaders in the church.

11. Elders.

**Titus 1:5** - *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:*

This suggests maturity and dignity. An elder must be a man of spiritual stature and not a novice.

**b. Bishop.**

**Titus 1:7** - *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

The word means *overseer*, so a leader in God's work is one who *sees over* that work.



12. Steward.

**Titus 1:7** -..... *as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

A steward acts on behalf of another. A steward in the church is one whom God has placed there to work under His direction.

Now notice the qualifications for spiritual leadership -

**Titus 1:6-9** - *If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

*7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

*8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;*

*9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

What is God's standard in this matter?

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A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BE OF BLAMELESS REPUTATION.

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**Titus 1:6-7** - *If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

*7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

A leader must be blameless! But what is meant by the use of this word? It does not mean perfect, otherwise there would be no leaders! If we turn to a parallel passage -

**1 Timothy 3:7** - *Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

we shall find a helpful exposition of the word.

To be qualified for spiritual leadership, a man must have a clean testimony in the church and before the world. He must be a man of unimpeachable virtue.

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A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BE OF UNQUESTIONED MORAL INTEGRITY.

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He must be -

**Titus 1:6** - *If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

This does not mean that he must marry only once. It means he must not be a polygamist, as were some of the Cretans to whom Paul was writing.

A leader must be of unquestioned moral integrity with no suspicion of any wrong relationship or impropriety of any kind.

No one should be given any position in the church whose marriage relationship is questionable or whose attitude towards the opposite sex is careless.

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### **3. A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BRING UP HIS CHILDREN TO FEAR THE LORD.**

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**Titus 1:6** - *.....having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

That is, not likely to be accused of loose living or lawbreaking. Turn again to the parallel passage in -

**1 Timothy 3:4-5** - *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;  
5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*

If a man has not sought diligently to train his own family to love and serve the Lord, how can he be qualified to help the children of God in the church of God to love and to serve Him? His training of his children will qualify him for special ministry in the church.

If he has not succeeded in securing the conversion of his children and of seeing them go on with the Lord, he must, at any rate, have sought their spiritual welfare by prayer and godly example.

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6. A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BE OF OBVIOUS SPIRITUAL GRACE AND DISCIPLINE.

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**Titus 1:7** - *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

Here are five negatives, all of which tell us that a leader is qualified by what he does not do.

In the language of -

**Colossians 3:8-9** - *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

*9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

he is to put off certain things. What are they?

13. Not self-willed.

Not ministering to self.

**Matthew 20:26-28** - *But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;*

*27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

*28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

***b*** ***Not soon angry.***

Not aggressive or explosive. Our temperaments can be disciplined by submission to the Holy Spirit. The man who has learned this, is qualified to serve the Lord in a position of responsibility.

14. Not given to wine.

A leader must be temperate. In these days, leaders must have firm convictions regarding the use of alcohol.

**1 Corinthians 10:23** - *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*

**d. No striker.**

He must not be quarrelsome or contentious. What a bad testimony it is when an office bearer in the church is undisciplined!

15. Not given to filthy lucre.

Not covetous. A man's character can often be judged by his attitude towards money and earthly possessions. A leader must be absolutely honest in all his dealings and not a man of 'sharp practice'.

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7. A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BE GENEROUS HEARTED AND HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF FRIENDS.

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**Titus 1:8a** - *But a lover of hospitality,.....tells us the spiritual man must be -*

16. A lover of hospitality.

In the early Church, hospitality had a special significance, for Christians had to cling together. They lived in a hostile world, and the grace of hospitality was very necessary.

17. A lover of good men.

A man is known by his friends. He should, of course, emulate his Saviour in being a -

**Matthew 11:19** - *The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.*

But, if he becomes 'unequally yoked' in close friendship with the ungodly, then he is not qualified to be a leader in God's work.

Compare -

**2 Corinthians 6:14-17** - *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

**Psalm 101:6** - *Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.*

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8. A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BE OF POSITIVE, HOLY CHARACTER.

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**Titus 1:8b** - *.....a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;*

A leader must be -

18. Sober. Discreet, of sound judgment.

Compare -

**Titus 2:3** - *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

**Titus 2:5** - *To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

**b. Just. Fairminded and discerning.**

19. Holy. 'Holy' means Christlike.

**1 Timothy 2:8** - *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

**d. Temperate. Master of himself.**

**Philippians 4:13** - *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

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9. A SPIRITUAL LEADER SHOULD BE OF SPIRITUAL

MATURITY, SETTLED CONVICTIONS, SOUND DOCTRINE AND ABILITY.

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These four things are all mentioned in -

**Titus 1:9** - *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

20. He must be Spirit-taught.

This indicates maturity.

***b. He must 'hold fast the faithful word'.***

He must have settled convictions.

21. He must be of 'sound doctrine'.

He must know, believe and hold fast to the truth of the Bible.

***d. He must be 'able to exhort and convince'.***

This indicates ability.

These are the qualifications we should require and look for in anyone who is to be set in a position of responsibility in the local church or in Christian work.

# ***DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH***

## **STUDY 3**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 1:10-16**

Are there dangerous people in the Church? There were in Paul's day and, of course, there are in our day.

In his epistles, Paul frequently warned his readers about people who were a danger to the life of the Church, to its growth, prosperity, purity and testimony.

**Romans 16:17-19** - *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

*18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

*19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.*

**2 Corinthians 2:10-11** - *To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;*

*11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

**2 Corinthians 3:1** - *Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?*

**2 Corinthians 2:4** - *For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.*

**2 Corinthians 11:26** - *In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;*

**Galatians 1:6-7** - *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*

**Ephesians 4:14-17** - *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness,*



*whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

*15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

*16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

*17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*

**Philippians 3:18-19** - *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

*19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*

**Philippians 4:2** - *I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.*

**Colossians 2:4** - *And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.*

**Colossians 2:8** - *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

**1 Timothy 1:3** - *As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*

**1 Timothy 1:19-20** - *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*

*20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

**1 Timothy 4:1** - *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

**2 Timothy 4:14** - *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*

Then read -

**Mathew 16:18** - *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Our Lord foretold that the enemy would make great onslaughts on the life and witness of the Church. This reminds us that there are two reasons why people who are a danger to the life and witness of the Church are found within it.

**First** - because of the devil, for Satan's chief purpose is to upset the Church.

**Ephesians 6:12** - *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

He failed to destroy the Seed -

**Genesis 3:15** - *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

He failed to destroy and to deflect Christ from the purpose of His advent -

**Matthew 16:23** - *But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

So now he attacks the Church.

**Second** - The second reason why there are dangerous people in the Church is because the Church is composed of men and women. True, there are those who have been redeemed -

**1 Peter 1:18-19** - *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

*20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

born again -

**John 3:5** - *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.*

and have received new life in Christ -

**1 John 5:12-13** - *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

*13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

But they are still human and possess the old Adamic nature.

Also, of course, there are those in the Church who are only professors - compare -

**Titus 1:16** - *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

and not possessors of eternal life -

**John 17:3** - *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

We should recognize that there are two chief ways in which people can be a danger in any church:

**First** - by holding and propagating false doctrine.

**Second** - by undisciplined living.

If doctrine is wrong then duty is also wrong. Now turn to -

**Titus 1:10-16** - *For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:*

*11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*

*12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*

*13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

*14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*

*15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

*16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

and see the conditions that prevailed in the church in Crete. There certainly were dangerous people in this church.

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10.                   THEY WERE NUMEROUS .

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**Titus 1:10** - .....*many*.....

There were ‘many’ such people - which means they were there in alarming numbers. This was serious, for, where one person can do great damage to the work of the Lord by careless living and undisciplined gossiping, what a potential danger *many* such people are!

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**2.     THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT TO GOD’S WORD.**

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**Titus 1:10** - .....*unruly*.....

They refused to submit to the authority of the scriptures and were insubordinate and ungoverned. Here is the heart of the matter.

If there is trouble in Christian work, it is not necessarily a clash of personalities, though it may include this. It is due to refusal on the part of someone to submit to the authority of the Word of God.

In Crete, these dangerous people ‘were like disloyal soldiers refusing to obey the word of command’.

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11.                   THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT, AND THIS AFFECTED THE WAY  
                          THEY LIVED AND WHAT THEY TAUGHT .

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They caused harm by life and lip.

The word 'unruly' in **verse 10**, refers to their manner of life. The words 'vain talkers' refer to what they said.

Their much talking achieved no useful purpose, so, by what they were and what they said, they were 'deceivers' - serious indeed! Notice it was the Jewish church members who were particularly guilty in this respect.

We need to remember that people who, prior to their conversion, were judaistic, or were caught up in some sect or group contrary to the scriptures, are especially susceptible to be used by Satan in creating difficulties and problems in the Church.

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12.                    THEY EXERTED A VERY BAD INFLUENCE ON MANY PEOPLE.

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**Titus 1:11** - .....*mouths must be stopped*,.....

Their 'mouths must be stopped', or (as the word means literally) 'muzzled' with a 'gag' because of their widespread influence. 'They subvert whole houses' - that is, they influence whole families.

Compare -

**2 Timothy 3:6** - *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,*

How solemn! What harm one unspiritual man or woman can cause in a church influencing even whole households of people!

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**5.    THEY WERE GRIPPED BY IMPURE MOTIVES.**

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**Titus 1:11** - .....*for filthy lucre's sake*.

Their motive was 'unworthy gain'.

When anyone is acting harmfully in God's work, it is right to ask, 'What is his real motive?'

This could be gain of position, like Diotrophes in -

**2 John 9** - *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.*

gain of power, authority or popularity. Some people long for the esteem of others. They are self-centred and crave recognition.

There are many unworthy motives that can grip hold of us.

**Psalm 139:23-24** - *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

*24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

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13.           THEY WERE ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE DUE TO THEIR  
              BACK- GROUND AND TEMPERAMENT.

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**Titus 1:12-13** - *One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*

*13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

No people ever had a worse reputation in the ancient world than the Cretians. They were famed as an insolent, untrustworthy and lying people. They were known to be drunken and gluttonous. It might be said, *But surely, when a man becomes a Christian, his old way of life is completely changed?* Is not this the meaning of -

**2 Corinthians 5:17** - *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Yes, but this change does not always take place immediately. When it does, we are always in danger of being greatly influenced by our background, custom and temperament.

Some people are naturally lazy, some races are unreliable, some are hasty and some are backward.

Paul had this in mind when he quoted one of the ancient poets -

**Titus 1:12** - *One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*

‘Men of Crete are always liars, evil and beastly, lazy and greedy.’

And in -

**Titus 1:13** - *This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

he says, 'There is truth in this testimonial of theirs.'

Background and temperament play a very great part in the lives of people and thus, in the life of the Church.

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14.            THEY WERE TO BE REBUKED AND STOPPED FROM DOING  
                 FURTHER HARM.

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**Titus 1:13** - *.....rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

These dangerous people were to be rebuked, but not to be thrown out. This is wonderful, for the rebuking was with a view to their restoration.

Compare -

**Galatians 6:1** - *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

There are three citadels of our personality which have to be carefully guarded -

22.            We must have a pure heart.

Contrast in -

**Titus 1:15** - *Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

the words 'pure' and 'defiled'. We need constantly to pray the prayer of -

**Psalm 51:10** - *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

23. We must have an enlightened mind.

The reference in -

**Titus 1:15** - *.....but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

is to a defiled mind. How can a defiled mind be enlightened and purified?

**Psalm 119:9** - *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

**c. We must have an unseared conscience.**

**Titus 1:15** - *.....but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

Compare -

**Acts 24:16** - *And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

**2 Corinthians 4:2** - *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

**1 Peter 3:16** - *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*



# ***THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN ACTION***

## **STUDY 4**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 2:1-10**

There is everything in the Word of God to enable every Christian in every circumstance of life to live acceptably to the Lord.

In **Titus 2:1-10**, the apostle Paul guides Titus as to the instruction he is to give to five classes of people - aged men, aged women, young women, young men and servants.

The purpose of the instruction is to enable these people to live consistent Christian lives, harmonizing their behaviour with their belief. These instructions were necessary for the early Christians, and are equally so for the Church today.

If we ask, What should Christians be like in the home, the church and the world?, the answer is in **Titus 2:1-10** where we have an outline of the Christian life in action.

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### 15. THE AGED MEN.

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**Titus 2:2** - *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

24. They must be 'sober' -

temperate, vigilant and moderate in their habits.

25. They must be 'grave' -

serious and not flippant; but it does not mean gloomy! It means to live in the light of eternity and to have about them a spiritual dignity.

**c. They must be 'temperate' -**

prudent and self-controlled. An older Christian must be controlled by the Holy Spirit, which is the real meaning of -

**Ephesians 5:18** - *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

The aged men must be of mature judgment and proper restraint.

26. They must be 'sound in faith' -

the word means healthy, (compare **verse 1**). Faith is the first of three Christian virtues mentioned here.

*e. They must be 'sound in charity' -*

healthy in their love. Their love for the Lord and His people should be robust and should be the badge worn by the older brethren.

27. They must be 'sound in patience' -

in endurance or fortitude. This has special reference to the times of testing that come upon us in our earthly life. Paul was an example of one who showed great fortitude in the midst of tremendous testings.

Here, then, is God's pattern for the senior men.

Do you come into this category?

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16. THE AGED WOMEN.

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**Titus 2:3** - *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

28. They must be holy in their demeanour.

This is beautiful, but very challenging! If you come within this category, ask yourself: 'Does my behaviour mark me out as a Christian?'

The older women must treat the whole of life as sacred.

**b. They must not be 'false accusers' -**

must not spread slanderous reports or stories. What power there is in the tongue for good or for evil!

**James 3:5-6** - *Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

*6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

29. They must not be 'given to much wine' -

but temperate, especially where wine is used, and it was used extensively in A.D. 65.

**d. They must be 'teachers of good things' -**

'examples of the good life', that is, the Christian life.

**1 Peter 3:1-2** - *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;*

*2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*

An aged sister in the church should, by her life and words, be a true example of Christ-likeness!

30. They must 'teach the young women'.

What a blessing it would be in our churches if the older women would become spiritual guides and guardians to the younger women!

Here is God's pattern, so, if you come into this category, please take note!

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17. THE YOUNG WOMEN.

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**Titus 2:4-5** - *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*

*5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that*

*the word of God be not blasphemed.*

31. They must be 'sober'.

This is the same injunction as is mentioned in connection with the older men. It means they must be moderate.

32. They are to 'love their husbands'.

Their whole attitude towards their husbands is to care. This rule applies even if their husbands are not Christians.

***c. They are to 'love their children'.***

It is easy for zealous Christian women to be so busy that they neglect their children, but parents are to care for their children, give time to them, teach them the Word of God and show them the love of God.

***d. They are to be 'discreet'.***

This means sensible. Nothing is so obnoxious as a silly woman - unless it be a silly man!

33. They are to be 'chaste'.

They are to be pure in thought, word and deed, which is not always easy. Everything tends to influence us the other way. Besides, 'it is not the done thing' to be chaste. It is - for the Christian!

34. They are to be 'keepers at home'.

It is good to be an out-and-out Christian, but this does not mean being out at meetings all the time.

***g. They are to be 'good'.***

This means they are to be kind.

35. They are to obey their husbands.

The husband is the head of the house and the head of the wife.

Here the younger women are told to be submissive to their husbands. When the husband also is a Christian this is not a burden. When he is not a Christian, the Lord will give grace.

**Ephesians 5:22-24** - *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

*23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

*24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

**1 Peter 3:1-2** - *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;*

*2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*

Why are the younger women to live this way? -

**Titus 2:5** - *.....that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

That they may be a good advertisement for the Christian faith.

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18. THE YOUNG MEN.

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**Titus 2:6-8** - *Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.*

*7 In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*

*8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*

36. They are to 'sober minded'.

Do take Christian life seriously!

**b. They are to characterized by 'good works'.**

**Verses 7-8** are an exhortation to Titus himself. He is to be an example to the young men around him.

From Paul's words we see the Lord's requirements of young men.

37. They are to sound in doctrine -

that is, to be without error. This involves hard study.

**2 Timothy 2:15** - *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**d. They are to be grave -**

serious. They are to mean business for the Lord.

38. They are to be sincere.

No comment needed!

**f. They are to be characterized by 'sound speech' -**

'sound' means healthy, and this refers to the kind of speech with which no one can find fault. Be careful about the words and expressions you use!

Young men, this is God's pattern for you. Seek to fit your life into it!

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19. SERVANTS (OR SLAVES).

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**Titus 2:9-10** - *Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;*

*10 Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.*

Five specific and important things are mentioned here.

39. They are to be 'obedient to their masters'.

The word means submissive. A great deal of trouble would be avoided if this injunction were heeded today!

40. They are to please their masters well in all things.

They are to give satisfactory service in every way, gladly and willingly.

***c. They are not to answer back.***

There must be no rebellion, strife, vindictiveness or resistance.

41. They are not to steal.

This is the meaning of 'purloin'.

Do you use the firm's notepaper, stamps or time? To purloin is to embezzle.

*e. They are to be utterly trustworthy.*

They are to show 'all good fidelity'. It still pays to be honest. Employers want utterly reliable employees!

In conclusion, link up -

**Titus 2:1** - *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

with -

**Titus 2:10b** - *.....that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.*



# ***THE WONDROUS GRACE OF GOD***

## **STUDY 5**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 2:11-14**

**Titus 2:11-14** - *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

*13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

*14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

This classic passage gives us the clearest statement of the grace of God in the New Testament.

What is the grace of God? It has been defined as 'the favour of God shown to the undeserving'.

The late Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas pointed out that grace may be viewed from three standpoints:

*(1) What grace is in God.*

*(2) What grace is in Christ.*

*(3) What grace is in the believer.*

**Grace in God** is God's mercy pitying, God's wisdom planning, God's power preparing and God's love providing. God's grace thus stretches from Eden to Calvary.

**Grace in Christ** is saving grace suggested by Jesus, sanctifying grace suggested by Christ, sovereign grace implied by the Lord, and satisfying grace by the little word *our*.

Paul was able to say that he was what he was -

**1 Corinthians 15:10** - *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;.....*

Another definition worthy of note is that *God's grace is His active favour bestowing the greatest gift upon those who have deserved the greatest punishment.*

In the verses before us, notice that **verse 11** begins with the word *For*.

Paul has been giving Titus instructions as to how he is to teach various classes of people to live.

He connects this with the massive outline of doctrine that is contained in **verses 11-14**, showing us again the connection between belief and behaviour, creed and conduct.

To simplify this study, we are using an intriguing outline published by Mr. George Goodman in *Words of Life and Beauty* in 1898.

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20.                   WHAT GRACE BROUGHT.

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What did grace bring? Grace brought salvation.

**Titus 2:11** - *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Notice that only the grace of God brings salvation. The law did not do it. Science does not do it. Psychology cannot do it. Humanism will not do it. Philosophy is unable to do it. None of these can save, but the grace of God evolved a method of saving men and women.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Notice three things about the salvation that grace has brought.

42.                   Salvation is embodied in a Person.

The Person is Jesus Christ the Lord, whose Name *Jesus* means *Saviour*. In **verse 11** there is a reference to the Incarnation.

Compare -

**Matthew 1:21** - *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

**Acts 4:12** - *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Also compare -

**Luke 2:27-30** - *And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,  
28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,  
29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:  
30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,*

**Luke 19:9** - *And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*

both of which emphasize that salvation is in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***b. It is a full and a free salvation.***

If grace provides it, it must be so. It means that salvation is altogether of God's providing. Therefore, it is entirely free for the taking. This is the meaning of grace. Refer again to -

**Ephesians 2:8-10** - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

43. It is available to all people, everywhere.

This is the significance of the words *all men*. This salvation is universal in its scope. It does not mean that when Jesus came, all men saw Him appear. It means He came to make salvation available to everyone. Thank God!

**Romans 10:12-13** - *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**Titus 2:11** - *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

shows us that grace brought salvation that is embodied in a Person, is full and free, and is available to everyone.

Now notice -

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21. WHAT GRACE TAUGHT.

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**Titus 2:12** - *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

The word *teaching* may be rendered *training* or *disciplining*. Please note this: Many people think that salvation is a matter of having sins forgiven and receiving a new life. But it is much more than this.

The grace that saves us goes on to sanctify us in two ways:

44. Negatively - 'denying ungodliness and worldly lusts'.

The word 'denying' means 'renouncing'. The word 'ungodliness' refers to all that is unlike God. Compare **Romans 1:18-32**.

The words *worldly lusts* refer to any unspiritual desires.

Hendriksen says that according to the scriptural usage of this word *lusts*, the following may be included: inordinate sexual desire, the liquor mania, excessive yearning for material possessions, longing for pleasure, power, self-pleasing.

Compare -

**1 John 2:16** - *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

**Titus 3:3** - *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving*

*divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

**b. *Positively - ‘we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world’.***

To be saved is not just to receive an insurance ticket to heaven. It is to live with prudence, justice and reverence - that is,

‘soberly’ (our self-ward attitude),  
‘righteously’ (our man-ward attitude),  
and ‘godly’ (our God-ward attitude).

How do you fit in to this picture?

Now the Apostle tells us -

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22. WHAT GRACE WROUGHT.

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**Titus 2:13** - *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

The fact that the grace of God has brought salvation means that we have a ***blessed hope***. That is what grace wrought. It gave us, or gives us, a ***blessed hope***.

What is the Christian’s ***blessed hope***? It is the personal return of Jesus Christ.

The word ***hope*** does not imply uncertainty. It means ***a confident expectation***. The hope of Christ’s coming is blessed indeed. This of the One who is coming and see how He is described in **verse 13**, and think how He is coming -

first to rapture the Church into His presence -

**John 14:3** - *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52** - *Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,  
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** - *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

and then to reign in great glory -

**Revelation 1:7** - *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

Compare with -

**Matthew 25:31** - *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

**2 Thessalonians 1:7** - *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** - *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

We as Christians, therefore, are to *live looking!* Do we live like this?

Where do we Look? - at the world, its upsets, unrest and sins, or are we looking for Him?

**Luke 21:28** - *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

Now notice -

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## **4. WHAT GRACE SOUGHT.**

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What did God's grace seek? What was the great objective of the Incarnation? The answer is in -

**Titus 2:14** - *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

in three words, *a peculiar people*. This may seem strange language to us. It means *a set apart*, a *different* people, a people *of His very own!*

This is marvelous - that the Lord should seek us because He wanted us for Himself! This is why Jesus died.

First - 'that He might redeem us from all iniquity' and then -

Second - that He might 'purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.'

Here, then, we have a description of the kind of people that grace seeks.

*(1) A Redeemed people - a Saved people.*

*(2) A Cleansed people - a Sanctified people.*

*(3) A Zealous people - a Serving people.*

In case we have emphasized grace to the exclusion of works, Paul's paragraph closes on the note of good works.

We do not work in order to be saved, but when, by the grace of God, we are saved, then we work with great zeal for the glory of God.

*I will not work my soul to save,  
For that my Lord has done.  
But I will work like any slave,  
For love of God's dear Son.*



# ***THE CHRISTIAN'S BLESSED HOPE***

## **STUDY 6**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 2:13**

The Christian's 'blessed hope', referred to in -

**Titus 2:13** - *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

is the imminent, personal and (we believe) pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word 'hope' in the New Testament does not imply uncertainty. It means a 'joyful and confident expectation'. This hope is joyful and confident because it is based upon the promise of our Lord Himself.

**John 14:3** - *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

The signs of the times suggest that the coming of the Lord is imminent. The Bible clearly indicates that His coming will be personal.

We believe the scriptures clearly predict that His coming will be pre-millennial - that He must come before there can be any millennium.

This is a thrilling subject, yet sadly, there are many Christians who, through ignorance of the scriptures, through prejudice or for some other reason, are not looking for the return of the Lord.

In this study, we want to suggest seven reasons why every Christian should be familiar with, and should rejoice in, the 'blessed hope' of the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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23. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT SO INTIMATELY CONCERNS THE  
LORD JESUS HIMSELF.

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We must beware of becoming more occupied with the event than with the Person who is coming!

Scattered throughout the Word of God there are scores of details concerning the time, manner and place of His return. But the most thrilling aspect of the whole subject is that HE is coming - our Lord Jesus Himself!

Three special New Testament references emphasize this -

45. The Saviour's Declaration - I go.....

**John 14:3** - *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

**b. The Angel's Confirmation - This same Jesus.....**

**Acts 1:9-11** - *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

*10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*

*11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

46. The Apostle's Explanation - The Lord Himself.....

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** - *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

As it is the Lord Himself who is coming, it behooves us, as His followers, not only to be familiar with the fact but also to be on the look out for Him.

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24. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT SO DEFINITELY RELATES TO EVERY BELIEVER.

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Every Christian is going to heaven, but how are we to get there?

The 'spirits' of the 'dead in Christ' are already with Christ -

**Philippians 1:23** - *.....having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*

But we aren't going to spend eternity as disembodied spirits.

**2 Corinthians 5:3-4** - *For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,  
4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

One day we shall have a new body like His own. But how and when will this take place?

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** - *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

makes it clear that the resurrection of the 'dead in Christ' and the transformation and translation of all living believers depend upon and await the Second Advent.

How definitely this subject relates to every believer!

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25. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT COMPLETELY DOMINATES  
BIBLICAL REVELATION.

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A large proportion of the prophecies of the Old Testament are taken up with the final triumph of Christ and of His reign. They were not fulfilled at His first advent, when He came as a Babe in weakness and when He suffered and died for us.

They await fulfillment at His second advent.

Again, there are many more prophecies in the Old Testament relating to the second coming of Christ than there are relating to His first coming. How true it is, then, to say that the subject of the second coming of Christ dominates Biblical revelation!

If we acknowledge the authority of the Bible, we must be convinced about the glorious fact of His return.

When we come to the New Testament, as one great Bible teacher has stated, the second advent is mentioned 318 times, or approximately once in every 25 verses!

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#### **4. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT POWERFULLY AFFECTS CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND CONDUCT.**

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If we believe that Jesus is coming again, we shall be different in what we are and do. There is no greater incentive to holy living than to be convinced that, at any moment, He may return. Those who hold the doctrine of the second advent find their belief -

47. an incentive to **WATCHFULNESS**.

**Matt. 25:13** - *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

*b.* an incentive to **CHARITY**.

**1 Corinthians 4:5** - *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

48. an incentive to **SEPARATION**.

**Titus 2:11-14** - *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

*d.* an incentive to **PATIENCE**.

**James 5:7-8** - *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

*8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

**49.** an incentive to **ABIDING**.

**1 John 2:28** - *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

*f.* an incentive to **DILIGENCE**.

**Revelation 3:11** - *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

**50.** an incentive to **PURITY**.

**1 John 3:2-3** - *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

*3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

How carefully we would live and how faithfully we would labour if we did so in the light of His coming!

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26. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT RADICALLY INFLUENCES CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

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Some have said that to believe in the second coming would take away the zest for service and would kill evangelistic endeavour.

But this is foolish!

The truth of the second coming of Christ spurs us on to faithfulness and gives our service a sense of urgency. Moreover, it safeguards us against a wrong objective in Christian service.

If we do not believe Christ is coming or that His coming is pre-millennial, our objective

will be the conversion of the world, which is not God's plan in this dispensation.

But, if we believe Christ is coming, we shall pray and work for the evangelization of the world and the completion of the Church.

**Acts 15:14-18** - *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*

*15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,*

*16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:*

*17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.*

*18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*

which is God's plan for this dispensation.

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## **6. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT OBVIOUSLY RELATES TO WORLDWIDE EVENTS.**

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The coming again of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the only solution to the problems and perplexities of our collapsing civilization. No man, politician, government or scientist can solve the present situation.

But God has a solution!

His Man, *the Man Christ Jesus*, will step down from the throne of Glory before long and will set up His reign and rule of righteousness.

All the signs of the times - religious, political, industrial, commercial, etc. - point to the fact that His coming is very near.

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## **27. BECAUSE THIS SUBJECT PERFECTLY CURES THE TROUBLED HEART.**

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It is significant that our Lord's promise to return is set within the context of His promise

of heaven and of His desire that His own should have untroubled hearts.

**John 14:1-3** - *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

*2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

We need to understand and apply this cure for troubled hearts, for many of us are anxious, fearful and, oftentimes, lonely and sad.

Is there anything more comforting than this glorious truth of His assured and near return?

**1 Thessalonians 4:17-18** - *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

The 'blessed hope' of the Christian is the imminent, personal and pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. To each one of us who loves Him, He says -

**Revelation 22:20a** - *.....Surely I come quickly.*

to which our hearts respond -

**Revelation 22:20b** - *.....Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*



# ***WHY CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF FOR US***

## **STUDY 7**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 2:13-14**

**Titus 2:13-14** - *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

*14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

There are two very useful ways of studying any section of the Bible:

***(1) The panoramic method -***

in which we take a broad survey over a large section of scripture.

***(2) The microscopic method -***

where we make a detailed examination of a small section.

This study will be microscopic, for we are to study part of -

**Titus 2:13** - *.....and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

and the whole of -

**Titus 2:14** - *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

As we adjust our microscope, by mixing prayer, faith and spiritual alertness, we shall see seven aspects of truth gathered up in this one fragment of scripture. We shall see something the 'the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ' has done.

We shall, in fact, see certain things that only 'a great God' could do.

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28. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD GIVE.

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**Titus 2:13** - ..... *the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave.....*

All other gods demand and have to be placated or appeased, and the suppliant must give something - maybe money or food. But, with our God, it is different, for He gives. It is His nature and prerogative to give.

Compare -

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**1 Timothy 6:17** - *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

What a mercy this is, because we can give nothing to Him that is acceptable to Him until we have first received what He gives to us.

**Psalms 116:12-13** - *What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?  
13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.*

We are right when we sing, *Nothing in my hand I bring*, for that is the only way we can come before the Lord.

But what does God give? The answer is ***Himself!***

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29. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD GIVE HIMSELF.

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In the New Testament, we read seven times that Christ gave Himself for us.

**Luke 22:19-20** - *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.  
20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*

**Galatians 1:4** - *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

**Galatians 2:20** - *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Ephesians 5:2** - *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

**Ephesians 5:25** - *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

**1 Timothy 2:6** - *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

**Titus 2:14** - *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

Here are three questions.

51. WHO gave Himself?

**Titus 2:13** - *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

Here we have a direct reference to the Incarnation and to the Lord's work on Calvary.

**b. WHY did He give Himself?**

The clue is found in the words, *our Saviour*, **verse 13**. For the Lord came to be our Saviour and to bring us to God.

**1 Timothy 1:15** - *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

**1 Peter 3:18** - *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

52. HOW did He give Himself?

He gave Himself voluntarily -

**Psalm 40:7-8** - *Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

**John 10:18** - *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

vicariously -

**Isaiah 53:5-6** - *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**1 Peter 2:24** - *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

For whom did He do this? The answer is given in our key verse - He did it for us.

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30. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD GIVE HIMSELF FOR SINNERS.

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He gave Himself for us. To whom does this *us* refer?

53. He gave Himself for the WORLD.

Compare -

**1 Timothy 2:6** - *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

**1 John 2:2** - *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

He gave Himself to make salvation available to all people.

***b. He gave Himself for the CHURCH.***

That is, He gave Himself in a special way for believers, for Christians.

**Ephesians 5:25** - *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

He gave Himself to make salvation actual or experiential in all who believe.

54. He gave Himself for ME.

This is what we read in -

**Galatians 2:20** - *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

The fact that Christ gave Himself for me tells me that He died as my Substitute and died to make me His own!

But what was His motive in giving Himself for us? It was *that He might redeem us from all iniquity.*

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31. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY.

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How did He do this?

By the shedding of His own precious blood, as we learn from -

**Ephesians 1:7** - *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

**Hebrews 9:12** - *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

**1 Peter 1:18-19** - *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

*19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Notice that He died to *redeem us from all iniquity*.

55. In relation to the past, He redeemed us from the guilt and penalty of sin.

**1 Corinthians 15:3** - *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

- b.** *In relation to the present, He redeems us from the power and grip of sin.*

**Romans 6:14** - *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

56. In relation to the future, He will redeem us from the presence of sin at His second coming.

**Romans 8:22-23** - *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

*23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

But now see how our verse goes on - *and purify.....*

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32. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD PURIFY SINFUL MEN AND WOMEN.

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How does He do this? Can any effort of our own cleanse us? No - but God can, and He does this in three ways.

57. He cleanses by His blood.

**1 John 1:7** - *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

It refers to the initial cleansing from the guilt of sin, and to our standing before God.

**b. He washes with His Word.**

**Ephesians 5:25-26** - *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;  
26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

Compare -

**Psalms 119:9** - *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

**John 15:3** - *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

This is the cleansing of our daily walk.

Compare -

**John 13:10** - *Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.*

58. He purges through His Spirit.

**Matthew 3:11** - *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:*

Then read -

**Matthew 3:12** - *Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

Recall the great purging that took place when the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost and filled the hearts and transformed the lives of God's people.

But God's motive in giving Himself for us was not only to purify us, but in order to make us His own people.

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33. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD CHOOSE A PECULIAR PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF.

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What is the meaning of these words -

**Titus 2:14** - *.....a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

Are Christians to be peculiar, odd? No, the phrase means *a people for His own possession, a special treasure.*

**Exodus 19:5** - *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

**Deuteronomy 4:20** - *But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.*

**Deuteronomy 32:9** - *For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.*

God has set apart a certain people for Himself, to be His own special possession. In order to make these people His own, He has chosen them in eternity past -

**Ephesians 1:4** - *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

died for them upon the cross -

**Galatians 1:4** - *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

called them -

**Acts 15:14** - *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*

and indwelt them by His Spirit -

**John 14:16** - *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*



But there is one more thing to notice: the Lord's purpose in all this was that we might be a people *zealous of good works*.

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34. ONLY A 'GREAT GOD' COULD MAKE HIS PEOPLE ZEALOUS  
OF GOOD WORKS.

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A modern translation of this phrase is: *a people with hearts set upon living a life that is good*. The meaning is this: God our Saviour gave Himself for us that we might live God-glorifying, fruitful, Christian lives.

Are we enthusiastic in our living and in our service for Him?

One day the Saviour -

**Isaiah 53:11** - *He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

and will be satisfied with the fruits of His Calvary work.

One day! But how about now? Does He see the travail of His soul now.....?

*When I stand before the throne  
Dressed in beauty not my own,  
When I see Thee as Thou art,  
Love Thee with unsinning heart,  
Then, Lord, shall I fully know -  
Not 'til then - how much I owe.*

# ***THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE***

## **STUDY 8**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 3:3-8**

Every true conversion is a miracle of God's saving grace. In this study we shall consider several aspects of the salvation which has been made available to us in and through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

There are three key words in -

**Titus 3:5** - .....*he saved us*,.....

This is the testimony of a great company of people to whom the apostle Paul is referring.

Do you belong to that company?

This key verse gives us a word picture of the content of the Christian gospel. At the very heart of the verse is the great Bible word *saved*, which occurs very frequently throughout scripture.

**Isaiah 45:22** - *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

**Matthew 1:21** - *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

**Luke 19:10** - *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

**John 10:9** - *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

**Acts 16:30-31** - *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

**Romans 10:13** - *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

This is what the Bible is all about. It is about being saved. Jesus came in order that we

might be saved. But -

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35. WHY DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED?

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For several reasons!

For example: we need to be saved -

from sin -

**Matthew 1:21** - *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

from wrath -

**John 3:36** - *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

from self -

**Romans 6:12** - *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

from hell -

**Luke 16:23** - *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

But -

**Titus 3:3** - *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

answers the question in very graphic words. It gives us God's description of the natural, unregenerate man. It does not make pleasant reading.

Notice that the apostle uses the pronouns 'we', not 'you', when he is describing unregenerate human nature.

Notice also that the word 'sometimes' means 'formerly', or 'at one time'.

Paul is really saying, *This is the kind of people we were before we became Christians. Here is a group photograph, a family picture of the human race.*

Look at this picture of every one of us in our natural state.

59. FOOLISH - or, as we should say, 'ignorant'.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** - *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**b. DISOBEDIENT** - or, refusing the Lord's authority in our lives.

60. DECEIVED - by Satan -

**2 Corinthians 4:4** - In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

by the world and by false prophets.

**d. IN SLAVERY TO SELF** - 'serving divers lusts and pleasures'.

61. MALICE AND ENVY - 'living in malice and envy' (or jealousy).

**f. HATEFUL** - detestable, odious, repulsive.

62. HATING ONE ANOTHER -

**Jeremiah 17:9** - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Whether we admit it or not, this is God's description of the natural man.

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36. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

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In these verses we are told that it means at least three things that God does for those whom He saves by His grace.

63. It means to be Born Again.

We are told this in -

**Titus 3:5b** - *.....but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

To be born again, regenerated or renewed of the Holy Spirit means to receive a new life.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** - *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

When God saves us He does not patch up the old life. He imparts a new nature.

**2 Peter 1:4** - *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

**John 3:3** - *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

**John 3:5** - *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.*

**John 3:7-8** - *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

*8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

When we are born again, we receive -

**Titus 3:7** - *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

***b. It means to be Justified.***

**Titus 3:7** - *That being justified by his grace,.....*

When we are saved, we not only receive a new life, but God does something about the old life. He forgives and forgets our sins.

He also justifies us - which means He treats me 'just-as-if-I'd' never sinned at all. He completely removes our sins from us, and then declares us righteous in His sight.

Compare -

**Psalm 103:12** - *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

**Romans 5:17** - *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

64. It means to be made a Child of God.

**Titus 3:7** - *.....we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

When God saves us we are 'made heirs.....'. We are made -

**Romans 8:16-17** - *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

*17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Notice the wonderful change that has taken place between -

**Titus 3:3** - *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 3:5** - *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 3:7** - *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

The man of **verse 3** is transformed into the man of **verses 5 and 7**. How this magnifies the wondrous grace of God!

But -

How is the man of **verse 3** made the man of **verses 5 and 7**? -

a man who now possesses a new life (born again), a new standing before God (justified), a new relationship with God (a child and an heir)? What an important 'How' this is! **Verse 5** answers both negatively and positively.

65. Negatively.

'Not by works of righteousness which we have done.....' Man's philosophy is to leave out the word 'not'.

Ask the average man how to be saved and he will answer, 'By works of righteousness which we have done!'

But God's way of salvation is 'Not by works of righteousness which we have done', for we are not saved by any effort, by trying or by works of our own.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

We are not saved 'by works of righteousness that we have done'. How are we saved?

66. Positively.

**Titus 3:4-5** - *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,*

*5 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;*

The word 'appeared' takes us back to Bethlehem. The word 'saved' takes us back to Calvary where the Lord Jesus Christ completed the work of our salvation nearly 2000 years ago.

In **verse 5**, therefore, we have man's way, which is 'do' and God's way, which is 'done'.



Our part in salvation is simply to believe the testimony that God sent His Son to be our Saviour and to put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice the word 'believed' in -

**Titus 3:8** - *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.*

and remember that, in the New Testament, the word 'believe' means to 'trust'.

**John 1:12** - *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

All this leads us to ask one more question.

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## 4. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF BEING SAVED?

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What is the evidence that we are saved?

**Titus 3:8** - *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.*

tells us ‘good works’. There is no contradiction here. We are not saved by working for our salvation, but, when we have been saved by God’s grace, the evidence of that salvation is seen in our works.

It is vain to say we are saved if there are no ‘good works’ evidenced in our daily living.

**James 2:20** - *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

In concluding this study, will you answer these two questions?

67.           Have I believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, **verse 8**, and am I, therefore saved, **verse 5**?

**b.**       *If so, in my life different? It is the opposite of -*

**Titus 3:3** - *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

# ***A TRUE SAYING AND SOME TRUE MEN***

## **STUDY 9**

**Scripture Portion: Titus 3:8-15**

The title of this concluding study in the **Epistle to Titus** is suggested by -

**Titus 3:8** - *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.*

We read here of four true men. In the Pastoral Epistles there are five of these 'faithful sayings'.

(1) ***The fact and purpose of the Incarnation.***

**1 Timothy 1:15** - *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

(2) ***The importance of wise administration in the church.***

**1 Timothy 3:1** - *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*

(3) ***The great value of godly living.***

**1 Timothy 4:8-9** - *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

*9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.*

(4) ***The believer's identification with Christ.***

**2 Timothy 2:11-13** - *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

*12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

*13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

(5) ***The necessity of maintaining sound doctrine.***

**Titus 3:8** - *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.*

What does Paul mean when he says in **Titus 3:8** - *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly?*

They are the great theological statements in -

**Titus 3:3-7** - *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

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

5 *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;*

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

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

or this chapter, which contains the great foundational truths of the Christian gospel. They constitute 'an epitome of the gospel'. Therefore, what Paul really says to Titus is this -

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38. TITUS, THIS IS THE MESSAGE YOU MUST PROCLAIM.

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**Titus 3:8** - *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.*

This is the truth you must preach. It is 'solid' and 'reliable'. Just as Titus was to proclaim these truths, we are to do likewise.

What truths are entrusted to us to preach?

68. The depravity of the natural man -

**Titus 3:3** - *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving*

*divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

**Ephesians 2:1-3** - *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:  
2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the  
prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of  
disobedience:*

*3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh,  
fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of  
wrath, even as others.*

69.           The loving kindness of God -

**Titus 3:4** - *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man  
appeared,*

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Romans 5:8** - *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet  
sinners, Christ died for us.*

70.           The sovereignty of God in salvation -

**Titus 3:5** - *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;*

**Jonah 2:9** - *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that  
that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.*

#### **d.     The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit -**

**Titus 3:5** - *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;*

**John 3:3-8** - *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except  
a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

*4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the  
second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

*5 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.*

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

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

8 *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

71. The fulness of blessing that is in Christ -

**Titus 3:6** - *Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

**Ephesians 1:3** - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

**f. The justification of all who believe -**

**Titus 3:7** - *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

**Romans 5:1** - *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

72. The eternal blessedness of the saved -

**Titus 3:7** - *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

**1 Peter 1:3-5** - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

4 *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

5 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

These are the truths we are to proclaim. They are the very truths being denied on every hand today. Let us 'affirm (them) constantly' -

**Jude 3** - *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

The most effective way to counteract error is to proclaim the truth.

This is also the most effective way of producing consistent and Christlike Christians, as we are told in -

**Titus 3:8b** - .....*These things are good and profitable unto men.*

Now notice the second thing Paul says to Titus.

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39. TITUS, THESE ARE THE PITFALLS YOU MUST AVOID.

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These are mentioned in -

**Titus 3:9-11** - *But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.*

*10 A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;*

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

Whenever and wherever the truth of God is proclaimed, there will be those who will want to argue and to disagree with the preacher.

This form of 'discussion' can be dangerous and damaging to the work of God.

Beware of people in the church who love to think they know better than the Lord Himself, who are not prepared to submit to what God says in His Word and who 'argue', 'wrangle' and 'contend'.

All this is 'foolish', 'unprofitable and vain'.

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

Much time has often been wasted in asking and answering such questions as, *Where did Cain get his wife?* Christians have frequently been brought into bondage 'about the Law'! Some people simply love a good argument.

- 73. Titus 3:10 - *A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;*

A heretic has been described as 'an opinionative propagandist who promotes dissension

by his pertinacity'. A heretic here is a man who is convinced that he is right and everyone else is wrong.

Such people must be admonished. They must not be given any position of leadership or authority in the church.

**Matthew 18:15-17** - *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.*

**Romans 16:18** - *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

- c. **Titus 3:11** - *Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.*

Such people have perverted or 'twisted' minds. Their thinking is not straight and is certainly not spiritual.

These are some of the pitfalls that have to be avoided by those who are responsible for the work of God.

How very up-to-date these admonitions are!

Paul then says to Titus -

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40. TITUS, THESE ARE THE KIND OF MEN GOD WANTS AND CAN USE IN HIS CHURCH.

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**Titus 3:12-13** - *When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter. 13 Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.*

The apostle mentions here four men who represent the kind of men whom God can use as channels of blessing in the Church.



74. Artemas .

He was evidently one of Paul's co-workers. Beyond this we know nothing about him. However, the fact that he is mentioned here reminds us of that great company of people in the Lord's work who are not prominent in any way but who are faithful in their stewardship.

**1 Corinthians 4:2** - *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

What a boom such people are in the Church!

75. Tychicus .

He was a great friend and a true fellow labourer of the apostle as we are told in -

**Acts 20:4** - *And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.*

**Ephesians 6:21** - *But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:*

**Colossians 4:7** - *All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:*

Those whom God has blessed in pastoral and preaching ministry owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to men, like Tychicus who have been their fellow workers and friends and who have stood by them in their responsible ministry.

**c. Zenas.**

He is described as a 'lawyer', which means he was qualified to expound the Jewish Law. It also means he had a brilliant intellect, and was a man of some calibre.

It is wonderful how the Lord takes up our natural talents, sanctifies them, and uses them for the promotion of His work and for the glory of His Name.

76. Apollos .

He is mentioned in -

**Acts. 18:24-28** - *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man,*

*and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.*

*25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.*

*26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

*27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:*

*28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 1:12** - *Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 3:6** - *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

**1 Corinthians 16:12** - *As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.*

The one thing that stands out about him is that he was ‘mighty in the scriptures’.

Here, surely, is the type of man whom God can use wonderfully for the extension of His kingdom.

It is tremendously important that all who are seeking to guide the work of God should pray for and seek to secure the right kind of lay workers whom God can use - men like Artemas, Tychicus, Zenas and Apollos.

Paul then says to Titus -

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41. TITUS, CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGE YOUR CHURCH MEMBERS TO LIVE CONSISTENT AND FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN LIVES.

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A modern translation of -

**Titus 3:14** - *And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.*

reads: *Let our people learn to practice fine deeds.....that they may not live useless lives.*

Christianity is very practical. It has to do not only with what we believe but how we behave. This is the great emphasis of this epistle.

**John 15:16** - *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

**Ephesians 4:28** - *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

Are our lives and our service fruitful?

Finally, Paul seems to say to Titus -

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## **5. TITUS, REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHURCH IS JUST A SMALL PART OF *THE* CHURCH.**

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**Titus 3:15** - *All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.*

This verse brings before us a wonderful picture of members of unnamed Christians who are saluted, greeted and loved in the Faith.

How important it was for Titus to be reminded of the fact that his churches in Crete were only part of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that all believers are 'all one in Christ Jesus'.

**Galatians 3:28** - *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Let us beware of being over-denominational. Let us rejoice in our true unity in Christ and our love for all the children of God.

**John 17:19-20** - *And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.*

*20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

# ***THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO PHILEMON***

## **STUDY 10**

**Scripture Portion: Philemon 1:1-25**

The **Epistle to Philemon** is the shortest of Paul's letters. It consists of only 25 verses and is the only private letter of Paul's that has been included in the Canon of Scripture.

It was written about A.D. 64 from Rome, where Paul was in prison, but, on account of his age, and possibly his good behaviour, he was allowed to live in his own lodgings, chained to a soldier.

**Acts 28:30-31** - *And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,*

*31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*

What is the story behind this letter?

It was written to Philemon, a wealthy Christian who lived in Colosse, and who was a convert of Paul's, with his wife Apphia and his son Archippus.

Among their many slaves was one named Onesimus, who, it would appear, had robbed his master and run away to Rome - only to come into touch with Paul who had led his master to Christ!

The result of this meeting was that Onesimus became a Christian, confessed his sin and sought Paul's help in bringing about a reconciliation with Philemon, his former master.

Paul then wrote this wonderful letter of Philemon, entreating him to forgive Onesimus and to receive him back.

What do we learn from this epistle?

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42. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL MODEL IN THE ART OF LETTER WRITING.

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Notice Paul's tact, grace, skill and appeal. Some letters ought never to be written, but this one is different. Imagine Philemon reading it and then handing it to his wife to read.

**Philemon 7-10** - *For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.*

*8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,*

*9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.*

*10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*

See Paul's persuasive appeal to Philemon.

77. To put into action again the love that he had so often shown to the saints.

**Philemon 7-8** - *For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.*

*8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,*

'In the past you have so frequently refreshed the hearts of the saints, brother, now I want you to do it again.'

**b. To respond to his entreaty rather than his command.**

**Philemon 8-9** - *Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,*

*9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.*

He would not command him, though, as an apostle, he had authority to do so. Rather, he would earnestly desire him to do that which was right.

78. To do it for love's sake.

Philemon 9 - *Yet for love's sake.....*

What an appeal! Surely Philemon and Apphia could not resist it.

***d. To do it for an old man.***

**Philemon 9** - .....*being such an one as Paul the aged,.....*

Here was a powerful appeal to sentiment!

***e. To do it for a prisoner.***

**Philemon 9** - .....*and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.*

‘Philemon and Apphia, you are free.....I am not!’

***f. To do it for one who was now his son.***

**Philemon 10** - *I beseech thee for my son Onesimus,.....*

‘He has been truly born again since you saw him last.’

79. To do it for one who was saved through Paul’s affliction.

Philemon 10 - .....*whom I have begotten in my bonds:*

Begotten in his bonds. Could they fail to respond to this touching appeal?

This leads us to notice a second value in the epistle.

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43. IT GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO PAUL’S CHARACTER.

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It tells us the kind of man Paul was. For instance -

80. Philemon 1 - Paul, a prisoner.....

He was a man of conviction who was willing to suffer for the gospel.

**b. *Philemon 1* - .....a prisoner of Jesus Christ,.....**

Although Paul was a prisoner of Nero, primarily he was a prisoner of Christ. He was His bondsman.

**Exodus 21:5-6** - *And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:*

*6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.*

81. *Philemon 1* - .....and Timothy our brother,.....

It is a mark of true greatness that Paul mentions Timothy here.

**Romans 12:10** - *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

**d. *Philemon 1-2* - .....unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,**

*2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier,.....*

Paul had a great affection for his friends. Philemon was his brother in Christ and his son in the faith.

**1 John 3:14** - *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

**e. *Philemon 4* - I thank my God,.....**

What a thankful man Paul was!

**1 Corinthians 1:4** - *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;*

**Philippians 1:3** - *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,*

**Colossians 1:3** - *We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying*



*always for you,*

**1 Thessalonians 1:2** - *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;*

**2 Thessalonians 1:3** - *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;*

**2 Timothy 1:3** - *I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;*

Be sure to obey the injunction of -

**Philippinans 4:6** - *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

82. **Philemon 4** - *I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,*

Here is a significant reference to Paul's prayer life and prayer list.

**g. Philemon 22** - *But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.*

Paul was a man who trusted God.

**Mark 11:22** - *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

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44. IT ILLUSTRATES THE POWER OF GOD AT WORK.

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83. We see His providential power at work.

When Onesimus ran away from Philemon to Rome (a distance of over a thousand miles as the crow flies), he fell into the hands of Paul, of all people!

Here is encouragement for some of us who may wonder whether our loved ones and friends can ever be brought under the sound of the gospel and brought to know the Lord.

84. We see God's power in answering prayer.

Did Philemon, Apphia and Archippus pray for Onesimus? Does God answer prayer? He does!

**Mark 11:23-24** - *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

*24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

**c. We see God's power in the transformation of a life.**

Onesimus was completely changed when he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice that Paul speaks of him as -

- (1) **Verse 10** - *.....my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*
- (2) **Verse 11** - *.....unprofitable, but now profitable.....*
- (3) **Verse 16** - *.....a brother beloved,.....*

All this tells us of the power of the gospel to transform sinners into saints.

Compare -

**Romans 1:16** - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

*10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

*11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

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45. IT REMINDS US THAT NO ONE IS BEYOND REDEMPTION.

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Do you believe that? 'His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.'

Never give anyone up. In answer to prayer, anyone, anywhere, may be brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Peter 3:9** - *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

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## **5. IT EMPHASIZES THE NECESSITY OF RIGHT SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS.**

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Onesimus got right with God - but he also got right with man.

**Philemon 12** - *Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:*

It is important that we should not only repent of our sins -

**Isaiah 55:7** - *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

and confess them to God, where they are against Him -

**Proverbs 28:13** - *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

**1 John 1:9** - *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

and to men, where our sins are against them -

**James 5:16** - *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

but that we should make restitution -

**Luke 19:8** - *And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.*

**Acts 16:33** - *And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

How do you stand in regard to these vital matters?

We who are forgiven, are to forgive.

Read **Matthew 18:21-35** and **Luke 7:36-50**.

Love forgives!

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46. IT VIVIDLY PICTURES THE WHOLE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION.

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85. As Paul found Onesimus wandering from his master's house, so the Lord Jesus found us wandering from God.

**Isaiah 53:6** - *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**1 Peter 2:25** - *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

*b. As Paul pleaded for the restoration of Onesimus, asking that what he owed might be placed to his (Paul's) account, so the Lord Jesus acts as our Advocate with the Father, having borne our sins.*

**Isaiah 53:5-6** - *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**1 John 2:1** - *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

86. As Philemon received Onesimus on Paul's account, so God receives us on account of what Christ is and of what He has done for us.

**Ephesians 1:6** - *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

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## 7. IT GIVES US A LESSON ON THE TRANSFIGURATION OF TROUBLE.

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Paul was in prison and he might have said, *This is the end of my ministry!* Was it?

**Philemon 10** - *I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*

Paul says Onesimus was ‘begotten in my bonds’.

In other words, he (Paul) tells us that God made him fruitful in the furnace of affliction.

**Genesis 41:52** - *And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.*

**Philippians 1:12-13** - *But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;  
13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;*

Thus, with thanksgiving, we complete another series of studies.

**Philemon 25** - *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*