

Titus (AD 68 – the third “Pastoral Epistles”)

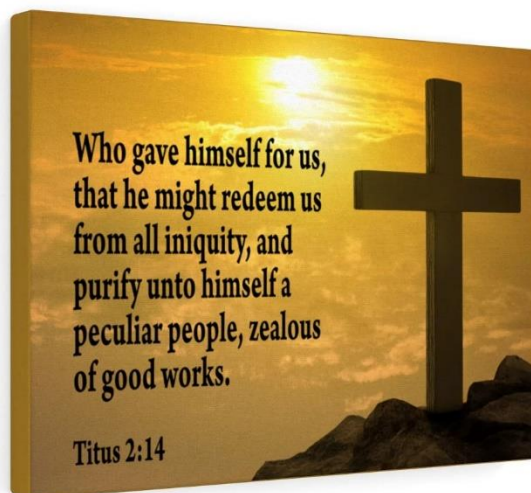
Purpose: “To guide Titus’s teaching and administration for the Christians on Crete.” (TLSB, p 2087)

Theme: “The theme of Titus is the inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior. This truth is the basis for its critique of false teaching as well as its instruction in Christian living and qualifications for church leaders.” (RSV Study Bible, p 2345)

Key Teachings:

1. The gospel by its nature produces godliness in the lives of believers. There is no legitimate separation between belief and behavior. (1:1; 2:1, 11-14; 3:4-7)
2. One’s deeds will either prove or disprove one’s claim to know God. (1:16)
3. It is vitally important to have godly men serving as elders/pastors. (1:5-9)
4. True Christian living will commend the gospel to others. (2:5, 8, 10)
5. Good works have an important place in the lives of believers. (2:1-10, 14; 3:1-2, 8, 14)
6. It is important to deal clearly and firmly with doctrinal and moral error in the church. (1:10-16; 3:9-11)
7. The gospel is the basis for Christian ethics. (2:11-14; 3:3-7) [ESV Study Bible, p 2346]

Memory Verses: Redeemed and purified (2:14); renewal by the Holy Spirit (3:4-7).



Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

I. Primarily Instructions About Church Organization and Discipline.

Chapter 1:

The salutation and reference to the glorious hope of the gospel, vv. 1-4.

(1) The purpose of the assignment of Titus to Crete, v. 5.

(2) Church order and discipline.

(a) The character and qualifications of elders and overseers, vv. 6-9.

(b) The duty of suppressing mercenary teachers, vv. 10-11.

(c) The evil character of the Cretans demanded stern treatment and steadfast adherence to the truth, vv. 12-14.

(d) Inward defilement and hypocrisy condemned, vv. 15-16.

II. Sound Doctrine and Good Works.

Chapter 2:

(1) Apostolic instructions adapted for various classes.

(a) Concerning the spirit and behavior of older men and women, vv. 2-3.

(b) Teachings adapted to young men and women, vv. 4-6.

(c) Exhortation to Titus concerning his personal example, vv. 7-8.

(d) The duties of slaves, vv. 9-10.

(2) The universal opportunity of salvation demands.

(a) Self-denial and godliness in this world, vv. 11-12.

(b) Looking for the fulfillment of the blessed hope of Christ's coming, v. 13.

(c) Holy living, v. 14.

III. Primarily Additional Instructions about maintaining the doctrine of good works, and the divine method of salvation.

Chapter 3:

(1) Social obligations and duties, vv. 1-2.

(2) The gracious method of salvation.

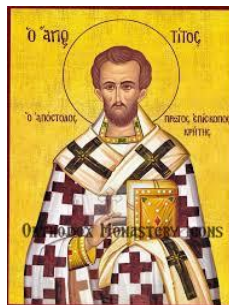
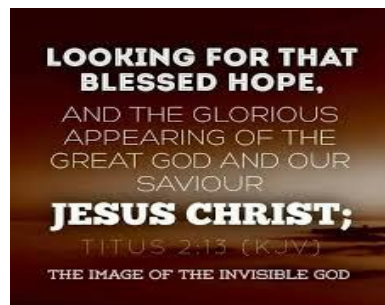
(a) The universality of sin, v. 3.

(b) Cleansing grace through Christ, not good works, is the basis of salvation, vv. 4-7.

(3) The importance of good works should be constantly taught, v. 8.

(4) The treatment of foolish questions and heresy, vv. 9-11.

(5) Closing words and benediction, vv. 12-15. (Thompson Chain-Reference Bible, 4278-4279)



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Titus 3:4

