

# TITUS

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Titus was a brother full of love, joy, and grace. By grace, the faith Titus had was unswerving, as was his testimony. Titus was Paul's yokefellow, and on fire for the gospel message. The unruly Corinthians were repentant because of his message, which gave Titus much joy and made his spirit soar. It made Paul's heart soar as well, because one fiery coal ignites another.

2 Corinthians chapter 8 tells us that Titus had the same heart and desire as Paul for the saints to finish the race with a full joy and to win all the fullness of God.

The name Titus means 'a nurse; one who raises them up.' This is why he was sent to the unruly church in Corinth. God had to prepare Titus beforehand for the task of preaching Paul's gospel to them. Titus was in Crete to not only teach these saints, but also to lift them out of carnality, and get their eyes off worldly things.

Paul loved Timothy like a son, and this letter written to Titus shows Paul loved him like a son also. This letter is like a heart-to-heart talk between a father and a son. Paul loved both Timothy and Titus like sons because they were begat in the gospel.

Again in this letter to Titus Paul will emphasize sound doctrine, sound words, and good works. The power behind good works is grace, and everything in our lives is all because of God's wonderful grace. He bestows this grace on us whenever we need or want it, and He always gives it freely and lovingly. His abundant supply of grace can never be exhausted.

## CHAPTER 1

Titus was in Crete at the time of this letter. The Cretans were an unruly bunch, much like those at Corinth. God graced Titus with patience, longsuffering, and grace in order for him to preach the gospel to these Cretans. Titus was always dispatched to the special needs Christians.

### VERSE 1

**Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness.**

#### Servant of God

Paul is very clear about being the servant of God. The word servant used here is referring to Paul being a bondsman, i.e. a prisoner of Christ Jesus. We should all be servants of Christ and His undying love. This is all about yielding, not about serving.

#### An apostle

We will never be used of the Lord until we yield to Him. We will never be that vessel set aside only for the Master's use until we are willing to surrender it all to Him. Only then will things transpire in our lives so that we become vessels that add to the usefulness of the Husband.

### Faith of God's elect

God's elect are His most favored. When we receive grace upon grace upon grace we develop us into God's most favored.

#### Romans 9:13

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Some of God's children are preferred and loved above all because of the leading of the Holy Ghost. He is preparing the runners of the race for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

#### Proverbs 31:29

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excels them all.

Throughout God's Word we find there is the good, the acceptable, and the perfect will of God. Lot was just, but Abraham received the covenant promises. God shows mercy and grace to whom He will, and He is no respecter of persons. God wants all men to be saved and come to a full knowledge of the truth. The Word of His grace does this in us.

#### 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

We look to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, knowing He will finish the good work He has begun in us. We are justified by grace through faith, not of works lest any man should boast. It is impossible to please God without faith.

### **VERSE 2**

**In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;**

#### In hope of eternal life

Paul always emphasized eternal life, and God promised it before the world began. By His grace, God fulfilled His promise of eternal life in His Son Christ Jesus, who was given to us for salvation. There is a full salvation with eternal glory for those who are willing to go without the camp and suffer His reproach. Eternal life was heralded throughout the Old Testament, and finally manifested in Christ Jesus. God gave His Son as a ransom for all mankind, because God is not willing that any should perish.

Paul encourages us that all hope and all expectation is in eternal life. If we put all our hope and expectation in this life, we have wasted it. The only thing that is forever is the Word of God, and this is the only thing in our lives that will be profitable. We are new creations in Christ.

#### Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The new creation can become a full overcoming life that is empowered to live and grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus.

### God cannot lie

God promised eternal life before the world began, and His promises are yea and Amen.

### Ephesians 1:6-7

- 6) To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the beloved,
- 7) In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

### **VERSE 3**

**But hath in due times manifested His Word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior.**

The gospel of the glory was given to Paul by Christ Jesus himself. God's full counsel was hidden until it was revealed to the apostle Paul, the vessel chosen to preach it to the Gentiles in this Church Age. The purpose of this gospel is to find a bride for Jesus.

### **VERSE 4**

**To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.**

### Mine own son after the common faith

The word common used here doesn't mean ordinary, it means 'belonging to us.' How wonderful when our common faith becomes our life. Those who have common faith in God's full counsel will seem uncommon to other faiths. But on the other hand, those of us who know the full truth will find other faiths uncommon. We have the most holy faith, the faith that grows up God's most favored. All the children of God are favored, but when we learn and embrace Paul's gospel we will be able to praise God knowing we are highly favored.

### Grace, mercy, and peace

It is always grace first, because without grace there would be no mercy, and without grace and mercy there would be no peace. What full assurance of peace grace and mercy give! We should rest in God's grace and mercy. Religion keeps many captive with do's and don't's, but in grace and mercy there is no guilt. It is His grace and mercy that gives us full assurance and perfect peace that keeps our hearts and minds. This is the peace that passes all understanding. Grace, mercy and peace pour forth from the precious Godhead. God help us to fully receive this.

### **VERSE 5**

**For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou should set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:**

### Left in Crete

According to verse 12, the Cretans were not good people, and Paul left Titus in Crete to preach to them. A special grace had to be apprehended by Titus to endure these people, to love them, and to feed them the Word of His grace.

### Set in order

Many things were lacking in these Cretians and they needed leading, support, and correction.

### Ordain elders

The overseers of the church were laying hands suddenly, which means men were being ordained at a whim, and not for the right reasons. They were appointing ones to positions they had no business being in.

#### 1 Kings 13:33-34

33) Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places; whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

34) And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

The ordaining of elders is serious business, and not to be done at a whim. The elders are to be appointed of the Lord, and they are vital to the meeting. Titles should never go to people because of their wealth or standing, or to anyone who would appeal to the flesh to exalt the flesh. The Lord places us in the body of Christ where He wants us.

### As I have appointed thee

This shows the authority that was given to Paul. Because of Christ in him, Paul was bold and took bold steps in the Word of God. God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to Paul's gospel, which is the bridal message of God's high calling.

### **VERSE 6**

**If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.**

These are the attributes for the testimony of the Word of His grace in the vessels He calls the Bishops. This is the life of not in word only, but in deed and in truth. The testimony of a bishop is never real until they live all these things required of them. These are the evidences of the working of the grace of God. We are to grow up and put away the childish things, go on in the things of God, and magnify and glorify God in our lives. This is all in His precious grace. We need to take this grace to abide as fully grown sons, and be living examples of the truth in love doctrine that flows through our lives. We need to be vessels clothed in His righteousness, loving His appearing.

### Blameless

The moment we give our hearts to God it is just as if we had never sinned. That sinless perfection is done in a moment. When we get saved our sins are removed as far as the east is

from the west, never to be remembered again. 'Blameless' is referring to a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

Ephesians 5:27

That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

This church is a chaste virgin to Him. If we take in the Word of God we will transform from glory to glory, even into His very image.

Husband of one wife

We are heirs of God because we are children of God, but we can be joint-heirs with Jesus Christ if so be we suffer together with Him. This is something the Lord is offering us.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Those who will be part of the bridal company will come out of the church of Philadelphia. Philadelphia means 'brotherly love.'

Faithful children

Many pastors have some very unruly children who need to be brought up in the Word, and grow up into Christ in all things. The pastors and teachers who preach Paul's gospel bring forth fruit in our lives. The proof of the quality of what is really going on in a church can be seen in the condition of the sheep. The Word of His grace produces fine sheep who become full overcoming saints.

**VERSE 7**

**For a bishop must be blameless, as a the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;**

A Bishop must be blameless

Bishops are stewards of God who preach the Word of God to people. These bishops should be vessels anointed with the truth in love.

Not self-willed

A bishop's thoughts should not be focused on himself and what he wants to do. He is to do what the Word of God instructs him to do.

Not soon angry

They should be slow to speak and quick to hear.

Not given to wine

This is speaking of intoxication on something besides Christ. He is enough to entertain our minds and keep our thoughts focused on Him. He loves us very much and He wants us to take only from Him.

Song of Solomon 7:10

I am my beloved's and His desire is toward me.

He loved us so much He died that we might live and become part of God's eternal family.

No striker

'Striker' means 'not quarrelsome.' Bridal saints should be too occupied with their Lord to be part of such things. Ones who quarrel are unruly; if so, ask the Lord to tender their heart.

Not given to filthy lucre

We need to set our affections on things above, and not on the comforts of this world. We all have more than food and raiment, and we need to learn to be content with what God gives us. What He gives us is what He knows is best for our lives. He has a much better understanding of our needs than we do. Those who are satisfied with Jesus alone are ones who can say, "All this and Christ, what more do I need?"

Philippians 4: 11-12

11) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12) I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Paul wasn't only instructed in this, he lived it. He learned to be content in whatever situation God placed him in. He knew he could do all things in Christ's strength.

**VERSE 8**

**But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;**

A lover of hospitality

This does not refer only to keeping people in a home, but extends to the meeting also.

A lover of good men

This is speaking of saints of like precious faith loving good men, and doing this is some of the evidence of the bridal ones. These saints of like-precious faith are the ones running for the prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus. The words 'good men' are from the same root word as Philadelphia.

Sober

This is the sober time, the time to be awake, and alert, and looking for that soon appearing of our Lord. This is a time to be loving His appearing, and this means focused on that and not be drawn away. The intoxication shows the sleep that has come on the church at this time, but we are children of the light, and we are awake, and aware, and watching for the return of our Bridegroom. This is not a time to be sleeping. This is sober, watching time.

### 1 Corinthians 7:35

And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

#### Just

The just ones are those that live by faith.

#### Holy

We can't be holy of ourselves because flesh can't be holy. We are holy when we rest in the grace of God because He is holy. We are holy because the life of Christ in us, the hope of glory lives in us.

#### Temperate

This means 'a little strength; pillar like; immovable.' Things move in and out of our lives, and we have high and low times, but a pillar stands. Stand, withstand, and having done all, stand. Nothing is hard for God.

### **VERSE 9**

**Holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.**

#### Holding fast

Hold fast your crown that no man take it from you. This also means 'supporting.' Supporting each other is what wedded couples do.

#### Hath been taught

God has called us and we must be fed and taught, and fed and taught, continually.

#### Sound doctrine

We will never be able to grow, be grounded as a pillar, or be a joyful one without the wholesome words of sound doctrine. There is no other way to exhort or convince others without it.

#### Gainsayers

These are ones that don't want to heed sound doctrine. Those who are heeding sound doctrine and wanting God's best have appetites for one thing: Paul's gospel. Our fellowship is in the gospel of Christ. Grace is a wonderful thing when it is in our lives, and grace wants to put us on the throne with Christ.

### **VERSE 10**

**For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:**

This verse marks the beginning of the evidence of the gospel ministers who have fallen away from the truth. We are to be ministering saints who preach God's full counsel. Those who have turned away have put on garments of evil.

## Unruly

Many pastors are proud to announce they no longer preach doctrine because their people don't want to hear it. Doctrine convicts the heart. It doesn't attract the big crowds that many want. Paul encouraged Titus – and Timothy as well – to hold fast sound doctrine and preach it only. When people step away from sound doctrine and cease to really love it, they become unruly.

Paul was given this gospel by Christ Jesus for the purpose of preaching it to those people who were already saved. Through this beautiful gospel we can know the unsearchable riches of Christ, fully laid out to us through the apostle Paul, the chief of sinners.

## Vain talkers and deceivers

Those who turned away from sound doctrine replaced it with vain talking and deceit. These two words mean, 'to seduce people with meaningless things.' Our lives should be surrounded by the fellowship of the gospel of Christ. Anything apart from it is meaningless. Paul never gave up on sound doctrine because he knew there was nothing more valuable to his life than suffering with Jesus.

## **VERSE 11**

**Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.**

### Whose mouths must be stopped

People don't like it when pastors tell it like it is, but the truth needs to be told like it is. An alarm must be sounded in this day, and this is especially true for God's precious people who were led astray and need to return to the first-love gospel given to Paul. Those who preach untruth and draw people away should have their mouths closed. Those who talk silly talk and call it fellowship are certainly not demonstrating how to live godly lives. These people need to be prayed for. We pray God that we will not be distracted by those beggarly elements, but rather focus on the full reward of winning Christ Jesus.

Two things will happen when Christians become unruly and break from God's truth. They can become legal or carnal.

#### 1) Legal

This breaks toward self-righteousness, to condemning everyone, having no forgiveness, and becoming bitter and without joy.

#### 2) Carnal

This is being caught up in what one feels. These want Christ on their own terms, but this will never happen. These think suffering is too hard, and they don't want to do it. There are sacrifices that we have to be endured like good soldiers to win the prize, but those sacrifices can in no way be compared to the glory they bring. If we deny suffering with Christ, He will deny us the right to rule and reign with Him.

### Subvert whole houses

Whole households were led away from the truth because of the teachings of those who ought not be teaching. These are hurtful things, because they cause people to be led away from sound doctrine and the strong meat gospel that will cause us to grow up in Christ in all things.

### For filthy lucre's sake

Those who preach untrue doctrine are led by the enemy because they have a desire for money, self esteem, a better social standing, or whatever else may catch their natural eye. The enemy will confuse the mind when people depart from the truth. Only the Word of His grace can build us up and give us an inheritance. Paul's gospel completes the Word of God and leads to His best if we follow Paul as he followed Christ.

### **VERSE 12**

**One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, 'The Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.'**

These ones that have turned from God's truth are even spoken of negatively by some of their own. They are marked as liars, evil beasts, and slow bellies. 'Slow bellies' speaks of idle gluttons who are unfruitful. Because they turned away from God's truth doesn't mean they are going to hell. Once a part of God's family, always part of God's family. The tragedy is that if they don't come back to the truth they can never hope to win Christ. Paul left Titus in Crete to preach the truth and to help lift them out of their carnality.

### **VERSE 13**

**This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;**

They needed to be rebuked sharply in order to make a stand for sound doctrine, and to believe it. This is not reasoning together, this is a sharp rebuke to wake them up to the truth and put them on the right path again.

### **VERSE 14**

**Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.**

### Jewish fables

Jewish fables are myths. There were whole books written and contrived at this time. Many of the contrived myths have become doctrines in some of the larger religions today.

#### Revelation 22:19

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy,  
God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city,  
and from the things which are written in this book.

### Commandments of men

These are the same things as myths. There are religions that control by guilt, or status in the church, or whatever burden man can contrive. Organizations can think of all the works that can be added to make people religious or pious. There was a lot of legality in observing days, tradition, law. It is much the same today, just packaged differently. It is still the same old vomit,

because it was and is an abomination to God. This is more than flesh and blood; this is spiritual wickedness that happens when people leave the first love. God help us to stand and withstand with sound doctrine.

### **VERSE 15**

**Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are undefiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.**

#### Unto the pure

This is unto the ones who heed sound doctrine. It means that all things are certain to them. They have bold steps. They embrace sound doctrine and also rejoice in it. When we move in certainty and in sound doctrine we live a life that is profitable, and fruitful, and gloriously liberated.

#### Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

#### Them that are defiled

People become defiled (and eventually lack believing) when they leave their first love. Defiled and unbelieving actually speak of being polluted, unfaithful, and filled with seductive and meaningless messages that lead away silly people. Nothing is profitable, and even their consciences are so polluted they have no remorse for what they do. These are people who at one time may have run well but at some point turned aside from the only thing that can heal them, the truth.

### **VERSE 16**

**They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.**

#### They profess to know God

People can profess a lot of things, but is it in word only, or in deed and in truth? What sheep feed on reveals their spiritual health, so the sheep will be the evidence of the value of what they are feeding on. Do they know Paul's gospel and rejoice in 'Christ in me the hope of glory?' We should be found having only His righteousness, and not filthy self-righteousness.

#### Abominable and disobedient

Turning away from God's truth and going another way causes one to become disobedient and abominable. Disobedient children are the worst kind of children. Even the smallest work of grace cannot perform in them for they are too unfit. This is because they have no faith and no desire to yield. Some people are not just asleep, they are comatose. We don't have to let the enemy lead us around and turn us aside. We can stand and withstand for Paul's gospel.

## CHAPTER 2

The table of sound doctrine is completely set for chapter 2. In Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus the words, 'sound doctrine' or 'sound words' are mentioned over 24 times. Only sound doctrine will bring forth the fruit in our lives that our Husband desires. It is the Word of His grace that builds it all. There is nothing else.

### VERSE 1

**But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine;**

Paul tells Titus to preach wholesome and helpful doctrine. The Lord serves us what He wants us to hear. It will be strong meat and we should eat it gratefully and let it work effectually in our lives. As we feast on it we find the simplicity of Christ. We need to trust Him to build us up in all things.

#### Colossians 1:25-26

- 25) Wherefore I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God, which is given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God.
- 26) Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints.

Paul preached to Gentiles who were already saved. Salvation is not a mystery, but the bride of Christ as the rib portion is.

### VERSE 2

**That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.**

#### The aged men be sober

The word sober means 'to be watchful.' When we are watchful we are full of eyes within and without. We have a vision. We see and understand God's purpose for our lives. Being watchful speaks of having eagle's eyes, those eyes that only see one mark: the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

#### Grave

This means 'to be honorable.' Godly character is very important, and we want to have the fruit of good character evident in our lives. God has foreordained for us all the good works we should walk in.

#### Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Without a testimony in our lives people can begin to doubt the sincerity of our love for Christ or, for that matter, our love for anybody else.

### Temperate

Temperate means 'control; to be consistent.' God help us as we grow up not to be easily provoked to anger. As we grow up in Him we can see different ways that He is changing us from glory to glory. We can see the new man coming forth and taking control over the old man. We become solid like rocks just like Christ our Rock.

### Sound in faith

This speaks of being healthy and strong, free from any error. To be sound in faith is to fully believe the rightly-divided truth. We should want to know Him, and to know the deep love He has for us, and to know and understand the desires He has for our lives.

Rightly-divided truth produces faith that is sound, sealed and not easily moved. Believing error is a shipwreck of faith and causes people to go by feelings and not faith. Mark them that are shipwreck, and then follow the Word of His grace. This is the gospel of the fulfilling and completing of the Word of God. Hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown.

### Charity

Charity is not just love, but rather brotherly love, Philadelphia love. The Philadelphia saints will be the ones that will win Christ as bridegroom. They love the assembling together with the saints of like precious faith. These are bridal saints, the pillars that are longing and looking for His appearing.

### Patience

This means 'constant; steadfast; perseverance.' This is not a hit-and-run attitude, and not a hot- then-cold attitude. This is going on whether circumstances are good or bad. Patience speaks of 'for better or for worse.' In the Lord it is all good if we really know the truth. When we are in very hard circumstances and despairing of our lives, the Word of God encourages us to press on with patience.

### **VERSE 3**

**The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becomes holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;**

#### Aged women

These women are beloved wives that are as vessels adding to the usefulness of the husband. Having even more shows that they are clothed with a reverence that is the holiness. Because Christ is holy, we are holy. Submitting unto His holiness means our lives are holy and pleasing to God. Holiness is the very life of Christ Jesus living in us.

#### False accusers

There is no need to accuse another brother and search out things that are hurtful. Doing so is not the good report. We need to be dwelling in sound doctrine which edifies, encourages, and builds up, not tear down.

#### Not given to much wine

This is referring back to being sober. If we allow ourselves to become intoxicated with the things of this life we will be drunk with excess when He comes.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6

- 5) Ye are all children of the light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- 6) Therefore let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober.

When we begin to magnify the things of creation more than the Creator, that is intoxication, and that leads to shipwreck.

### Be teachers of good things

Sound doctrine, above all else, should be taught. This is the message that fulfills the Word of God, the message that can produce that readied wife for Christ.

### **VERSE 4**

**That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,**

### That they may teach

These ones teach by their testimony. We need to let the gospel live in us, because a strong testimony can teach without speaking a word. People observe our lives. We need to be holy by letting Christ Jesus live in us.

### The younger women

The younger women noted here is not speaking of age, but rather spiritual development. The reason they are still immature is because they don't see a reason to stay with sound doctrine. They don't have the joy to press ahead for the prize, or to fight the good fight of faith, or to take more grace to grow up in Him.

### Lover of husband and children

First-love saints love their husbands and children as well as the family of God. They love what grace brings forth: a chaste virgin without spot or wrinkle. The virtuous woman always looks to the ways of her household. Mother grace lives in her. She is truly a vessel that adds to the usefulness of the husband.

### **VERSE 5**

**To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.**

### Be discreet

Young women need a lot of encouragement because God wants them to grow up. Discreet means 'self-control; temperate.' God help us not to become brash and get occupied with self. If we are to take up the cross we must deny self.

### Chaste

Chaste means 'pure; modest.' A virtuous woman is devoted to her husband, and she keeps her own garden. The woman is the glory of the man. The obedient wife of the Lamb submits completely to Him.

### Obedient to their husbands

The height of praise to the Savior is when we submit to Him. Christ must increase and we must decrease, and this is from glory to glory unto His very image. Submitting to the husband brings harmony to the home.

### Word of God not blasphemed

When all of the aforementioned traits are at work in a life, the Word of God is not blasphemed, nor made void. When these traits are not in our lives there is no fruit present, and we bring reproach to the testimony of the Lord. We should walk the walk because He loves us. He wants harmony in our lives, not chaos or dysfunction.

### **VERSE 6**

**Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.**

The word sober used here has a different meaning which is, 'right minded.' This is the mind of Christ, the mind that doesn't swerve from the truth.

### **VERSE 7**

**In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity,**

### Pattern of good works

These young men should be a pattern of good works, and grow up in Christ. The word pattern suggests a tapestry, one that is woven in faith because of the love of Christ Jesus. This is the clothing of the righteous saints that is seen in us. Christ in us is the hope of glory. The pattern is Jesus, and we should be found in His righteousness.

### In doctrine showing incorruptness, gravity and sincerity.

Incorruptness means 'saved; pure.' Gravity means 'honor, majestic.' Paul encouraged Titus to be a king; royalty. We can have it all if we grow up in Him. He has made us priests and kings unto God. This is what brings the sincerity, and it becomes real to us. The true worshippers worship Him in spirit and in truth.

### **VERSE 8**

**Sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.**

Healthy doctrine cannot be covered up or contradicted. We can wield the sword and let the Spirit hew down our foes. This sword never becomes dull.

### Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged

sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **VERSE 9**

**Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;**

Servants should be obedient and content. We should not try to pump ourselves up to be more than we are. We need to magnify the Lord if we are to be pleasing to God. We should surrender to where He has placed us in the body, and be content with it. God can use us mightily wherever He places us. We don't just endure; we do what we do for God heartily. There are times when we don't feel like doing what we are to do, but when we surrender to His will, God will take that feeling away. God helps us to rejoice in suffering for Christ's sake, and to surrender to His love.

### **VERSE 10**

**Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.**

#### Not purloining

Purloining refers to not quitting or drawing back, to endure and manifest it all. Hold fast thy crown that no man take it.

#### Adorn the doctrine of God

This is an encouragement to be a vessel that displays all the glory of Jesus. We are to be honorable and full of faith, to condescend and be glad of where God has placed us. This brings the adornment to our lives. This is our life, and we have no living except by faith. For a Christian everything else is just a lifeless lie. The power of love conquers every foe. We are called to be more than conquerors.

### **VERSE 11**

**For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men,**

#### The grace of God

God's grace is the grace that brings salvation. His love is unconditional. God so loved the world He sacrificed His Son to save us. Jesus died for the sins of all men. Just like His Father, Jesus has an unconditional love for mankind. His shed blood makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. All we have to do is believe Him.

#### John 14:6

Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father but by me.

This is just the beginning of God's grace. Grace is the all-encompassing power of our lives. It can bring about a salvation so complete it will take us all the way to the throne. The grace of God performs everything; it fills and finishes the masterpiece He wants to make us. This masterpiece

will become the Readied wife that will be offered to Him when the Holy Spirit brings her to the end of the race fully mature.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Grace reveals our need for Jesus. It also reveals our weaknesses and causes us to depend on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Grace not only saves us, it convicts our hearts to will and to do of His good pleasure. A willing heart produces a life that becomes more and more like Him as we go from glory to glory. Without grace we will grow cold, bitter, judgmental, and hateful. Grace is the answer to everything.

**VERSE 12**

**Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

Teaching us

Teaching is training us up. We are His workmanship, and it is His grace that teaches us and trains us. Grace teaches us to deny every form of evil and count it dead. Sometimes fleeing evil is not an easy thing to do because our flesh is weak and always will be. But this does not give us an excuse to sin willfully that grace may abound. Rather it shows us our deep need for Jesus Christ to reign in our lives, not sin.

Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts

We need Christ to show us what is wicked and what He wants to rid us of. We need Him to show us how horrible sin really is. His faithfulness will give us the strength to flee these things. When we are enlightened by Christ in our hearts, He will run the evil out of our lives. Deny means 'to disavow.'

Psalms 139: 23-24

23) Search me O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24) And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

We are not ignorant of the devil's devices. Christ in us searches out sin and leads us in the way of everlasting. We can leave ungodliness and worldly lusts behind by His grace, and run well to win the Bridegroom. We put away childish behavior and begin to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Live soberly, righteously, and godly

Teaching the denying of ungodliness and worldly lusts makes us live soberly, righteously, and godly in this world. If we want to live like this it will be by grace. Grace teaches us and trains us to live soberly, righteously, and godly. The Trinity is represented here:

1) Soberly

The Holy Ghost keeps us awake, and alive, and joyous. He breaks up the ice on a heart and causes us to fall in love with Christ Jesus. He takes the love of Christ and

sheds it abroad in our hearts. He causes us to look and long for Christ's return to claim His bride. He takes us through the wilderness on our camels so that we can finish the race with a full joy.

## 2) Righteousness

This is none other than Jesus, the very righteousness of God. If we belong to Him, the righteousness in us is the very righteousness of God. Christ lives in us. We are accepted in the beloved because of the righteousness of God.

## 3) Godly

This represents our heavenly Father. We are godly because we are born of God. We are heirs of God, and can be joint heirs with Christ Jesus if we are willing to suffer with Him.

These three are the heavenly trio working in us through the power of His might. We need to grow into ones filled with all the fullness of God to become that readied wife. This godly Trinity wants us to have it more than we do. They are fully devoted to our success in winning the crown. All we have to do is have faith in what they are doing for us.

## **VERSE 13**

**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;**

### Blessed hope

This blessed hope is literally the catching away of the bride at the appearing of His glory. This is the first trump appearing we are running the race to take part in, to be ruling and reigning with Christ and to be seated with Him in the midst of the throne.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

This is our hope, our joy, and the crown of our rejoicing. We need grace to stay in glory readiness which is a complete, perfect, full grown and filled with all the fullness of God readiness. This is God's purpose and plan for our lives, and He has provided everything we need for the race. We have been touched by the very power of His might, the love and grace of God.

### Glorious appearing

As grace transforms our lives, we get to the point of looking and longing for the blessed hope of Christ returning. The glorious returning speaks of the most glorious, most exalted appearing. This is the resurrection Paul wanted to attain to, because he knew it was the most glorious appearing, the appearing of the sun glory ones. The saints involved in this glorious appearing will be the ones who will be like Jesus.

## **VERSE 14**

**Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

### Gave himself for us

Our precious Savior Jesus went to the cross willingly to suffer and die so that He could redeem us from all the sin debt we were under. He paid a very high price to make us acceptable as the beloved in God's family. Many people cannot grasp this simple and beautiful truth, and they never realize how free from sin Christ's sacrifice has made them. We are part of God's family forever. Nothing can ever take that from us. Our sins were put into a sea of forgetfulness never to be remembered again. When God looks at us after we have been saved and made a new creation in Christ, He only sees His Son's life in us. We are acceptable to God, and we are free of sin in His eyes.

### John 8:36

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

### Peculiar people

This means 'a people for His possession.' These are the people for His name's sake. These are the ones who are truly shut up to Him. His coming is imminent, and it is Cherubim time in the Holy of Holies. That is where the cloud came down and the Lord's presence filled the house of God.

### 2 Chronicles 5:14

The priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

### Zealous of good works

We are trained up in love, not in do's and don'ts. Jesus loves us this we know, and we respond to love like that. This love makes us fervent to walk in the before-ordained good works. These 'good works' aren't speaking of what we do, but rather of the good works of grace in our lives.

### 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

- 9) And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- 10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak then am I strong.

This is the best work we can have in our lives, because this is when the very power of Christ rests upon our lives. When we love Him we will walk in those fore-ordained good works, and be glad the Lord sends them. This is the way we find out how weak we are and how much we need Him. We need Him because we are too weak in our own strength. Only His strength can get the job done. He only sends what we need to have the glory life, and grace will cause us to want it.

## **VERSE 15**

**These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.**

### These things speak

This is speaking of the 'win Him' doctrine, the 'first rapture' doctrine that should be preached with authority. No other doctrine is to be preached. We should never settle for anything else. We stand and withstand with the true doctrine Christ gave to Paul.

### Let no man despise you

The Lord doesn't want His vessels despised, but rather exhorted and appreciate. If this doesn't happen we should continue on in well doing. We don't need the accolades of men; we have the great 'I AM' on our side.

## **CHAPTER 3**

## **VERSE 1**

**Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,**

### Subject to principalities and powers

This means to be subject to those who are in authority in government and in judicial. God puts men in the positions He wants them to hold so we don't have to be fearful and upset about what happens in government. God is always in control, and everything will go according to His plan. Paul didn't get upset about what was happening in Rome, he trusted the Lord.

### Magistrates

God puts the magistrates over us and He expects us to obey them. They take care of civil issues and minor offenses. God holds the hearts of the kings and leaders in His hand. None in government can do anything to us unless God allows it, and if He allows it we grow more by the experience. God is with us in all the experiences we have. We are to pray for those in authority, and honor the position they are in.

### Mark 12:17

And Jesus answering said unto them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they marveled at Him.

Seek peace with all men. If we want to be bridal saints, the kind of peace that needs to dwell in us is the peace that passes all understanding. We need let God give us peace.

## **VERSE 2**

**To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men.**

To do these things is to be like Christ. All through the agony he endured on the cross, Christ never admonished anyone responsible. Instead, He asked His Father to forgive them because they didn't know what they were doing. He didn't hold anything to their charge. Our opinions

and feelings can get us all worked up about the things of this earth, and our testimony for Christ can be diminished in its passion. We are not from here; our citizenship is in heaven. Our thoughts should be occupied with winning Christ. He is our head and we are one with Him.

### **VERSE 3**

**For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.**

At one time we were all dead in trespasses and sins before Jesus saved us. We were foolish and all caught up in the cares of this life. But now Christ is living in us, and we are growing up in Him in all things.

### **VERSE 4**

**But after the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared,**

The very glory of God saves us, and it is all because of His precious grace and mercy. We are what we are by the grace of God.

### **VERSE 5**

**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

#### Not by works of righteousness

Salvation is not by works we have done. We are saved by grace through faith. We are all just a work of His great mercy, and we grow in His great love.

#### Ephesians 2: 8-9

- 8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:  
it is the gift of God:
- 9) Not of works lest any man should boast.

#### By the washing of regeneration

This is speaking of a washing the high priests did when they washed their hands and feet. It symbolized the new birth.

#### John 13:10

Jesus said to him, He that is washed needs not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

When we are saved we are washed clean, but in our daily walk our feet get dirty. We need to wash in the Word to get the world's dirt off of our feet every day. 'Washing' in the Greek means 'washed clean.' That is what the blood of Jesus does.

#### John 3:5

Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Born of water and of the Spirit is the same meaning concerning the washing of regeneration, and the regeneration of the Holy Ghost. The Word of God is the water. Jesus, along with the Holy Spirit, bring about the new birth. The Holy Ghost brings to our hearts the Word (the water) which is Christ Jesus. When we believe on Him, we are saved.

The Word of God is the sufficient means and the Holy Ghost is the efficient agent of the new birth. This takes man's efforts to save himself by works out of the picture. Believing on Jesus saves us and gives us the new birth, eternal life.

1 Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which lives and abides forever.

Salvation is separate from being filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost brings the good news of Jesus to our hearts, but Christ's blood cleanses us from all sin.

**VERSE 6**

**Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior;**

The Spirit comes to be with us for salvation, but He comes to be in us when we He fills us. Speaking in other tongues is the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit in us we can't be led into the all the truth, which is the full counsel of God. Being made a readied wife takes the work of grace that can only be given and delivered by the Holy Ghost. He makes us ready to marry Jesus, and He will present us to Him just as Eleazar presented Rebekah to Isaac. Paul's gospel is the only doctrine that teaches this beautiful truth. It takes the Holy Ghost within us to reveal its wonderful meaning to us.

**VERSE 7**

**That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Having been justified by God's grace we are made heirs. It is done and it is finished. We are sons of God now, but someday He will make known to all that he has loved us. This is to His glory because He does it all, and we are His workmanship. Christ in us is the hope of glory, and we can be confident of who we are in Him. We have faith because we have Jesus. His power is within us, and we can do all things in Him.

**VERSE 8**

**This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.**

Maintain good works

Maintaining good works doesn't mean we have to be stressed about what we should be doing. This is speaking of one who has compassion for others. We want to be a humble and gentle testimony for Christ. We should pray that by God's grace we can live a testimony unto Him. The Word works effectually in us when we believe it, and it will change us from glory to glory

into His own image. This is all because of grace through faith. He causes us to will and do of His good pleasure. When we become like Him the good works pour forth because His love works in us.

### Good and profitable

We should magnify the love and grace of God because these things are good and profitable to men. This is not speaking to being a man pleaser, but instead to telling other about the Word of God. We are called to live a life that is not in word only, but in deed and in truth.

### **VERSE 9**

**But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.**

### Avoid foolish questions

Questions indicate 'foolish seeking; foolish debate.' It is in our old man to do these things, and that old man can be easily distracted if we are not lead of the Spirit. We are not to become puffed up by the knowledge of Paul's gospel, but instead have humble and thankful hearts that we know it.

### Genealogies

Genealogies are like denominations or sects, which both are divided. God help us to avoid foolish things and not waste time on them. We need to stay with the truth in love.

### Contentions and strivings

This is pertaining to the law and its list of do's and don'ts and the accountability that is connected with trying to keep them. These are just a waste of time for Christians, because Christ replaced the law with grace when He conquered sin and death on the cross. He took the law out of the way by nailing it to His cross.

### Colossians 2:12-14

13) And you being dead in your sins, and the uncircumcision of your faith, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way by nailing it to His cross.

All of the negative things in this verse are to be avoided because they are vain and unprofitable. What is profitable to man is Paul's gospel.

### **VERSE 10**

**A man that is an heretic after the first and second abomination reject;**

This verse encourages us to redeem the time and make it count. Those who are heretics and want to be rebellious should be avoided after they have had two admonishments. We should pass them by and move on, but continue praying for them.

### **VERSE 11**

**Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sins, being condemned of himself.**

Those who want to stay in error only hurt themselves and inflict pain on themselves. Paul turned some of them over to Satan to be led by him as he desired.

### **VERSE 12**

**When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis; for I have determined there to winter.**

Titus was a precious brother who brought comfort to Paul and Paul coveted the face to face fellowship with him. He was a joyous sort, and his faith was very real in the Lord. His joy was a comfort to Paul in his sorrow. Paul sent Artemas and Tychicus to replace Titus so he would be free to visit him.

#### Artemas

His name means 'safe and sound; a solid one.' He was a speaker of truth and grace and would preach nothing else.

#### Tychicus

His name means 'good fortune.' This is the brother Paul sent to Ephesus. Artemas and Tychicus were lovers of the race who had a full joy.

#### Nicopolis

This was the city where Paul and Titus were going to meet. Nicopolis means 'a place of victory.' Whenever saints of like precious faith get together it is complete victory and overcoming power in the fellowship in the gospel of Christ. We should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as we see that day approaching.

#### Winter

Winter speaks of 'the end, the finishing.' Paul is determined to spend the end in Nicopolis, the place of victory. He knew he would be offered up soon, but he also knew for him to live was Christ and to die was gain. Paul would finish his race in victory. We are more than conquerors in Christ's victory. We have the better thing. Christ in us is the hope of glory, and we follow Paul as he followed Christ.

### **VERSE 13**

**Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.**

#### Zenas

Zenas was a Jewish lawyer who was converted to Christianity. When Paul was still Saul, he was the chief of sinners. But the Lord saved him and made him the vessel to receive the bridal message to preach to the Gentiles. When he was still Saul, Paul persecuted and even killed Christians. God brought him from the gutter to the throne.

#### Apollos

Apollos was Spirit-filled and powerful in the Holy Ghost. Paul wanted all the fullness of God.

Paul requested this trio of Zenas, Apollos, and Titus. Zenas means 'father of health'; Titus' name means 'nurse'; Apollos was full of grace and truth and was very Christ-like. To fellowship with these three men was like Paul was fellowshiping with the Trinity. Paul always wanted all the fullness of God in his life.

#### Nothing wanting unto them

Paul wanted Titus to be sure these brothers coming with him had everything they needed. Paul was always more intent on the needs of others more than on his own needs no matter what circumstances he found himself in.

#### **VERSE 14**

**And let ours also learn to minister good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.**

The evidence of true faith in our lives will bring forth the fruit of good works. The evidence of good works is vital. People do listen to the words of the gospel spoken to them, but we reach more people by our actions. How we respond to great adversity is the greatest testimony to people. God help us to be unmoved in adversity. Not because of us, but because of who He is and that He can do anything but fail. Our testimony is profitable when we yield to God, and when we really yield we become men and women we never thought we could be. We are changed into His image from glory to glory.

#### **VERSE 15**

**All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.**

#### Those with me salute thee

We salute all those who are like Christ. Paul said, 'they that are with me,' and that includes us. We stand and withstand for the gospel Paul received from Christ Jesus himself. The ones in this group are the ones who go without the camp and suffer together with Christ.

#### Greet them that love us

If we are with Paul there is one thing we will always have, and that is love. If we follow Paul as he followed Christ, we have that love. On the other hand, if we have no love we are not with Paul, and we are not bridal saints.

#### Greet in faith

Ones who don't have this love don't have the faith Paul wrote about here. Those who have that love greet us in faith. We can only enter into the high calling fellowship with those that have that specific love. We cannot be unequally yoked together with those who don't have that wonderful bridal love. This isn't about not having fellowship with others, this is about having fellowship with those of like-precious faith.

#### Grace be with you all

Nothing else will ever grow us up into Him in all things but grace. In this letter Paul says 'grace be with you all' instead of 'grace be with you.'