

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 March 2013..... 1Timothy 1:1-20..... Follow Sound Doctrine
- 2) 10 March..... 1Timothy 2:1-15..... Please God in Worship
- 3) 17 March..... 1Timothy 3:1-4:16..... Honor God in Your Service
- 4) 24 March..... 1Timothy 5:1-6:2..... Care for Others
- 5) 31 March..... Matthew 28:1-20..... Believe in the Risen Lord
- 6) 07 April..... 1Timothy 6:3-21..... Pursue Spiritual Gifts
- 7) 14 April..... 2Timothy 1:1-18..... Be Loyal
- 8) 21 April..... 2Timothy 2:1-26..... Be Strong in God's Work
- 9) 28 April..... 2Timothy 3:1-17..... Be Guided by God's Word
- 10) 05 May..... 2Timothy 4:1-22..... Be Persistent to the End
- 11) 12 May..... **Titus 1:1-16..... Look for Qualified Spiritual Leaders**
- 12) 19 May..... Titus 2:1-15..... Look for Spiritual Excellence
- 13) 26 May..... Titus 3:1-15..... Look for Good Works

INTRODUCTION

- Titus was another trusted co-worker of Paul's who was appointed by Paul to select church elders, exhort sound doctrine, reprove false teachers and refute false teachings so the church could remain strong in its faith, doctrines, and practices
- Paul wrote 1Timothy and Titus about the same time, probably after his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28), so between 63-65 AD
- Titus was never mentioned in Acts, but he is mentioned 13 times in the rest of the New Testament, always in a positive light
- Especially significant in this epistle is the repeated emphasis on "good deeds" (1:16; 2:7,14; 3:1,8,14)

Passage	Comments
Titus 1:1-4	<p><b>Build Up Believers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. "...for the faith of those chosen of God" – Paul's mission was 2-fold – 1) convince unbelievers of the Gospel; and 2) encourage believers to live for Christ. Those who willingly accept the Gospel message become the "chosen of God" – where once before they were unchosen &amp; not God's people..... 1Peter 2:10</li> <li>• vv2-3. <b>Progressive Revelation</b> – "but at the proper time God manifested His word..."</li> <li>• 3x in this letter God the Father is called <i>Savior</i> (here; 2:10; 3:4); 3x in 1Timothy (1Tim 1:1; 2:3; 4:10); and 3x Jesus is called <i>Savior</i> (1:4; 2:13; 3:6; also 2Tim 1:10)</li> <li>• Paul uses "Savior" 12x in all his letters, half of the references being in Titus</li> </ul>
1:5-9	<p><b>Guard Your Character</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v5. "Appoint elders in every city..." – Elders/Pastors were initially appointed by the Apostles, Apostolic appointees, or by other Elders</li> <li>• v6. "The husband of one wife" lit "Man of one woman" – Similarly, any widow to be supported by a church on a full time basis was to be "the wife of one husband" (1Timothy 5:9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ An otherwise qualified unmarried man or a widower was not necessarily barred from being an elder. The most likely meaning is simply that a faithful monogamous married life must be maintained</li> <li>♦ For more details on Elder &amp; Deacon qualifications see Sunday school lesson .....<a href="#">1Timothy-03-04</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. "Above reproach" – why such a high standard? What if a church can't find men without reproaches? Should they compromise the standard?</li> <li>• v9. "...sound teaching..." – Paul uses the word "sound" 10x in 1,2 Timothy and Titus. Sound conveys health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why "refute" those who contradict sound doctrine? By today's standard, isn't that harsh language?</li> <li>♦ Remember the priority is to convert not throw out</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:10-16	<p><b>Correct False Teachings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv10-14. The reason for strongly refuting false teachers and their doctrine is to protect families from scams</li> <li>• v12. The quotation is from the poet Epimenides who was a 6<sup>th</sup> century BC native of Crete ..... see below</li> <li>• vv15-16. "They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him..." ..... see Mat 7:15-23</li> </ul>
Extra-Biblical Quotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotations or allusions to non-Biblical works in the NT include Paul's quotation of secular poets Aratus in Acts 17:28, Menander in 1Cor 15:33, Epimenides in Titus 1:12; Paul stated in 2Tim 3:8 that Jannes and Jambres were the unnamed culprits who withstood Moses in one OT incident – whose names were known only by tradition; the writer of Hebrews 11:35 quoted from II Maccabees (an apocryphal book); Jude 9 quotes Michael the Archangel from "The Assumption of Moses"; and Jude also quoted from the apocryphal Book of Enoch in Jude 14</li> <li>• Such usage does not raise the extra-biblical sources to canonical status, but the Biblical authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, found the quotations suitable for confirming, clarifying or illustrating a point</li> </ul>
Life on Crete	<p>In the NT times life on the 4<sup>th</sup> largest island in the Mediterranean had sunk to a deplorable moral level. The dishonesty, gluttony and laziness of its inhabitants were proverbial (1:12). Paul and Titus apparently introduced Christianity in Crete, and Paul left Titus there to establish the church amongst such an immoral culture</p>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Challenging teachers of false doctrines is never fun, but it is a must for those who oversee the health and vitality of the church

**NEXT WEEK: Titus 2.** Titus receives instructions for how old and young men and women, married and single, need to behave themselves within and without the church

