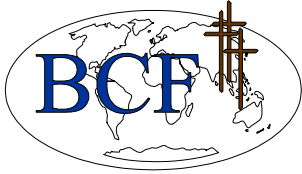


BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

TITUS



CHAPTER ONE

The Book of Titus was written by the Apostle Paul while he was a prisoner at Rome. J. Sidlow Baxter in his book, "Explore The Book," says of Titus, "Judging from the allusions to Titus in Paul's epistles, he seems to have been the ablest and most reliable of all the friends and coadjutors whom the Apostle had about him In his later years. As an uncircumcised Gentile who had been converted by Paul, he represented in his own person the breath and freedom of the Gospel, for which the Apostle had so zealously and successfully contended."

You should read the following references in other epistles concerning Titus: Galatians 2:3; 2 Corinthians 2:13; 7:6; 8:1-6, 16, 17.

This epistle was written toward the end of Paul's life and ministry, so it has a great deal to offer in regard to Paul's final teaching concerning the Church, the Body of Christ.

Before you start your lesson, we suggest that you read the book through once very carefully.

Chapter One

1. (vs .1) What two descriptive titles does Paul give himself 1.) _____
2) _____
2. (vs .2) What kind of hope is referred to? _____
- 3, (vs. 2) When did God promise this hope? _____

Note: 2 Timothy 1:9-11 tells us of a purpose of God which is ours through Christ. This purpose was established "before the world began." This same phrase is used three times: once in Romans 16:25 of the Gospel of the mystery, in 2 Tim 1: 1:9-11 of the Gospel unto which Paul was appointed an apostle of the Gentiles. The third time it is used is here in Titus 1:2 concerning the hope of eternal life. This phrase must be understood as pertaining to God's secret purpose in the Church, the Body of Christ. It is in contrast to such a phrase as in Acts 3:21 "since the world began." In reality, two distinct programs of God are characterized. by these contrasting phrases. One is the prophetic plan of God through Israel. The other is God's secret plan through the Body of Christ. The Apostle Paul was given that which was "kept secret since the foundation of the world." The Book of Titus pertains to the special message of God to members or the Body of Christ.

4. (vs. 3) How did God manifest His Word? _____

When did God do this? _____

Through whom did he do this? _____

By whose command? _____

5. (vs. 4) What does Paul call Titus?. _____

6. (vs. 5) Where was Titus when Paul wrote this letter? _____

Note: The island of Crete in the Aegean Sea was notorious, known in history as a base of operations for pirate bands. Many of the people to whom Titus would minister would be those from very questionable backgrounds. We see for this reason the stress upon ordaining proper elders in every city and setting things in order. Paul refers to their questionable history in 1:12. Thus we see a stress upon their maintaining good works and speaking things that become sound doctrine. The saints of Crete had lived in the midst of a very crooked and perverse generation. We might consider this epistle as of special import to modern day believers living under similar adverse conditions.

7. (vs. 5) What two things were to be done? _____

8. (vss. 6-8) List five things an elder (or bishop) should not be.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

9. (vss. 6-8) List five things an elder (or bishop) should be.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

10. (vs. 9) What should an elder be able to do with sound doctrine? _____

Note: In a day filled with strange doctrines and multitudes of godless cults, we need to heed the admonition to hold fast to the Truth. More than ever we need, as Paul stresses in Titus 1:9, men who will by sound doctrine both exhort and convince the gainsayers (those who oppose it). Some believe the verse should read "exhort the believers and convict the gainsayers." This may very well be the case. We do know that the only real source of exhortation for the believer is "sound doctrine" and the only source of conviction for the sinner is the same.

Sinners will never be convicted of sin by gimmicks or programs. Saints will not be properly motivated by group dynamics and pressure. Sound doctrine is the only scriptural means of accomplishing these goals. Such sound doctrine can never be achieved without acknowledging God's message for the Church, the Body of Christ.

11. (vs. 10) What group especially is cited as having many vain talkers and deceivers? _____

12. (vs. 11) What must be done to these deceivers? _____
13. (vs. 11) Why do these people teach what they ought not to? _____
14. (vs. 12) How did one of the Cretan poets describe his own people _____

15. (vs. 13) Does Paul agree with this statement? Yes No
16. (vss. 13-14) How was Titus to rebuke these people? _____

17. (vs. 15) To whom is nothing pure? _____
18. (vs. 15) What is said of their conscience? _____

Note: How often we hear, "Let your conscience be your guide." 1 Timothy 4:2 makes it clear that the conscience can be cauterized like an open wound would be with a hot iron. That is, we can become so calloused to right and truth that our conscience will not even give a whimper when we engage in sin. The only true guide is the Scripture and the Holy Spirit using the Scripture to convict of sin and instruct in righteousness. We cannot and must not trust our conscience to be our guide.

19. (vs. 16) How are these men known as falsely professing they know God? _____

CHAPTER TWO

One notable aspect of this chapter is the reference to the "blessed hope" of the believer. How we should rejoice that we are not without hope as believers, but that Jesus Christ is our hope. Chapter 2 develops the three tenses of our salvation:

Past - "The grace of God which bringeth salvation appeared." (vs. 11)

Present - "Teaching us that denying "ungodliness and worldly lust we should live." (vs. 12)

Future - "The blessed hope, the appearing of our great God and Savior." (vs. 13)

Read this chapter through carefully before you go on with the questions.

1. (vs. 1) What was Titus to speak? _____
2. (vs. 2) What are the aged men to be? _____

3. (vs. 3) List three ways in which the older women should live.
- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

4. (vss. 4-5) List five things the older women are to teach the younger
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5. (vs. 5) Why are these things to be taught? _____
- _____

Note: Often modern-day writers play down the significance of the wife's role. Titus 2:4-5 outlines the God-given responsibility and privilege of the wife. For a woman to forsake this all-important task of God and to fail to fulfill God's objectives is to "blaspheme God." These are strong words, but they are nevertheless the Word of God as stated in these verses.

6. (vss. 6-7) What kind of behavior are the young men to pattern? _____
7. (vs. 7) What is to characterize their doctrine? _____
- _____
8. (vs. 8) What will be the result of proper conduct and doctrine? _____
- _____

Note: Christians will always be opposed by the world and by the enemy of the faith. The Lord himself said, "if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." However we must be sure that the world's scoffing and ridicule is not justified because of our failure. Titus 2:8 emphasizes the need for "sound speech" to avoid uncalled-for criticism. Much of the world's scorn is justified because Christians are not careful to maintain "sound speech." May the Lord grant us wisdom not be of this kind.

9. (vs. 9) Who should be obedient and not talk back (answer again-KJV) _____
10. (vs. 10) How should servants behave? _____
- _____
11. (vs. 10) What will be the result of a servant that lives in that manner? _____
- _____

Note: The emphasis in verse 11 is that God's grace has appeared and that it does in fact bring salvation to all men. All men can be saved if they will but place their faith in Christ and His finished work.

12. (vs. 12) What does God's grace teach us? _____

13. (vs. 13) What are we to look for? _____

14. We are told of this coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in more detail in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Read that reference carefully. Where are the believers to meet the Lord? _____

Note: In Titus 2:13, Jesus Christ is given both the titles "God" and "Savior." We must realize that all the Bible is God's Word and its message is one of agreement and mutual support. In Isaiah 43:11-12 and Isaiah 45:21 we find that Jehovah states clearly that He is the ONLY GOD AND SAVIOR. Is Jehovah our God and Savior or is Jesus Christ our God and Savior? The overwhelming answer from Scripture is that Jehovah of the Old Testament is in fact, Jesus Christ of the New. There is indeed only One God and Savior, and that is Jesus Christ, Jehovah God. Read and compare Isa. 43:11-42 and Isa. 45:21 with Titus 2:13 and Col. 2:9.

15. (vs. 14) What did Christ do to redeem us from all iniquity? _____
16. (vs. 14) What other result, besides redemption comes from Christ's work? _____

17. (vs. 15) How was Titus to speak, exhort and rebuke? _____
18. Compare 2:15 with 1 Timothy 4:12 and state how Titus was to keep from being despised. _____

19. Read chapter 2 again. Five different groups are given special instructions. List the five groups with the reference for each.

Group	Verse
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

CHAPTER THREE

The key word in chapter three is "maintain." There is a clear course of action which God wants us to take in our new life in Christ.

The Holy Spirit is very careful to reinforce that we are saved "not by works of righteousness which we have done." Rather we are saved by God's mercy and grace and through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

With the fact of justification by faith alone established, the Apostle Paul then goes on to explain the need for the believer to maintain good works. Read this chapter through and read also Ephesians 2:8-10, then go on to answer the questions.

1. (vs. 1) What was Paul's advice about our reaction to governmental authority? _____

2. (vs. 1) What are we to be always ready to do? _____
3. (vs. 2) What are we not to do to anyone? _____
4. (vs. 2) What are we to do to all people _____

5. (vs. 3) List five things that we ourselves once were :
1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
6. (vs. 4) When did these things pass away? _____
7. (vs. 5) What cannot save us? _____
8. (vs. 5) What was God's motivation to save us? _____
9. (vs 5) What happens to us through the Holy Spirit when we are saved? _____

Note: Regeneration can be defined as giving life anew. From Titus 3:5 we see that it is only the Holy Spirit who can perform this work of regeneration. Ephesians 2:1 makes it plain that in our natural condition we are dead in trespasses and sins. We need to be made alive. Through faith in Christ, we are actually made clean through regeneration, or new life, and made into a new person through the working of the Holy Spirit. At the very moment of salvation we come into contact with the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. In fact, without the Holy Spirit and His work there is no new life.

10. (vs. 6) How is the Holy Spirit shed upon us? _____
11. (vs. 7) How are we justified? _____
12. (vs. 7) What do we become when we are justified? _____

Note: We are heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Eph.3:6 states that we are "joint heirs" with Christ. What a wonderful possession is ours to know that we have the same inheritance that belongs to Jesus Christ. Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and then meditate upon the wonder of our being made joint heirs with Christ.

13. (vs. 8) What does Paul say to assure us that what he is writing is true? _____

14. (vs. 8) What are we to constantly stress to the believers? _____

15. (vs. 8) What benefit are these good works? _____

Note: We realize that a person is not saved by his good works but by faith in Christ and His finished work upon the Cross. Eph. 1:10 does tell us that after we have been saved, we are to realize that we have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works. We are told the importance of good works in Titus 3:8. They are to characterize the life of all Christians so that the unsaved world can visibly see the results of the new life in Christ. We must be careful to maintain good works. Fundamental to this is a daily study and reading of God's Word and communicating with Him in prayer.

16. (vs. 9) What are we to avoid? _____

Note: Many people In Paul's day, and even now, feel there is some spiritual benefit in their family background. In Paul's day the Jews especially took great pride in their human heritage. Our boast can only be in Christ, and we must not be misled to concentrate on issues which have no significance to our spiritual well-being.

17. (vs. 9) Why are these to be avoided? _____

18. What is to be done with a heretic (divisive person) after the first and second warning? _____

19. (vs. 11) How is such a man condemned? _____

20. (vs. 12) Where had Paul decided to winter? _____

Note: At the close of the Book of Acts Paul was under house arrest in Rome. He was able to live in his own hired house but was kept under confinement by the Roman guard. There are strong indications that Paul was released from this house arrest for a short period, after which he returned to Rome. He was then put into maximum security confinement, which ended with his death at the hand of Nero. How wonderful to know as did Paul, "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer even unto bonds, but the Word of God is not bound" (2 Timothy 2:9).

Use the space below for any questions or comments:

I would like to be contacted by a minister in my area that can help me better understand God's Word. If checked please include a telephone number _____

RETURN COMPLETED LESSON TO:

Bible Correspondence Fellowship

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

E-mail Address (optional): _____