

TITUS 1

February 27, 2025



1. Begin this study of Titus by reading the book through at least once. After reading, write down one or two things you are looking forward to learning.

2. Read Titus 1:1-4. What are Paul's roles in service to God's kingdom?

What benefits will Paul's fellow believers reap from his service?

In a sentence or two, summarize what Paul says about God in these verses.

3. Read Titus 1:5. What assignment does Paul give to Titus?

Why do you think it was important to put good local church leadership in place? Also read Titus 1:10.

4. Read Titus 1:5-9. What godly character qualities are necessary for consideration as an elder?

What actions and character qualities are disqualifications for eldership?

5. Read Titus 1:5-9 once again. A steward cares for, protects, or watches over something. Imagine and describe some specific benefits of having well-qualified elders lead the church in Crete.

Imagine and describe specific dangers to the Cretan church if there was either no leadership or if unqualified men were chosen to lead.

Why do you want to be stewarded by elders like the ones Paul describes in Titus 1:6-9?

Why do you think every elder qualification matters, and why would even one disqualification be grounds to not serve in this role?

6. Read Titus 1:9-16. According to verses 9-11, what are the first priorities for the newly appointed elders in Crete?

Why should this be their first priority?

7. Read Titus 1:10-16. According to verses 9 and 11, how does Paul direct Titus to refute the false teachers in Crete?

What can be the outcome if the false teachers are willing to repent? See Titus 1:13.

8. Read Titus 1:10-16 once again. What is at risk in your own life if you are deceived by false teaching?

Think carefully about what you read, hear, and discuss in your everyday life regarding your faith. Where should you personally be particularly cautious to guard against false teaching?

What are some specific ways you can do this?

9. Read Titus 1:16. Not all false teachers seem corrupt on the surface. What gives away their true identity?

10. Write out your personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

TITUS 2

March 6, 2025



1. Read Titus 1-2. In Titus 1:16, what concerned Paul about the false teachers?

By contrast, what did Paul desire of Christians in all of Titus 2, summarized in Titus 2:12?

2. Read Titus 2:1. What is Titus instructed to do?
3. Read Titus 2:2-3. Through the word “likewise,” Paul connects the instructions to the older men and to the older women. Describe the character older individuals in the church should demonstrate.

How does this instruction about character connect to the teaching of sound doctrine?

Look again at Titus 2:3. In light of what you’ve learned in Titus about the false teachers, why do you think Paul gave these instructions?

4. Choose one of the characteristics listed in Titus 2:4-5 that you have observed in the life of a woman you know. Share how that woman living out that quality has been “good” (Titus 2:3).

Reflect on the characteristics in Titus 2:3-5. How have you embodied or fallen short of these qualities this past week?

5. An important way women were instructed to train others was in the context of relationships. How have you learned the character and skills in Titus 2:4-5 through women in your life?

As described in these verses, are you intentionally influencing other women and being influenced by other women to grow in Christlikeness? Why or why not?

6. Read Titus 2:2, 5, 6, and 12. Write a definition of the characteristic that is repeated.

Why do you think this characteristic is repeated and highlighted so significantly in Titus 2?

7. Read Titus 2:7-8. In one sentence, summarize Paul's expectations of Titus.

8. Read Titus 2:9-10. In one sentence, summarize Paul's expectations of bondservants.

9. Reread Titus 2:5, 8, and 10. What three reasons does Paul give for living godly lives?

Which reason most motivates you and why?

Consider the teaching of Titus along with Galatians 5:22-23. How is the genuine Christian life different than behavior modification?

10. Read Titus 2:11-15. What “appears” in verse 11? Write a definition of it.

What is the role of grace in verses 11-12?

What does our God and Savior Jesus Christ do and provide in verses 11-14?

11. Reread Titus 2:11-12. Often, we think of “rules” as our trainer. But Paul teaches that “grace” trains us in holiness. Give some thought and consideration to this truth. In your life, how has or can grace serve as an effective trainer for godliness?

In what areas of your life do you find yourself relying on rules as your trainer more than grace?

12. Look again at Titus 2:14. Would you describe yourself as “zealous for good works?”

Write what you know and love about the grace of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Pray that grace increases your zeal and trains you for good works.

13. Reflect on Paul’s desire for Titus to help form a well-ordered, healthy, godly church. What have you personally observed in churches and your Christian life that affirm some of the truths in Titus 2?

14. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

TITUS 3

March 13, 2025



1. Read Titus 3:1-2. With what word does Paul begin verse 1? Give some reasons Titus would need to remind his congregation of their responsibility to live out their faith in their community.

List the responsibilities of godly citizenship Titus is to reinforce and give a practical example of each of those responsibilities in our lives today.

ACTION

EXAMPLE

2. In Titus 3:3, Paul paints a picture of each of us before we accepted Christ as our Savior. Write out a description of everyone who lives life without Christ.

Compare this picture of your life prior to salvation with your life as a Christ follower. In what specific ways has Jesus changed your life?

3. Read Titus 3:4-8 and explain how our transformation from foolish, disobedient sinners to recipients of eternal life takes place.

As those who have the gift of salvation, what should be the focus of our lives according to Paul in verse 8?

Our salvation is by grace alone through faith alone and not by works. What reasoning does Paul give Titus for encouraging his congregation in good works?

Read James 2:14-26 and discuss the role of good works in the life of a believer.

4. Read Titus 3:9-11. Paul finishes his instructions to Titus by condemning false teachers in the church. What is causing strife in the church according to verse 9?

What words does Paul use to describe these controversies and quarrels in the church?

5. Paul gives Titus specific instructions in Titus 3:10 for addressing those who create controversy and divisiveness in the church. Using Paul's wisdom as your guide, explain how church leaders should address disunity and divisiveness in the church.

According to Titus 3:11, what does Paul conclude about those who refuse to heed the warnings given to them?

Share some ways believers can guard against division creating needless controversy in the church.

6. Read Titus 3:12-15. Paul concludes his letter with some final instructions. How did Paul want Titus to help him?

What do the people of Titus' church need to learn according to Paul? Why?

7. Good works in the life of a Christ follower allows others to see our faith in action. If someone followed you around for a week, where would they see your faith in action?

In what areas of your life would you like to better represent Christ?

8. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

PHILEMON

March 20, 2025



1. Philemon is a short personal letter written primarily by Paul. Because it is a single chapter, we only reference the verse number as we study instead of chapter and verse as usual. Read Philemon at least once. From where is Paul writing this letter?
2. Read Philemon 1-3. To whom is Paul writing this letter? How does Paul describe each of them?
3. Read Paul's prayer in Philemon 4-7. How would you describe Paul's tone?

For what does Paul express gratitude in verses 5 and 7?

In your own words, what is Paul's prayer request for Philemon and his church in verse 6?

4. Read Philemon 8-16. Paul is writing on behalf of Onesimus, a slave who had illegally run away from Philemon's household. How does Paul describe his relationship with Onesimus in verse 10?

Look back over verses 8-16. What can you conclude about the relationship between Paul and Onesimus?

5. Read Philemon 9, 10, and 14 again. As an apostle, Paul could use his authority to command Philemon to forgive and reconcile with Onesimus, but he does not. How does he instead approach his wish with Philemon?

Why do you think it was important to Paul to deal with this matter in this way?

6. Read Philemon 15-16. Forgiving and reconciling with a runaway slave at this time was countercultural and would come at a steep personal cost to Philemon. Read the following Scriptures and summarize the truths Philemon would need to believe and act on.

Colossians 3:1-2

Colossians 3:10-11

Colossians 3:12-13

Colossians 3:14-15

Colossians 3:17

How might living out these verses look in Philemon's relationship with Onesimus?

7. Read Philemon 17-19. What is Paul offering Philemon?

As an apostle and leader, Paul held a position of high social standing, while Onesimus was at the bottom of the social structure. Choose a verse from this letter that helps you understand why Paul would be willing to go to great lengths to help Onesimus.

8. Read Philemon 17-19 again. Imagine and write down the hardships Onesimus faces when he returns to Philemon.

Why might Onesimus be willing to face this danger? See Philemon 16 and Ephesians 4:20-24.

9. Read Philemon 20-25. In your own words, what response did Paul anticipate from Philemon?

10. Paul speaks of the grace of Jesus Christ, which can be defined as “unmerited favor,” in both the opening and closing of his letter. Where do you see grace in the story that unfolds in Philemon?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-26

March 27, 2025



1. This semester we have studied Colossians, Titus, and Philemon. What is one truth from each letter that stands out to you?
2. Read Philippians 1:1-2. Paul is writing this letter as a prisoner in Rome with Timothy at his side. To whom is Paul writing this letter?

He greets them with the words *grace* and *peace*. What do these words mean to you?

3. Paul established the church in Philippi on his second missionary journey. Read Acts 16:10-15. What do you learn about the city of Philippi in these verses?

The church Paul establishes is made up of many different types of people. On the first Sabbath, Paul talks to some women about Jesus. Write down everything you learn about Lydia.

Continue reading Acts 16:16-34,40 and briefly summarize this amazing story which leads to another person believing in Jesus.

4. Parts of Paul's letter could be called a thank you note. Read Philippians 1:3-7 along with 4:14-18. What are some reasons Paul is thanking the Philippian believers?

Think of someone who has blessed you, encouraged you, or helped you and consider writing them a thank you note or text this week.

5. Paul's letter is filled with joy. What brings you joy? What are some things that rob you of joy?

What brings Paul joy according to Philippians 1:4-6?

Think of a partnership with a person or group which involved sharing the love of Jesus with words or actions. Where did you find joy in this partnership?

6. Read Philippians 1:3-11 and record the words or phrases which show Paul's great love for the Philippians.

What emotions do you think the Philippians might have felt as they read Paul's letter?

What is Paul praying for them in verses 9-11?

How might Paul's prayer influence the way you pray for others?

7. Read Philippians 1:12-18. List the reasons Paul is thankful for his imprisonment in Rome.

Are you surprised by Paul's interesting thoughts on those who preach the good news of Jesus out of envy and rivalry? Why or why not?

8. Read Philippians 1:18b-26. Paul seems unsure whether his imprisonment will end in release or execution, but either way he considers it deliverance. By what means is God bringing about his deliverance according to verse 19?

What do you learn about Paul from his expectation and hope in verse 20?

9. Read Philippians 1:21-26 again. In your own words, explain what Paul means in verse 21.

What does the phrase “to live is Christ” look like in your own life?

What changes in your walk with Jesus might you consider after studying these verses?

Although to be with Christ is Paul’s desire, why is he willing to remain on earth, and what does this tell us about Paul?

10. Paul views his imprisonment with thanksgiving and joy! In what ways can Paul’s attitude help change your attitude in the midst of a difficult situation you are facing?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:30

April 3, 2025



1. Read Philippians 1:1-26 for review. Now read Philippians 1:27-28 and share some elements that will build a mature and healthy fellowship of believers in Philippi.

Write down the phrases which indicate church members are on the same team.

Why do you think unity is so important to establish a mature church? Also read 2 Corinthians 13:11.

2. What are believers granted in Philippians 1:29-30?

The word “granted” in verse 29 can be translated as “favor.” In what ways has suffering for your faith resulted in God’s favor in your life?

What does 1 Peter 4:19 teach us about enduring suffering in faith?

3. Paul continues his call for unity in Philippians 2:1-4. The word “if” translates to the word “since” in 2:1. Paul was listing certainties in the church and not possibilities. Read 2:1-4 and record Paul’s teaching on unity.

What are the *fruits of unity* in 2:1?

Explain Paul’s *encouragement for unity* in 2:2.

Summarize the *expressions of unity* in 2:3-4.

4. Philippians 2:5-11 describes Jesus Christ as the supreme example of humility. Read these verses and share what you learn:

Christ’s Humiliation (2:5-8)

Christ’s Exaltation (2:9-11)

What are some ways we can display this type of humility in the church today?

5. Read Philippians 2:12-13. These verses are not about salvation, but about our sanctification. What responsibility do we have when it comes to growing in our faith?

What part does God play in our growth according to 1:13? Also read Jesus' words in John 15:5.

6. What actions and attitudes can get in the way of our testimony in this world? Read 2:14-16.

What is Paul's solution?

7. Read Philippians 2:17-18. Just as wine was poured out in sacrificial ceremonies, Paul is willing to pour out his life for the advancement of the gospel. What stands out to you in these verses?
8. Read about two faithful servants of God in Philippians 2:19-30. In what specific areas do they inspire you to grow as a servant of God?
9. Write out a personal prayer request to share in one or two sentences with your small group.

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

April 10, 2025



1. Begin by reading Philippians 3:1-11. In your own words, describe what it means to rejoice in the Lord.

What are some things that cause you to rejoice in the Lord?

2. Reread Philippians 3:1. Paul also uses the phrase “rejoice in the Lord” in Philippians 4:4, but he adds the word “always.” Remember, Paul was writing this letter from his prison cell and would have been experiencing terrible pain and suffering. Look at the following portions of scripture and record the reasons Paul had to rejoice in the Lord.

John 3:16

Romans 8:38-39

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 John 1:9

Paul did not allow his circumstances to hinder him from finding his joy in the Lord. Thinking about your current circumstances, how do the above portions of scripture help you rejoice in the Lord?

3. Read Philippians 3:1-2 once again along with Galatians 2:15-21. The Judaizers Paul describes in Philippians 3:2 were Christians who adopted Jewish customs to try to obtain righteousness. Describe Paul’s tone in these verses.

How does false teaching threaten our authentic joy in the Lord? Read Romans 8:5-6 and Ephesians 2:8-9 for further insight.

4. Read Philippians 3:3-7. In verse 3, how does Paul describe those who have received Christ?

In verses 4-7, how does one who puts her confidence in Christ differ from one who puts her confidence in accomplishments or works?

5. Read Philippians 3:4-6. Why could Paul be tempted to have confidence in his religious background and accomplishments?

According to John 6:27-29, what is the only good work that pleases God and assures us of spending eternity with Him?

Look back over Paul's list of religious accomplishments. In what things, other than Christ, are you tempted to place your confidence?

6. Paul made it clear in Philippians 3:4-6 he had much to lose by following Christ but he considered all of it worthless when compared to what he gained. Read Acts 9:1-6 and record what happened to Paul (formerly known as Saul) that caused him to willingly give up everything he had once taken great pride in.

Share a time you were willing to let go of something you once took great pride in to have a deeper walk with Christ.

7. Finish by reading Philippians 3:8-11. Paul lost his religious and community reputation, but who and what did he gain according to verse 8?

What did you give up when you began to follow Christ? What did you gain?

Imagine a conversation with someone who does not have a relationship with Jesus. Explain why what you gave up to follow Him was worth the cost.

8. Carefully read Philippians 3:8-11 again. Instead of mourning the loss of useless works, Paul rejoiced in knowing Jesus. What blessings belong to Paul because he knows Jesus?

What accomplishments are you clinging to that are keeping you from a deeper walk with Christ? Write a prayer asking for guidance and strength to let go of these things so you can cling to Christ and grow in your worship and dependence on Him.

9. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:1

April 17, 2025



1. Review Philippians 1:1–3:11. In two or three sentences, summarize what you have learned so far in Philippians.
2. Read Philippians 3:12–4:1. What words, phrases, or ideas do you see repeated in this passage?
3. Look back at Philippians 3:10–11. In Philippians 3:12, what is it Paul admits he has not yet obtained but presses on to make his own?

What motivates Paul in this endeavor?

Read Romans 8:18. Romans was written before Philippians. How do you imagine Paul's own words in Romans would now encourage him considering his circumstances as he wrote Philippians?

4. Read Philippians 3:13–16. What in verse 13 demonstrates Paul's sober thinking about his sanctification?

What do you think Paul means when he says he "forget[s] what lies behind"?

In your own words, explain what you think Paul means in verse 14.

5. In Philippians 3:12–16, how would you describe Paul’s tone?

In this passage, Paul articulates that which is most important to him: the kingdom of God expanding through his own sanctification. Take time to reflect on your life. How fervently do you seek to forget what lies behind, strain forward to what lies ahead, and press on in sanctification? Spend some time praying to that end.

What do you need to leave behind in order to grow in Christ?

What would it practically look like for you to press on in your sanctification?

6. Read Philippians 3:17–21. Look up the word “imitate” and write the definition that best fits Paul’s use of it in verse 17.

In verse 18, Paul warns the Philippians of “enemies of the cross of Christ,” or false teachers. Consider all you’ve learned so far in Philippians. How would Paul’s instruction to imitate him keep believers from being led astray by these enemies?

According to verse 19, describe these false teachers and what will become of them.

Contrast the future of believers (verses 20-21) with that of the false teachers (verse 19).

7. In Philippians 3:20–21, Paul describes what belongs to believers because of Jesus Christ. List every truth Paul writes in these verses.

The idea of our citizenship in heaven is repeated in several epistles. For each of the following verses, write what you learn.

1 Peter 1:3–5; 2:9–10

Ephesians 2:19

Based on these verses, what do you think Paul means by “our citizenship is in heaven”?

8. In Philippians 3:21, Paul writes about Christ’s resurrection that believers will share in. Write everything you learn about the resurrection that belongs to believers. See 1 Corinthians 15:50–52 for additional insight.

How does the promise of your future resurrection encourage or strengthen you as you persevere in sanctification?

9. Read Philippians 4:1 – Paul’s concluding thought to this portion of his letter. List the ways he describes his brothers (and sisters) in Philippi.

What do these descriptors tell you about Paul and his relationship with the Philippians?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

PHILIPPIANS 4:2-23

April 24, 2025



1. Review Philippians 4:1. List the words Paul uses to describe the believers in the Philippian church.

What do you think Paul means when he calls them “my joy and crown”?

2. Read Philippians 4:2-23 as Paul ends his letter with joyful encouragement. Reread verses 2-3. What seems to be going on in the church in Philippi?

What words does Paul use to indicate this situation should be treated seriously and also gently?

What are some positive outcomes of unity among believers?

What are some negative results of disunity in the church body? See Romans 16:17-18.

3. Read Philippians 4:4-6. How are we to rejoice according to verse 4?

Explain what this means in your own words.

In light of Paul’s present circumstances, what is the interesting command he gives in verse 6a?

What is causing you anxiety in your life right now?

4. Read Philippians 4:6 again. What is Paul's remedy for worry?

What are some things to remember so you can pray with thanksgiving in the midst of an anxious time? See Matthew 6:25-33 and Luke 1:37.

5. Read Philippians 4:7. What can we experience when we take our worries, concerns, and difficulties to the Lord in prayer?

Share a time you experienced God's peace in the midst of a sad or difficult time.

6. Read Philippians 4:8-9 where Paul tells us right thinking and right living also contribute to God's peace in your life. From the list of many things to think about in verse 8, which one is easiest for you? Give an example of how this brings you peace.

Think about verse 9 for a minute. What one or two things have you learned from the letter to the Philippians that you can put into practice in your walk with Jesus?

7. Read Philippians 4:10-13. Paul learned contentment through the highs and the lows of his life. What contributes to his contentment according to verse 13?

In what ways might this bring contentment?

8. Read Philippians 4:14-19. Paul talks about giving and receiving. How does Paul describe the tangible gifts given to him by the Philippian believers in verse 18?

What will the Philippians receive according to verse 19?

Share some needs God has met in your life this week.

9. Read the closing of Paul's letter in Philippians 4:20-23. What words show Paul's joyful and inclusive heart?

10. Which verse in Philippians 4 is most meaningful to you and why? Consider memorizing it.

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.