

# COMPELLED BY TRUTH



**A STUDY OF PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS**

**SEPT 2023**

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# Series Introduction

As a church, this fall, we are going to study Paul's letter to Titus and will use this Life Group guide to facilitate discussion around it! However, you might be reading this guide and have never connected with Jesus Christ. If this is true, then we are glad that you are joining us in our study, and we would love to talk with you about any questions you may have regarding living a life for Jesus! Give us a call or send us an email! [FBC@fbcgarner.org](mailto:FBC@fbcgarner.org) or (919) 772 1772.

## **Compelled By Truth**

Have you ever been accused of being dishonest when you were telling the whole truth? In that situation, did it feel great to be perceived as a liar? For most of us, the thought of being labeled as a chronic liar would be appalling. However, the Cretans, to whom Titus was ministering, were proud of their reputation of lying and cheating for personal gain. In our study, we are going to see continual exhortation directed at the church in Crete to embrace truth in both their understanding of scriptural teaching and in their daily lives. Paul communicates to Titus (a younger brother in Christ, that he is mentoring) the importance of truth for the church's unity and mission.

What truth could be so important for the health of the church? That answer is found in Titus 3:4-5, "the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Brothers and sisters, I want you to take a moment right now, wherever you are sitting or standing, and reflect on the kind, merciful, and loving God on which Paul is calling Titus to remember. This truth is powerful. This truth is compelling. It is so compelling that Paul says in Titus 1:1 that it leads to godliness.

One of the most gifted writers and theologians of the 20th Century, A.W. Tozer, states, "There is scarcely anything so dull and meaningless as Bible doctrine taught for its own sake. Truth divorced from life is not truth in its biblical sense, but something else and something less." As we study this letter together, let us keep in the forefront of our mind that we are not studying simply to gain more information, but we are seeking to be compelled by the truth of God's love, kindness, and mercy. Corporately and individually, our lives need to be drastically affected by the exhortations of this letter. We pray that the truth of God will compel us towards godliness during this study of Titus.

# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

## LIFE GROUP STUDY

Your Life Group should be a community of believers discussing and studying the scriptures together. Life Group is not lecture time, that occurs during the Sunday sermon. During Life Group, you will break down the weekly Scripture passage and seek to apply it specifically to your life. In addition to studying the word, we want to ask you to keep each other accountable, pray for one another, and encourage each other to remain obedient to God's word!

Many of you already read through the guide and answer the questions before Life Group. I want to encourage more of you to try this method. Answering the questions beforehand makes it easier for you to have a discussion and gives you time to process the encouragement and conviction you felt in response to the passage of Scripture! Then in Life Group, you can share that with others!

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP: PARENT CONNECT

Each week contains a Parent Connect page. Parents, we include this page as a resource to help you engage with your student during the week. Use it to help start the conversation of what you learned in Life Groups or the sermon, and find out what the Lord is teaching them! Our pastoral staff believes strongly that you play the primary role in discipling your kids! Engage with their spiritual growth!

## SERMON NOTES

Please use this section to take notes during the Sunday Sermon. Taking notes helps you to retain what you hear and will help you reference this teaching of God's word in your Life Group the following week!

# **Interactive Learning Guide:**

## Titus Background & Introduction

**SEPTEMBER: WEEK 1**

### **AN INTRODUCTORY LESSON, WHY?**

This is the first time we are writing an introductory lesson for one of our Life Group studies, and I wanted to explain our reasoning. When studying a book of the Bible, we have to remind ourselves that this book is thousands of years old and was written with both linguistic and historical contexts that alter the message and application of this text. In this lesson, our goal is to open a window into the author's motivation for writing this letter.

### **READ THE LETTER TO TITUS (TITUS 1-3)**

When Titus received this letter from Paul, he would have read the entire letter. Then, he would most likely have read this passage aloud to the house churches in Crete. This morning in your Life Group, have one person stand up and read aloud the entire letter. It will take you around 8 mins to read the letter.

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Who is the author of the letter to Titus? Take a moment to discuss the author in detail. Who is he? What significant events has he experienced?
2. This Letter is most likely written (60-66 AD) to Titus sometime between 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy; why is this significant?

3. This Letter was obviously written to Titus. Who was Titus?

4. Paul left Titus in Crete (Titus 1:5), and his ministry is focused on the Cretians. What do you know about the Cretians?

**REREAD TITUS 1:1-4 (CSB)**

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

5. After reading the entire letter and rereading the opening; why did Paul write this letter to Titus?

6. What does Paul mean when he says, "for the faith of God's elect?"

## APPLICATION

7. Paul says, "their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness." What are some truths from Scripture that lead you to live a godly life?

8. How have you observed a relationship between your understanding of the truth and your growth in godliness? Give some specific examples!

9. What is the central message about Salvation presented in Titus 1:1-4?  
I want to challenge you to reflect upon this glorious truth all week!

# Sermon Notes

Please use this section to take notes during the Sunday Sermon. Taking notes helps you to retain what you hear and will help you reference this teaching of God's word in your Life Group the following week!

SUNDAY, SEPT 3RD

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# Interactive Learning Guide:

## Titus 1:1-9

SEPT: WEEK 2

### MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT:

The salvation we have received in Jesus Christ produces a life of godliness and service to the Lord. To help guide and lead His people, the Lord has called and equipped certain men to serve as elder/pastor to lead and shepherd His Church.

### SERIES CONNECTION:

George Barna, a Christian Statistician, has studied the church and the Christian faith in the United States for decades. He states, "Leadership remains one of the glaring needs of the church." Based on his research, he came to this conclusion, "The central conclusion is the American church is dying due to the lack of strong leadership. In this time of unprecedented opportunity and plentiful resources, the church is actually losing influence. The primary reason is the lack of leadership.... nothing is more important than leadership."

The Book of Titus is one of three letters (1 & 2 Timothy are the other two) that the Apostle Paul wrote to young men he was mentoring to serve and lead in the church. In our text today, Paul was reminding Titus of God's call on his life (Paul) to be an ambassador of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the importance of him passing that responsibility to Titus. He then challenges Titus, "The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town (v. 5). In other words, Titus was to prepare men to lead well. From those men, the church was to call to appoint those who met the biblical qualifications to serve as elder/pastor.

### READ TITUS 1:1-9 (CSB)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for[a] the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads[b] to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. 3 In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior: 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. 5 The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. 6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful[c] children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. 7 As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

### QUESTIONS

1. Take a moment to write down your initial observations and summarize the text.
2. How does Paul identify himself and his calling in the first four verses of Titus One?
3. What responsibilities did Paul leave for Titus to take care of in Crete?
4. How many elders should a church have?
5. Who should serve as an elder?

The next three questions deal with the Biblical Qualifications of an Elder and are found in both Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7

6. What are the moral qualifications for an elder?

7. What are the situational qualifications for an elder?

8. What are the family qualifications of an elder?

### APPLICATION

9. According to Titus 1:9 what ability should an elder possess in shepherding God's people in the local church?

10. If churches in the first century had a plurality of elders, do you think churches today ought to follow this pattern? If so, why would it be helpful to have a plurality of elders?

11. How does this text prompt me to pray?

# Parent Connect

## Family Discipleship Guide: Titus 1:1-9

Get your family to discuss what you are learning at church during the week. Help your child navigate the truths of Scripture and apply it to their lives.

### BED TIME

#### Prayer & Scripture Memory

**Read the memory verse and pray in alignment with the prompt every night.**

Memory Verse: "To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior." - Titus 1:4

Jesus' death on the cross made peace between God and those who believe in Him. Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the peace that Jesus provided!

### DRIVE TIME

#### Discussion / Check-In

Titus 1:1 says, "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness"

This verse explains Paul's motivation for writing this letter. He wanted their knowledge of the truth to lead them to godliness. What is the most impactful truth from God's word to your child?

### DINNER TIME

#### Family Devotion

#### Opening Question:

At church Sunday, we heard a long list of qualifications. Why are those important for the church?

#### Read Titus 1:6-9 Together!

6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful[c] children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. 7 As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.

Discuss the importance of sound teaching in the church, and make sure that your beliefs align with both the Old Testament and the New Testament!

# Sermon Notes

Please use this section to take notes during the Sunday Sermon. Taking notes helps you to retain what you hear and will help you reference this teaching of God's word in your Life Group the following week!

SUNDAY, SEPT 10TH

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

# Interactive Learning Guide:

## Titus 1:10-16

SEPT: WEEK 3

### MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT:

The soundness of Biblical doctrine must be maintained. The church's leaders are obligated to confront false teaching and false teachers.

### SERIES CONNECTION:

Which is correct?

Looney Toons or Looney Tunes?

Berenstein Bears or Berenstain Bears?

Febreeze or Febreze?

Fruit Loops or Froot Loops?

Double Stuff Oreo or Double Stuf Oreo?

Believe it or not, in each of the above examples, the second choice is correct. It is not uncommon at all for people to remember these names incorrectly!

There is a word that was coined to describe a commonly held memory that is incorrect. It's called the "Mandela effect." It was named that due to many people remembering that Nelson Mandela died in prison in South Africa in the 1980's. Yet in reality, Nelson Mandela died a free man in 2013. There are many examples, as you have just seen, of commonly held inaccurate memories or beliefs. Most of the time, it is little more than a fascination. Yet when it comes to God's Word, if the church begins to allow falsehoods as a part of its Biblical teaching and/or tolerates false teachers, a church can become destructive to the body of Christ and completely ineffective in the mission God gave His church. God has given elders the responsibility to guard the treasure and integrity of true doctrine by confronting the destructive force of false teaching and false teachers. This is the clear teaching of Titus with regards to the role of elders.

Titus was a Greek follower of Jesus. He traveled with Paul for years as a companion in the Gospel. Paul assigned Titus to go to Crete, a large island off the coast of Greece. There was a network of house churches in Crete and problems had begun to creep in. Cretans were famous for treachery and greed... so much so that a Greek word κρητίζω (kre-tizo) means "being a liar" or "being a Cretan." The cities on the island were known for violence and sexual corruption. In Crete's harbor cities, there was a network of churches who began to be influenced by the Cretan leaders who claimed to be Christians but instead were peddlers of corruption with false teaching. So Paul sent Titus to Crete to restore order and to appoint elders in the churches. The elders were given the responsibility to address the false teachers and their false doctrines.

## **READ TITUS 1:10-16 (CSB)**

10 For there are many rebellious people, full of empty talk and deception, especially those from the circumcision party. 11 It is necessary to silence them; they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly. 12 One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith 14 and may not pay attention to Jewish myths and the commands of people who reject the truth. 15 To the pure, everything is pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work.

1. Take a moment to write down your initial observations and summarize the text.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

2. Through this passage, what were the Cretan church's problems identified by Paul?

3. What is rebelliousness (verse 10)? How would that term apply to these Cretan false teachers?

4. Paul highlights one particular group of false teachers in the churches in Crete: those from the "circumcision party". These are also known as "Judaizers". What did the Judaizers teach that was false?

5. What is the problem of adding "works" to the Gospel message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ?

6. Paul gives the “how” and the “why” on handling false teachers in verse 13? What does he say should be done and towards what goal?

7. What are examples of false teaching that pose as the Gospel of Christ in our world today?

8. How do verses 15-16 speak to the connection between thinking and living?

## APPLICATION

9. How does this passage influence your intentionality in your reading, knowing, and growing in God’s Word?

10. How does this passage impact your praying for your church’s elders/pastors and Bible study teachers?



# Parent Connect

## Family Discipleship Guide: Titus 1:10-16

Get your family to discuss what you are learning at church during the week. Help your child navigate the truths of Scripture and apply it to their lives.

### BED TIME

Prayer &  
Scripture Memory

**Memory verse and pray in alignment with the prompt every night.**

Memory Verse: "They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works." - Titus 1:16

Pray over your children. Pray that they would both know God and be obedient to Him!

### DRIVE TIME

Discussion / Check-In

"For there are many rebellious people, full of empty talk and deception, especially those from the circumcision party. It is necessary to silence them; they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly. " - Titus 1:10-11

During one of the drive times this week, ask the question.  
How could false teaching ruin a household?

# Sermon Notes

Please use this section to take notes during the Sunday Sermon. Taking notes helps you to retain what you hear and will help you reference this teaching of God's word in your Life Group the following week!

SUNDAY, SEPT 17TH

[illegible]

# Interactive Learning Guide:

## Titus 2:1-8

SEPT: WEEK 4

### MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT:

The Gospel calls every follower of Jesus Christ to pursue a life that is honoring to the Lord. Whether young or old, male or female, God has given you a unique role to be carried out in our church family. That assignment begins with accurately teaching God's Word to the next generation with the sole purpose of making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### SERIES CONNECTION:

"We live in a culture that is drowning in gender confusion. The lines have become blurred, and we are groping about trying to understand what it means for a man to be a man and a woman to be a woman, what it means for a man to be masculine and a woman to be feminine." (Daniel L. Akin, President of SEBTS)

In our text today, Paul instructs Titus to identify in the congregation those who are older and those who are younger. In addition, he was to recognize and teach those who were male and those who were female. He begins, by saying in verse 1 "But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching." A part of this "sound teaching" was identifying the roles among the different generations, as well as the role of men and women in the church. Paul outlines for us the four major groups in the church based on age and gender. Simply, Paul is instructing Titus to teach the older men to disciple the younger men, and the older women to disciple the younger women.

### READ TITUS 2:1-8 (CSB)

1 But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching. 2 Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God's word will not be slandered. 6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled 7 in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. 8 Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn't have anything bad to say about us.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

### QUESTIONS

1. Take a moment to write down your initial observations and summarize the text.
2. How would you define the “sound teaching” Paul refers to in verse 1?
3. Describe the qualities that an older man should exhibit to his church family in verse 2?
4. Describe the qualities that an older woman should exhibit to her church family in verse 3a?
5. In verse 3b-5, older women are instructed to teach the young women what is good as it relates to loving their husbands and loving their children. Why would a wife have to be encouraged to love her husband and why would a mother need to be encouraged to love her children?

6. What is the motivation to have a God-honoring home?

7. What instructions are given to young men and why?

## APPLICATION

8. All of you fall into one of these four categories, older women, younger women, older men, and younger men. How do these encouragements to your demographic challenge you in godliness?

9. According to Titus 2, how would you describe what makes up a healthy church family?

10. What are the responsibilities the older generation in the church have to the younger generations?

11. What are the responsibilities the younger generation in the church have to the older generation?

12. What part does a loving marriage and a healthy family contribute to a healthy church?

# Parent Connect

## Family Discipleship Guide: Titus 2:1-8

Get your family to discuss what you are learning at church during the week. Help your child navigate the truths of Scripture and apply it to their lives.

**BED TIME**

Prayer &  
Scripture Memory

**Read the memory verse and pray in alignment with the prompt every night.**

Memory Verse: "Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. " - Titus 2:6

**DRIVE TIME**

Discussion / Check-In

"But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching. Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good" - Titus 2:1-3

Why is it important for the older generation to pour into the younger generation?

**DINNER TIME**

Family Devotion

**Read Titus 2:1-8 Together**

Who are some older adults that model these character traits? Why is this important?

# The Prayer Tracker

This page has been added to help you keep track of the prayer requests from other members of your Life Group. We desire biblical community, and a significant aspect of that community is lifting one another up in prayer. Use this to keep a list of requests and track your prayer time.

[illegible]

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Prayer Tracker

After praying over this list of requests, check off the date on this calendar.

# Resources

Use these links to explore the Scriptural passages and questions in more detail!

## 1. Commentary Titus 1 & 2

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tYI27rLZjNi7paOeCbFm-F28ecd7\\_b5k/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tYI27rLZjNi7paOeCbFm-F28ecd7_b5k/view?usp=sharing)



## 2. Elders - Family Qualifications

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZhmBbiayeQUJRNmV8vMiSE90eu6BHdJC/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZhmBbiayeQUJRNmV8vMiSE90eu6BHdJC/view?usp=share_link)



## 3. 40 Questions About Elders - One Women Man

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g350dx8Cdev2ECptFaohdt0GjjUOctoN/view?usp=sharing>



## 4. Precepts Austin - Search for the Scripture Passage for Numerous Resources

<https://www.preceptaustin.org/>

