

TITUS CHAPTER 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;

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

3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

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

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

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

7 For a bishop must be blame-

less, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

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

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.

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

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

12 One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 2

BUT speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

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

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

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

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

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

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.

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

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

11. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

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

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

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.

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

CHAPTER 3

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

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

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.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

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;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

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

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.

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

10 A man that is an heretick

after the first and second admonition reject;

11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

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.

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

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

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

¶ It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.

PHILEMON

PAUL, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy *our* brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

2 And to *our* beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

8. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech *thee*, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessi-

ty, but willingly.

15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth *thee* ought, put that on mine account;

19 I Paul have written *it* with mine own hand, I will repay *it*: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

¶ Written from Rome to Philemon, by Onesimus a servant.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Titus was a Greek believer (Galatians 2:3) who was won to Christ through Paul's ministry (Titus 1:4). We know very little about his background. He is not once mentioned in Acts. It is very likely that he was a convert from heathenism who attached himself to Paul and assisted in taking the offering for the saints (II Corinthians 12:18). Titus met Paul at Troas with the report of the Corinthian situation. Titus carried the second letter to the Corinthians back for Paul. He was Paul's helper, left at Crete to reorganize the church until Paul could send Tychicus or Artemas to take over (Titus 3:12). Titus was with Paul at Rome in his second imprisonment. From there he travelled to Dalmatia on a mission for the apostle (II Timothy 4:10). Paul's estimate of Titus is given in II Corinthians 8:23.

Several words are repeated in this brief letter that help us understand the burden on Paul's heart. Good works is a major emphasis in this book. "Saved by grace" means saved unto good works, not by works. Christian doctrine and Christian living are to be sound. There ought to be a life of godliness, not worldliness. God's grace leads a person to live a godly life. The key verse for this book is probably chapter 3:8: "...they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works." As we read this book, I trust we can grasp what Paul is saying. He gives instructions to Titus, as well as to Christians today, as to how we should live. He also emphasizes a message to pastors in chapters 2 and 3. It is important that a pastor have a balanced ministry, teaching and exhorting the saints, as well as refuting the enemies of the truth. We, as pastors, should not get involved in every "dog fight" that comes along. We should be careful to preach the Word of God in simplicity and truth, and allow God's Holy Spirit to take care of the rest. I do not mean that we should compromise the truth, but that we should not be involved in every petty argument that comes along. Do not major on minors. Satan will bring minors to the forefront in most churches and cause dissension and misunderstanding, when the major portion of the pastor's job is prayer, preaching the Word, and handling every situation according to the Word of God.

Philemon was evidently a wealthy Christian of Colosse who had been won to Christ through Paul's

ministry, possibly at Ephesus. Onesimus was one of Philemon's slaves who had apparently stolen from his master and fled to Rome. Under the providential leading of the Lord, this runaway slave was brought into contact with Paul, who led him to Christ. Legally, Philemon could have had his slave killed for disobeying, but Paul stepped in to intercede for the new Christian and saved his life. This brief letter speaks to our hearts since it pictures, in a vivid way, the heart of the great Apostle Paul. His purposes in writing were to inform Philemon that his slave was safe and saved, to ask Philemon to forgive Onesimus, and to request Philemon to prepare a room for Paul.

Of course, the main lesson of the letter is its picture of Christ. Just as Paul was willing to pay the price for disobedient Onesimus, so Christ paid the price for your sins and mine on the cross. Paul wrote, "receive him as myself." This is a reminder to us that we are "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6). No one will ever enter heaven on his own merits—only on the merits of Jesus Christ. When the believer stands before the Father, Christ will have to say, "receive him as Myself." Thanks be to God that our sins have been covered by His precious righteousness.

The Christian today needs to keep in mind the distinction between "accepted in Christ" and "accepted to Christ." The one who has trusted Christ for salvation is forever accepted in Christ, and can never be rejected by the Father. Whenever the believer sins, he is accepted, but not acceptable! It is necessary to confess that sin and receive Christ's cleansing. Because we are accepted in Him, we have sonship; as we live a life acceptable to Him, we have fellowship with Him.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue" (Proverbs 28:23).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 31 (found on page 7).

BIRTHDAY TODAY

ETTA COOK

EVENING STAR DAILY BIBLE

HYMN FOR THE DAY

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

The peace of Christmas, proclaimed by the heavenly chorus, is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind. "God was reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19). This message of reconciliation involves us on three different levels: Peace with God, peace with our fellow men, and peace within ourselves. It is this blessed concept that Edmund Sears wanted to emphasize in his unusual carol.

In the second stanza Sears stressed the social aspects of the angels' message—the hope of Christians spreading peace and good will to others who are burdened and painfully toiling. The hymn was written in 1849, a time preceding the Civil War when there was much tension over the question of slavery, the industrial revolution in the North and the frantic gold rush in California. The final verse looks forward optimistically to a time when all people will enjoy the peace of which the angels sang.

This carol is one of the finest ever written by an American. After graduation from Harvard Divinity School, Edmund Sears spent most of his life in small pastorates in the East.

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav'n's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hast'ning on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever circling years
comes round the age of gold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1807

THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

1879

GYPSY SMITH MARRIED.

When I think of Gypsy Smith, I think of the blessed story told about him by Dr. John R. Rice. Gypsy Smith preached on soul winning in the First Baptist Church of Dallas when John R. Rice was a young man. When the service was over, Dr. Rice resolved he would go out and witness to the first person he saw. After the closing prayer, he witnessed to the first person he saw. When asking the person if he were a Christian, this person replied, "Yes, a gypsy just came out of the speaker's door and led me to Jesus Christ." Gypsy Smith beat him to it. What a great testimony this is.

It was Gypsy Smith who said, "Anyone can preach to a crowd, but it takes the grace of God to preach to one man."

Gypsy Smith as an older man married a very young lady. When someone asked him why, he replied, "I'd rather smell perfume than liniment."

1903

THE DATE OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' FIRST FLIGHT.

Certainly, I must thank God today for the airplane, and the amazing opportunity we have for spreading the Gospel because of this means of travel.

36 A.D.

LAZARUS DIED.

This is the date that Lazarus was supposed to have died for the second time. Of course, this is only traditional. There are those who think that Lazarus was raptured into Heaven because he had already died. We will leave the answer to this until we get to Heaven.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1975

Death of Noble Sissle (86), pioneer jazz figure.

Spingarn Medal presented to Henry ("Hank") Aaron "for his memorable home-run record which stands as a landmark" and for his sportsmanship.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 31 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: FULFILLED PROMISES TO ISRAEL

Regathered to their own land. (587 B.C.)

() Ezekiel 36:24

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. (Fulfilled in 1948.)

Regathered in unbelief.

() Romans 11:25

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Regathered after led captve into all nations. (70 A.D. to 1948 A.D.)

() Luke 21:24

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Restoration to be permanent.

() Amos 9:15

And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

Restoration will be spiritual.

() Romans 11:26

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.