

Titus in a Nutshell

by Brittany Schlichter

Week One

Day 1

Read entire book out loud

Who is the human author of this epistle?

How does he describe himself (Titus 1:1)?

Who is he writing to?

Where is the recipient?

Why had Paul left Titus in Crete?

Looking at the first six verses of Titus, what do you think was lacking in the churches at Crete?

Day 2

Read entire book out loud

Skimming through all three chapters a second time, make a list of the different groups of people that you see in Titus (e.g., bishops, younger women, etc):

Now, using a colored pencil, create a small symbol that reminds you of each group. (For example, you might draw an apron for younger women, a Bible for bishops, and a broom for servants.) Place your symbols next to the coordinating passage in Titus.

Day 3

Read entire book out loud

Once more, get out your colored pencils to mark some key words in Titus!

In a bright color, circle the following key words in the three chapters of Titus (note that your Bible version may translate these words slightly different): set in order, sober, temperate, sound doctrine, sound, grave, soberminded, soberly, careful, good, good works, truth

With a black or brown pencil, underline the following words: unruly, vain, deceivers, liars, reprobate, foolish, disobedient, lusts and pleasures, contentions, strivings, unprofitable, heretic, unfruitful

Do you see a contrast? How about a common theme that runs through Paul's entire letter to Titus? Remember, these are not Paul's words or some random ideas that he decided to jot down for Titus! God inspired each Word so that His ordained message could be given to Titus, who was in charge of the churches in Crete. These three short-but-loaded chapters reflect an intentional theme that was not only meant for Titus, but for us as believers today.

After spending a bit more time in this epistle, what would you say is the main need existing in the churches of Crete (hint: Titus 1:6!)?

If you had to sum up the theme of Titus in one short sentence, what would it say?

Week Two

Day 1

Read Titus 1 out loud. If you can, ask your mom or sister to read it with you!

Now that we have an overview of the entire book of Titus, today we will focus on chapter one. Using only the text straight from the passage, answer the following questions:

In verse 1, how is truth described?

What attribute of God do we find in verse 2?

What three things come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior?

Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? 1) _____ 2) _____

List the qualities that verses six through nine tell us a bishop must have:

Why is it important for a bishop to hold fast to the Word?

Whose mouths must be stopped?

What do they overthrow through their ungodly teachings (verse 11)?

As we see from this passage, there are rebellious deceivers who seek to overthrow entire households—and who accomplish their goal! The Bible is true and relevant to every generation, and just as in Paul and Titus’s day, we are surrounded by ungodly, crafty people who do everything they can to destroy the institution of a godly family. But just like Paul and Titus, we have the truth in the Word of God that we’ve been taught! We must hold fast to this, refuting false teaching by both our words and our lifestyle (Titus 2:7-8).

This tiny book of the Bible outlines the special jobs and functions of different people in the family household and in the church. Establishing these roles is one way that God established order in His creation! As we travel through the book of Titus, let’s pay special attention to these roles that God lays out for us to understand, so that we can help our families stand firm against the enemy’s deception—and so that the Word of God will not be blasphemed (Titus 2:5).

Bonus Question!!

Why did the vain, rebellious deceivers teach ungodly things and overthrow entire households (see verse 11!)?

Can you think of any other positions/jobs today that people use to not only acquire filthy gain but also to overthrow and divide the institution of the family that God created?

Day 2

Read Titus 1, then pick up where we left off in the passage...

How had one of the false prophets described the inhabitants of Crete?

What did Paul have to say about this testimony?

How should Titus respond to the Cretians' lifestyle?

What do the commandments of men steer people away from?

STOP!!! Turn to Colossians 2:8. As you write it on the lines below, etch it on your heart as well!

Back to Titus 1...

In verse 16, what do the ungodly people say about God?

What do their actions say?

Do they live out good works?

How are these people described in verse 16? 1) 2) 3)

Are the people of Crete an easy catch for vain deceivers seeking to overthrow? It definitely looks like it! The Cretians are liars themselves, so it makes sense that they would believe the false teachers around them. Instead of remaining steadfast in Christ, they are being beguiled through the philosophy and vain deceit of evil men.

Day 3

Once more, read Titus 1!

Yesterday, as you learned about the vain deceivers in Crete, did you wonder what they might be saying to the Cretian believers? While we don't know exactly what these false teachers were trying to indoctrinate the churches with, it is interesting to read what false teachers in general were teaching at that time. Read the following passages, then note what you learn about the false teachers/what they taught:

2 John 7-9

2 Peter 3:2-7

Acts 15:1,11

2 Corinthians 11:2-4,13-15

Galatians 2:1-5

Week Three

Day 1

Read Titus 2

With your favorite colored highlighter, highlight verse one of chapter two. To find out exactly what are “the things which become sound doctrine,” circle the first word of verse two. This word is a bridge between the *exhortation* to speak sound doctrine and the *examples* of what sound doctrine looks like in the lives of believers. In Bible study, it’s often little words like these that are clues to help us find the treasures that God has waiting for us. Every single word of Scripture is vital and significant!

In verse one, Paul exhorts Titus to speak what becomes sound doctrine; in verses two through ten, he outlines what sound doctrine looks like in the lives of God’s people. These are the ways that Titus must encourage the Christians of Crete to walk in, helping them combat the false teaching. In week one, you marked each group of believers with the special symbols that you created. Now, we’re going to use some basic grammar skills to learn more about how God wants His people to behave. Get ready to put your English skills to use to help you study the Bible!

Older Men –vs. 2

Underline the verb twice and the subject once. Circle the predicate adjectives that describe the subject and draw an arrow from the adjectives to the subject.

Older Women –vs. 3

Underline the verb twice and the subject once. Circle each phrase that describes the behavior that older ladies should put on.

Young Women –4-5

Underline the subject “young women,” then circle each of the infinitives (hint: “to be” and “to love”!). Next, draw a box around the predicate adjectives, predicate nominatives, and direct objects. These are the words that answer the questions, “Who are the young women to love? What are the young women to be?”

Young Men –vs. 6

Underline the subject “young men,” circle the infinitive, and box the predicate adjective. Draw an arrow from the adjective to the subject it is describing.

Servants –vs. 9-10

Underline the word “servants.” Circle the infinitives “to be” and “to please.” Box the modifiers that follow these phrases (“obedient” and “well”), and draw an arrow from them back to the subject that they modify. Write the two things that servants are instructed not to do: 1) 2)

While we may never be households servants as these people were, we are all called to be servants of Christ! As daughters serving in our parents’ homes, we can apply these verses to the chores and responsibilities that we attend to each day. Are we seeking to please our parents in how we fulfill our jobs at home? Do we argue with them if we think we know a better way?

After dissecting these exhortations for God’s people, do you feel that you have a better understanding of what “sound doctrine” looks like as it’s lived out by believers? Sometimes diagramming sentences of Scripture can help us better apply our minds to the divinely inspired Words that we are reading. Titus was shown that teaching Christian men and women to embrace these God-given roles was a big part of teaching sound doctrine. In contrast to the scheming deceivers of Crete, who turned households upside down for their financial gain, Titus was commanded to exhort the people of God to follow His order and design in their families and church!

Day 2

Begin reading Titus 2 silently to yourself; when you reach verses three through five, read these verses out loud, then read the remainder of the chapter silently.

Today, we will hone in on the Titus Two instructions that apply the most to us: those concerning ladies in the church!

Who are the young women to love? 1) 2)

Here, the Greek word used for love is **not** *agape*, a common Greek word that refers more to the decision to selflessly love someone than to the emotions involved. The Greek words used in Titus to describe the relationship between a wife/mother and her husband/children both refer to the way she *feels* toward them—how fond she is of them and how affectionate she is towards them. Can you picture a godly older woman in Crete encouraging an overburdened young mother to express her love towards her family beyond the ways she meets their physical needs?

What are the next two qualities that older women should teach the young women to have? 1) 2)

Sober and *chaste* refer to being self-controlled and modest. Look up the following passages and note what you learn:

Proverbs 11:22

Isaiah 3:16,24

1Timothy 2:9

Day 3

Read Titus 2

Older Women should also teach the young women to be keepers at home. How can we learn exactly what this means for us? By using Scripture to interpret Scripture! 😊
Veering from our main study passage to hit some rabbit trails in the Bible is always a good thing!

Using the designated passages, answer the questions below:

In Proverbs 7:10-11, who does not abide in her house?

How are the ungodly young widows acting in 1Timothy 5:13?

In Psalm 113:9, who enables a woman to be a keeper at home? What should be our response when God does this?

What does 1Timothy 5:14 say that women should do for their households? What should they not give any opportunity for the adversary to do?

Our detour through the Word of God has taken us right back to where we started, Titus Two. *According to verse five, what can result from young women neglecting these God-given guidelines?*

Turn to 2 Timothy 4:3-4. After learning that an important part of sound doctrine is the God-ordained roles given to His people, how do you think the people in this passage would respond to a woman's calling in Titus 2?

In chapter two, what is the ending exhortation for Titus?

After reading 2 Timothy 4:3-4, do you think Titus might be despised for what he teaches about a woman's role?

Even after spending three days investigating Titus Two, we've barely scratched its surface! To close out your week in this truth-loaded epistle, write one thing God has shown you from your time in this chapter of Titus:

Week Four

Day 1

Out loud, read the final chapter of Titus!

As you read Titus 3, did you notice that these fifteen verses can easily be divided into several sections with different themes? Before asking “who, what, when, where, why, and how”—the six investigative questions—let’s break up the chapter into segments small enough for us to get a handle on! For each section, write your personal title describing its theme:

vv. 1-7 title _____

vv. 8-11 title _____

vv. 12-15 title _____

Now that you have a better grip on the themes of this chapter, answer the following questions using only the text straight from the passage:

vv. 1-7

Who were the believers in Crete told to be subject to?

In verse two, what are the four ways that believers should/should not treat others? 1)

2)

3)

4)

Why should we behave this way (verse three contains the answer)?

Who used to be foolish, disobedient, deceived, and hateful?

What appeared from God our Savior? 1)

2)

*According to verse five, how were we **not** saved?*

Through whom did God shed the Holy Ghost on us?

What justifies us?

What does eternal life contain?

Praise the Lord! What a glorious presentation of the Gospel! Before moving on to the next group of verses, look back at Titus 2:14. Underline each of the verbs to get a summary of what Jesus did for us. As we see from chapter three, remembering the love of God that rescued us from our own hateful behavior can help us treat others with gentleness and meekness—even those who are still living the un-Christlike behavior that we once did.

Day 2

Read Titus 3

Let's continue with our interview of Titus Three...

vv. 8-11

What should believers in God be careful to maintain?

What four things should we avoid? 1) 2)
3) 4)

Why?

How many times should we admonish a heretic?

According to verse eleven, what do we know about a heretic? 1)
2)

STOP!! *Remember Titus 1:11? Who do you think the heretics were listening to?*

vv. 12-15

Where did Paul plan to spend the winter?

Who did Paul want to bring on their journey diligently?

According to verse fourteen, what is the reason for maintaining good works?

Think about it: Can good works save us (see verse five)? What does verse fourteen say is the point of good works?

Who saluted Titus?

Whom did Paul want Titus to greet?

What did Paul want the believers at Crete to have?

Day 3

Read the entire book of Titus

We have reached the final day of this mini-study of Titus! There are many different parts of Titus that we could focus on as we wrap it all up, but there's one theme that's too important to not touch on. In chapter three, God gives us a clear picture of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ! Look at verses three through eight, then answer the questions based on these verses and the cross references below.

Before:

According to verse three, what did we used to be (list three things)?

In Romans 3:2, who all has sinned?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and note what you learn:

Then...

According to verse four, what appeared?

According to Romans 5:8, how did God commend His love toward us?

In 1 John 3:16, by what do we perceive the love of God?

According to verse five, what did God do according to His mercy?

Second Timothy 1:9 says that God did NOT save us by _____ but by _____ and _____.

Read Isaiah 64:6-7. What is our righteousness compared to?

After reading Matthew 23:24-28, do you think that it's possible to act like a saved person and to even have high standards but to really be far apart from God? What did the scribes and Pharisees appear outwardly to men? What did Jesus know they were full of on the inside?

Galatians 2:16, 21 says that no flesh can be justified by _____. If righteousness comes by the law, Christ died _____.

Now:

According to verse eight, who are good works intended for?

How important should good works be to us as believers?

According to Ephesians 2:10, what were we created to walk in?

Before looking up the final cross reference, take a minute to think about your personal relationship with the Lord. Are you still living in foolishness and disobedience without having trusted Christ for salvation from sin? If you have already become a believer in Christ, are you living out the good works that God created you to do? If you fall under the first category, Romans 10:8-11 has a special message for you! Read the passage, then write down the three verbs in verse nine that describe how we can be saved.

As one final assignment for your study of Titus, write a new title for the entire book:

Look back at the title you wrote in week one; does your new title reflect the things that God taught you from His Word during the last few weeks? May we praise Him for speaking His truth to us and share with others what we've learned!