

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

- Paul highlights the need for believers to engage in “good deeds” to meet pressing needs of others around us and to generate eternal fruit to our credit
- Though Paul listed a lot of do’s and don’ts throughout Titus and 1&2 Timothy, the real intent of the author was to convey how to grow in Christ-like character and behavior.
- If we mimic the qualifications listed for Elders, Deacons, and of their wives we will not be ashamed when we stand before Christ

Passage	Comments
Titus 3:1-2	<p><b>Live Well Before Outsiders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. “Be subject to rulers...” – But what if they are bad?</li> <li>• v1b. “Be ready for every good work” – and make yourself available for volunteer work</li> <li>• v2a. “Slander no one’ - Avoid bad-mouthing family, friends, co-workers, bosses, and even politicians and TV preachers. It’s not that we can’t challenge or judge their unbiblical stances or behavior, but we shouldn’t judge their heart since that is God’s business</li> <li>• v2b. “Be peaceable, gentle, considerate/courteous to all men” – We may have to call the baby ugly, and to reprove and rebuke, but do it with kindness and love</li> </ul>
3:3	<p><b>Dealing with Addictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember our sinful past when dealing with fallen and hurting people – and be compassionate</li> <li>• “...enslaved to various lusts and pleasures...” – Some struggle with physical and chemical addictions, which takes direct and guided intervention to bring healing</li> <li>• Classical life-controlling addictions (passions of the flesh) include sex, drugs, alcohol, food</li> <li>• Modern addictions: video games &amp; social networking</li> </ul>
12-Step Program for Addictions (“Stepping into Freedom” by J.R. Lee)	<p><b>A Christ-centered approach to cure Tough Sins</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Admitting Your Powerlessness</li> <li>2. Acknowledging Your Belief in Jesus Christ</li> <li>3. Affirming Your Need for God’s Care</li> <li>4. Auditing Your Life (“Examine Yourself”)</li> <li>5. Accounting for Your Actions</li> <li>6. Agreeing with God</li> <li>7. Abandoning Your Sins</li> <li>8. Amending Your Ways</li> <li>9. Acting on Your Amends</li> <li>10. Analyzing Your Walk with Christ</li> <li>11. Anchoring Your Walk with Christ</li> <li>12. Advancing Your Faith in Christ</li> </ol>
Note on Conditions	<p><b>Hermeneutic Principle:</b> Just because a passage doesn’t state conditions doesn’t mean it doesn’t have conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We run into doctrinal problems when we blindly think a passage of scripture has no conditions attached. We have to consider the “whole counsel of God”</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example: “Be subject to rulers,” if taken ultra-literally, and without factoring in the need to hold God’s commandments above man’s commandments (Acts 4:19; 5:29) Christians could be persuaded to accept abortion and gay marriage statutes as from God</li> </ul>
3:4-8	<p><b>Be Transformed by God’s Salvation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v5. God saved us by His mercy –not on our good looks, good deeds, or good behavior. In other words, He didn’t have to save us – He chose to save us, and His Son paid the full price of our admission</li> <li>• v7. Thanks to Jesus, we become joint-heirs with Him in all heavenly blessings .....Romans 8:16,17</li> <li>• v8. THEREFORE, we should make an all-out effort to be diligent with GOOD DEEDS             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Find out who has a need and seek to help them (elderly, missionaries, neighbors, church, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:9-11	<p><b>Deal with Divisive People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v9. “Avoid foolish stuff...” – This doesn’t mean we can’t wrestle with secondary issues, but we need to avoid energy-sapping, time-wasting arguments that deliver no value and cause more harm than good</li> <li>• vv10-11. Avoid contentions people since their sole purpose is to bring you down with them</li> </ul>
3:12-15	<p><b>Be Devoted to Good Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v13. “Diligently help Zenas the LAWYER, and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them”             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Support for Zenas and Apollos might have included money, prayers, lodging, and meals</li> <li>♦ Be in prayer and consider support for our Christian lawyer friends who take on cases for the sake of Christ. [e.g., Jay Sekulow and the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ)]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- What do you get when someone behaves like Christ, obeys like Christ, avoids sin like Christ, and shares the love of God like Christ? Some say such a person would be a Super-Christian. But such a person should be just a Typical Christian

SUPPORTING PASSAGES

Romans 8:16-17. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

**NEXT WEEK: Job.** Job’s life is turned upside down so that God can “perform what had been appointed for [him]” and to show us some powerful insight into God’s character

