

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CHURCH

BIBLE TEXT : Titus 1:1-16; 2:1-15.

LESSON 418 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Titus 1:1-16

- 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 blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, 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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Paul's Opening Address

1. Paul makes a statement concerning himself, his hope and his duties, Titus 1:1-3.
2. Paul gives Titus the reason he left him in Crete, Titus 1:4, 5;
2 Timothy 2:2
² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
Acts 14:23
²³ And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

II Special Instructions

1. Paul gives qualifications of those appointed elders and bishops, Titus 1:6-9;
Leviticus 10:9
⁹ Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations:
Malachi 2:7
⁷ For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he *is* the messenger of the LORD of hosts.
Ephesians 5:18
¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
1 Timothy 3:2-12
² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
⁸ Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
⁹ Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
¹⁰ And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.
¹¹ Even so *must* *their* wives *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.
¹² Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
1 Peter 5:2-4
² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
³ Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

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.

Titus 2:1-15

¹ 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,

2. Paul explains the character of the Cretans and how to deal with them and false professors of religions, Titus 1:10-16;

Romans 16:18

¹⁸ For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

1 Timothy 1:6-7

⁶ From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

⁷ Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

2 Timothy 4:2-4

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

3. Instructions are given to old people and to young people, Titus 2:1-6;

Colossians 3:18-22

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

²⁰ Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

²² Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

4. Titus must be a pattern in good works and sound speech, Titus 2:7, 8;

1 Timothy 4:12

¹² Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Peter 2:12

¹² Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

5. He exhorts servants to be obedient, Titus 2:9, 10;

1 Timothy 6:1

¹ Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and *his* doctrine be not blasphemed.

1 Timothy 6:2

² And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather do *them* service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

6. We should live godly, looking for the coming of Jesus, Titus 2:11-13;

Romans 6:19

¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Colossians 1:22

²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight:

Colossians 3:4

⁴ When Christ, *who* is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Hebrews 9:28

²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and

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.

unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

1 John 3:2

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

7. Jesus gave Himself to redeem and purify a people unto Himself, zealous of good works, Titus 2:14, 15;

Deuteronomy 7:6

⁶ For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

Ephesians 5:2

² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

1 Timothy 2:6

⁶ Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

NOTES:

This letter to Titus is said to be one of the last written by Paul. Paul was an old man now and had spent many years preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles.

We learn from Acts 2:11 (**Acts 2:11** ¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.) that there were Cretans in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost who heard the disciples speak in their own language the wonderful works of God. We have no record who founded the churches in Crete, but it could be that some of the converts from Pentecost carried the Gospel back to that island.

We learn from this Epistle that Paul had visited Crete, and the churches there were under his jurisdiction.

On this visit Paul did not have time to set everything in order among the churches, so he left Titus to finish the work, and appointed bishops and elders in the different places of worship.

God's Perfect Plan

Paul's standard in any line of Gospel work has always been the very highest. It was his desire to adhere closely to the pattern God had laid out.

In God's great plan of creation, we can see how He worked systematically, orderly, and with a reference to the whole plan in view. Likewise, His Gospel was not something put together hurriedly to meet the needs of the hour, but with divine wisdom God planned a Gospel that could thwart every attack of the enemy and bring man out on the victory side. His plan has stood the test of ages, and is as fresh and effectual as it was when given.

Partaker of the Fruits

To be a leader among the people one must first be a partaker of the fruits of the Gospel. How can one teach others if he has not first been taught?

Sometimes a young convert feels the call of God on his life and he immediately wants to go out and preach. He wants to become a teacher before he is taught; or, in other words, he wants to "run before he is sent." His enthusiasm and zeal are admirable but he must have a knowledge of the deeper truths of God's Word to be able to teach others the way of righteousness and also meet the many conflicts he will have with the enemy.

Inward Qualifications of a Minister

The first requisite is the new birth. Nicodemus was a teacher in the synagogue but Jesus told him he must be born again or he could not see the Kingdom of God. The heart must be changed. The Spirit of God must bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The next step is sanctification, which eradicates the Adamic nature and purifies the heart from the principle of sin. After the disciples had those two definite experiences wrought out in their hearts, Jesus said to them, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." This was the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, which they received on the Day of Pentecost. It gave them power for service. These are the foundation stones in a Christian experience.

Divine Help to Preach

Paul exhorted Timothy to "preach the word." In order to preach the Word one must have a clear knowledge of the Word. That does not necessarily mean he must attend a theological school, but it does mean that on his knees he must implore divine help to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

One may have a thorough knowledge of the Word but lack the unction of the Spirit to impart that knowledge to others. It takes the "warmth" of the Spirit to stir souls to action. Just as it takes the sunshine to arouse little plants to grow, so it takes the Spirit to awaken hearts to the call of the Gospel. The language may be simple and plain but the power of the Spirit back of the words will be like a mighty derrick to lift souls out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light.

Outward Qualifications

The instructions Paul gave to Titus as a minister apply to all ministers, workers and members of the body of Christ. The living example is imperative before the message will have its effect on the hearer. One must walk uprightly before the world. His business dealings must be straight and aboveboard: no delinquent bills or debts, no underhanded way of taking advantage of anyone, no shady dealings.

Daniel is a good example of Christian conduct in high places. One hundred and twenty princes and two presidents could find no fault with the way he handled the king's business.

Trustworthiness is admired alike by Christians and the world. It gives confidence to know that a man is what he professes to be — a Christian in the true sense of the word.

To be called to the ministry is a high calling because the minister is the representative of the eternal God and a teacher of the eternal truths — the Word of God. There is none greater than God, and no message greater than His Word, the Bible.

The Husband of One Wife

In our land today the society permits either bigamy or polygamy, and allows divorce for almost any trifling thing. But the Bible forbids both and grants divorce in monogamy for one reason only — fornication, with no remarriage. A bishop must not have more than one wife. (**Matthew 19:4-9** ⁴ And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? ⁶ Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ⁷ They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ⁸ He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is

put away doth commit adultery.) A man who marries and then divorces his wife and marries another woman disqualifies himself as a minister of the Gospel, and also disqualifies himself as a citizen of Heaven (**Galatians 5:19-21** ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.).

Obedient Children

God chose Abraham as a leader because He knew he would command his household. Does He not want leaders today who will do the same thing? The law gave implicit instructions how to teach the Word to the children (**Deuteronomy 6:7** ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.). The New Testament says, "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." It takes divine wisdom and a steady hand to train a child. Who admires an unruly child? Our educators today advise giving the child freedom. The Bible says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24).

Not a Lover of Money

"Not given to filthy lucre." Paul tells Timothy: "The love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:10). The love of money will cause some people to pamper the rich and neglect the poor.

When John the Baptist was in prison he sent two of his disciples to Jesus to know if He was the Christ. Jesus sent word back. "The poor have the gospel preached to them."

Solomon said: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1).

Paul desired to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, which would enrich other souls. "I would rather have Jesus than silver or gold," should be every minister's motto.

Hospitality

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2). Who of us have not felt the warmth of hospitality when someone has said, "The latchstring is on the outside." When a burdened soul enters the home of a minister, a warm handshake and a "God bless you" helps to lift the load.

Vain Talkers

A minister will meet false teachers, false brethren, many vain and unruly talkers and deceivers who will subvert whole houses unless they are stopped. Paul says, "Rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." It takes wisdom, courage, and a knowledge of the truth to be able to rebuke the false.

In speaking of John the Baptist, Jesus said, "What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?" No. A man who was fearless and strong, a man who could stand up to the Pharisees and say, "Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Closing Exhortation

Finally, "Preach the Word." A minister's mission is to win souls for Jesus. If he keeps the faith channels clear his ministry will neither be barren nor unfruitful.

The Christian life must be **lived**. It has been said that men do not read their Bible but they read your life. Give your heart to the Master and look for your reward in Heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the character of the Cretans.
2. How do you think they might have first heard the Gospel?
3. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete?
4. Why is the calling to the ministry a high calling?
5. Name some of the inward qualifications of a minister.
6. Name some of the outward qualifications of a minister.
7. Why is a minister a servant of all?
8. What instructions does the Old Testament give for teaching the Word to children?
9. Tell how aged men and women should act.
10. Tell how young men and young women should act.