

TITUS & PHILEMON

*"For the grace of God that brings salvation
has appeared to all men" - Titus 2:11*

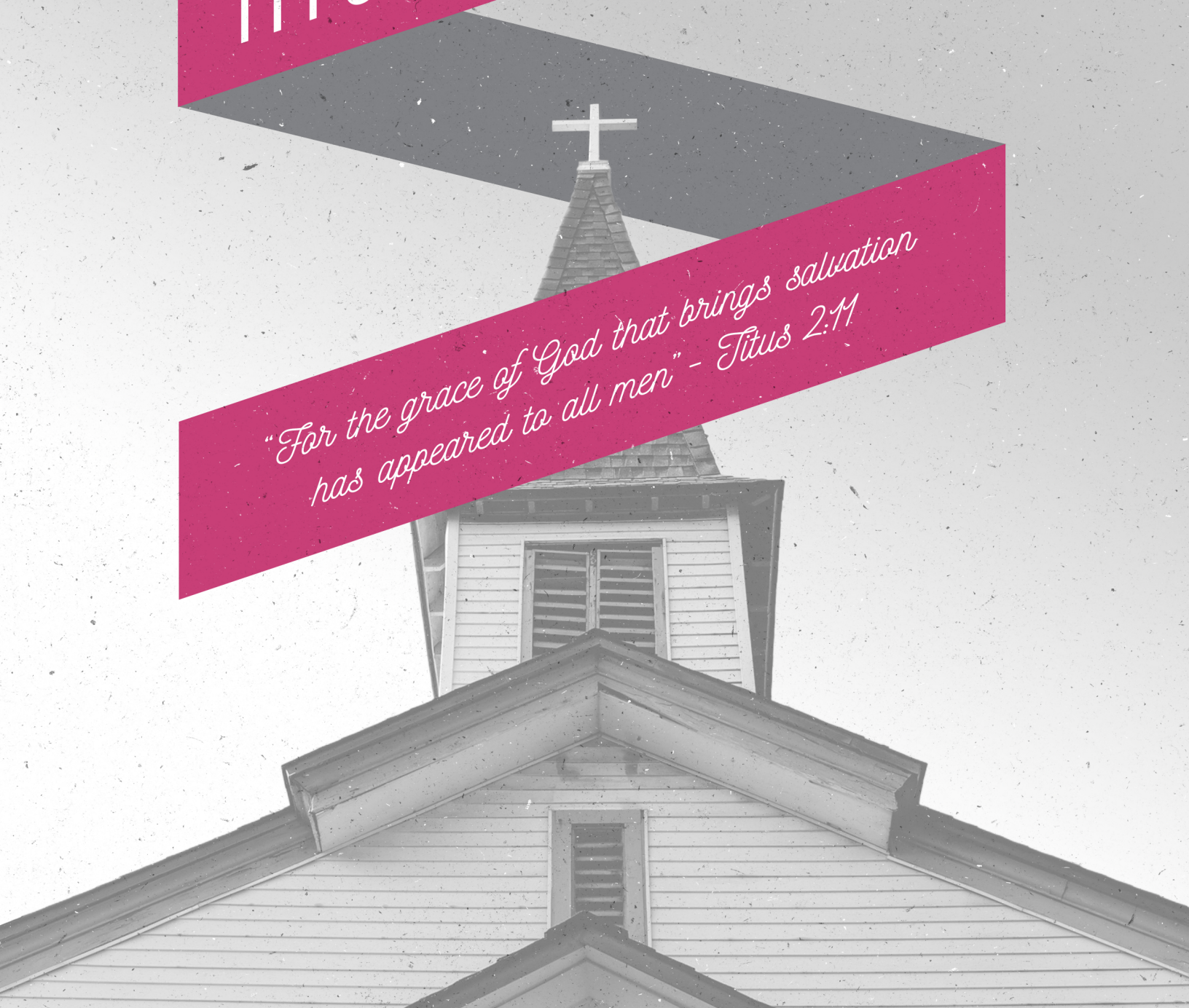


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Studies in Titus and Philemon

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.”

~ Titus 2:11 NIV

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How to Use This Study Guide

Bible study is not just learning about God; it is about knowing God and growing in your relationship with Him. When you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, a concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful:

BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org WebstersDictionary1828.com

Note: The New King James Version (NKJV) was used for this Study Guide, with consideration of the New American Standard Bible (NASB), the Amplified Bible (AMP), and the New Living Translation (NLT).

Each lesson begins with reading through a portion of Scripture. As you answer the questions, keep in mind that *there are no right or wrong answers*. If you do not understand something, or you cannot answer a question, bring it to your group for discussion. This is a benefit of the small group setting.

Near the end of the study questions, there is a “Growing Stronger” section. This is an important and personal part of the study. As you answer the questions in this section, reflect on how you can apply the lesson personally by asking the following questions: What does this mean for my life? Is there something I can start doing? Is there something I need to stop doing?

Each lesson ends with a “Final Thoughts” section. Consider using a journal to write your thoughts and insights as you answer the questions and reflect on the lesson you completed. Your journal is also a good place to write prayers to God in response to what He reveals to you in His Word.

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Titus 1... *Setting Things in Order*

The book of Titus was written by Paul to his beloved missionary companion, Titus, who had been left on the island of Crete to finish what Paul started when he established churches there. Titus' assignment was to set in order the things that were lacking, appoint elders/bishops in each church, and confront the false teachers who had infiltrated the new Christian communities. This was a difficult task because the Cretans were notorious sinners with bad reputations. Titus however, was up to the challenge. This epistle provides the Church clear instructions for the godly character and sound doctrine needed as followers of Jesus.

Prayerfully read Titus Chapter 1

Re-read verses 1-4

1. How did Paul describe himself?

Compare Paul's description with Peter's introduction in 2 Peter 1:1.

2. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Hope

According to the following verses, what are some things believers hope for?

John 14:1-3

Romans 8:23

Titus 1:2

3. What is your assurance that these hopes will be realized? (Numbers 23:19)
4. How did Paul address Titus in this letter? (Titus 1:4)

Record what you learn about Titus from 2 Corinthians 2:13, 7:6-7, 8:23, and 12:17-18.

Read verses 5-9

5. For what reason did Paul leave Titus in Crete? (verse 5, Acts 14:23)
6. List the characteristics of elders/bishops found in Titus 1:6-9.
7. What are elders/bishops supposed to hold fast? (verse 9)

What will "holding fast the faithful word" enable elders/bishops to do?

"Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong."
~ 1 Corinthians 16:13 NLT

Read verses 10-16

8. How are false teachers described? (verses 10-11)

What is their motivation?

9. Using the following verses, explain how you can identify false teachers.

Matthew 7:15-20

Romans 16:17

Galatians 1:9

1 John 2:22

10. How does Titus 1:12 describe the Cretans?

According to verse 13, what did Paul instruct Titus to do?

What was the goal of this type of rebuke?

11. In verse 16, how did Paul sum up the false teacher's character?

How can you be sure not only to profess, but to truly know God? (Galatians 5:19-23)

Growing Stronger...

"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled." Titus 1:15

Defilement happens when a person lives a double life. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord]" (Matthew 6:24 AMP). Motivation is important. God knows what is in your heart. Pay attention to the desires that drive you and be honest with yourself. Confess any impure motives to God and ask Him to create in you a clean heart. Look up the following verses and record how to cultivate purity in your life.

Psalm 119:9 (NLT)

Philippians 4:8

2 Timothy 2:22

Final Thoughts...

Applying the truth of the gospel changes us from ungodliness to holy living. Paul's instructions to Titus regarding holy conduct and godliness are the same today as they were for the early Cretan church. Character matters to God, not just in church leaders but in every person who claims to be a follower of Jesus. God has assigned each of us leadership responsibilities in this life. For this reason, we all should strive to incorporate the values of the elders/bishops which are listed in verses 6-9. Review the list of qualifications and note any areas where you struggle. In the space below, write a short prayer asking God to help you improve in those areas.

Titus 2... *Speak Sound Doctrine*

This chapter deals with the results that come from teaching sound doctrine: relationships will be marked with humility, submission, and love. God's people are to live with respect for one another and to bear witness to God's plan of salvation. Truths, attitudes, and actions based on biblical principles will not only please God and lead to spiritual health in the Church, but be an effective witness to the unsaved as well.

Prayerfully read Titus chapter 2

Re-read verses 1-10

1. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Doctrine
2. According to verses 5 and 8, why is it important that you "speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine"?

"Sound doctrine is absolutely indispensable to a healthy heart and godly life."

~ Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

3. In your own words, list the qualities each group of people should have. You may find other translations of the Bible helpful.

Older men:

Older women:

Younger women:

Younger men:

Bondservants (employees):

4. Which group(s) of people do you relate with the most?

List any qualities you need to improve on or behaviors that you need to change.

What can you do this week to grow in these areas of your character?

Read verses 11-15

5. Through whom was "the grace of God" revealed? (verse 11, Romans 5:15)

How did He bring salvation to the world? (John 3:14-17, 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)

6. What does "the grace of God" teach you? (Titus 2:12)

7. What is the "blessed hope" that motivates you to live a godly life?

8. List the reasons Jesus "gave Himself for" you.

9. With what attitude was Titus to exhort and rebuke the churches?

What was Titus to "let no one" do?

Growing Stronger...

The words translated in the NKJV as temperate, discreet, and sober-minded in Titus 2 are *sōphrōn* in the Greek, which means to be self-controlled. Self-control is an important quality in the life of a believer. Answer the following questions to learn more about this character trait.

According to the following verses, why is self-control important?

1 Peter 4:7

1 Peter 5:8

Galatians 5:22-23 lists self-control as a fruit of the Spirit. With the aid of the following verses, explain how you can bear the fruit of self-control.

Romans 8:5-9

Galatians 5:14-24

What are some fruits of a transformed life that are evident in you?

Final Thoughts...

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” Titus 2:11-12 NIV

Take time to reflect on the implications of Titus 2 for your life today. Consider what you have learned that leads you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust His promises. Make notes below on what the Holy Spirit reveals that will draw you into a closer walk with the Lord.

Titus 3... *Ready for Every Good Work*

The final chapter of Titus provides vital teachings on Christian conduct, the importance of good works, the transformative power of God's grace, and instructions for dealing with troublesome people. Paul emphasized the overpowering change that salvation brings to the life of a believer. Reflecting on who you were before accepting God's grace should motivate you to live in unity and godliness according to God's Word.

Prayerfully read Titus 3

Re-read verses 1-2

1. What instructions are given in these verses?

How can you be "ready for every good work"?

2. According to verse 2, what can you do to be "peaceable" with others? (Proverbs 15:1)

Read verses 3-8

3. Describe what you were like before becoming a Christian.
4. What are you to remember when considering the actions and behaviors of those outside the church?

How does recalling God's grace and the way that He treats you affect the way you treat others?

5. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:
Regeneration

6. According to verse 5, how are people saved? (see also Ephesians 2:8-9)

What part do "good works" play in salvation?

"You could not be saved through any effort of your own, but now that you are saved it is necessary for you to put forward every effort you can to glorify Him."

~ Henry Ironside

7. What blessings of eternal life are you promised in Christ? (John 5:24, John 10:28-30)

What does "the hope of eternal life" mean to you and how does it influence your daily living?

8. Why should you "be careful to maintain good works"?

Read verses 9-15

9. List some "foolish disputes" you see today.

Why should you "avoid" them?

10. How can you ensure that you are not among the "divisive" people warned about in Titus 3:10-11?

Growing Stronger...

“And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” Titus 3:14

Paul repeatedly exhorted Christians to be ready, eager for, and energetic about doing good works. “Good works” are not just living a good moral life or obeying the law. It refers to generous and helpful actions; the good works of giving help and money to those in need or to those who require urgent assistance. Why is it so important to establish a pattern of good works? Comment on what you learn from the following verses about “good works”.

Matthew 25:34-40

Galatians 6:9-10

Colossians 3:23-24

1 Timothy 6:17-18

List some practical ways you can demonstrate “good works” to your family, friends, and neighbors.

Final Thoughts....

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10 NLT

Many people believe that if they do good deeds, they will win God’s approval and get into heaven. But it does not work that way. The Word teaches us that it is impossible to earn your way to heaven. You are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The only means of salvation is by accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Salvation cannot be earned, but rather received as a gift. Take some time to meditate and pray about the impact God’s gift of saving grace has had on your life.

Philemon... *For Love's Sake*

This book is a personal letter written by Paul to his friend, Philemon, a wealthy believer and the host of a home church in Colosse. Paul had befriended Onesimus, Philemon's runaway slave. After coming to Christ, Onesimus ministered with Paul in Rome. Paul then sent Onesimus back to Philemon that they might be reconciled. Paul used great wisdom, grace, and love in addressing the unresolved problem between these brothers in Christ. This letter is a beautiful example of how brothers and sisters in Christ should behave when dealing with sin, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration.

Prayerfully read Philemon

Re-read verses 1-7

1. How did Paul describe Philemon in his greeting?
2. How did Paul pray for Philemon? (verses 4, 6)

Who can **you** pray these prayers for?

3. What had Paul heard about Philemon? (verse 5)
4. What was it about Philemon that brought Paul "great joy and consolation"?

Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

Refresh

Using the following verses, make a list of ways you can refresh "the hearts of the saints."

Genesis 18:4-5

2 Timothy 1:16-17

Philemon 1:20-21

Read verses 8-25

5. How did Paul describe himself in this letter?
6. Why did Paul write this letter?
7. Describe the change that occurred in Onesimus after he ran away from Philemon, met Paul, and became a disciple of Jesus. (verse 11, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

In what ways have you become “profitable” to the people around you since you were changed by the grace of God?

8. With what kind of attitude did Paul want Philemon to receive Onesimus? (verses 12,17; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
9. What higher purpose did Paul suggest was involved in Philemon and Onesimus’ painful separation? (Philemon 1:15-16)
10. What did Paul offer to do for Philemon on Onesimus’ behalf? (verses 18-19)

In what way was Paul following Jesus’ example by what he offered? (1 Timothy 2:5-7)

*"When we genuinely forgive, we set a prisoner free
and then discover that the prisoner we set free was us."*

~ Lewis B. Smedes

Growing Stronger...

Although the word forgiveness is not mentioned once in the book of Philemon, it is the theme of this letter. At some point, we will all have an opportunity to play a part in the forgiveness process. Sometimes we will be Onesimus. We will have sinned against another person and need to be reconciled. At other times we will be Philemon. Someone will have wounded us deeply, will not deserve our forgiveness, and yet God will want us to forgive. And sometimes we will be Paul. Our love for both parties will be so deep that we will be willing to step in as a mediator of forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. This story is a beautiful illustration of the work Jesus does for each of us before God the Father. Jesus found us in our sin, transformed us through His love, and paid the debt we owed to God so that we can be reconciled to Him for eternity.

Look up the following verses and record what you learn about forgiveness.

Mark 11:25-26

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:12-13

Final Thoughts...

The story contained in the letter to Philemon is the gospel of Jesus Christ in practical circumstances. Like Onesimus, you were once a slave to sin, a runaway from your true owner. Yet, God offers you salvation and transformation through the death of His only begotten Son, Jesus, who bore your debt of sin on the cross. You are now called to forgive others as you have been forgiven. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to be reconciled to? Pray and ask God to open doors for you to restore that relationship. Allow Paul's letter to Philemon to encourage forgiveness in your own life and trust God to use your obedience for His purpose and His glory.

~ Friends, Prayer Requests... ~

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

~ Hebrews 13:8