



## *Women's R&R Bible Study 2024-2025*

"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME THE JOY AND REJOICING OF MY HEART."

JEREMIAH 15:16

### **LIVING IN HOPE**

#### **LESSON 21**

In Titus chapters 1 and 2, Paul instructs Titus about how various groups of believers should behave. Paul then moves to the general behavior of all Christians in chapter 3. This is a very practical chapter, reminding us that our faith should be evident to the world by our works. Our works can't save us, but they are proof of our faith in Jesus Christ. The need for good works as a result of our salvation is stressed six times in these three chapters. Remember that one of the reasons Paul was writing to Titus was to teach him how to "set in order the things that were lacking" in the church at Crete (Titus 1:5). He ends this letter with some great exhortations for not only the Cretans, but for you and me as well.

Before you read this chapter, ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart. Ask Him to reveal any sin that will hinder you from hearing what He has to say to you. Pray for ears to hear, a heart to receive, and hands willing to serve.

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."

Titus 3:14

1. Read Titus 3:1-15 and note any repeated words, phrases, or thoughts.
2. What is the main point of this chapter? How does it relate to chapters 1 and 2?

3. Describe how Paul moves from behavior of specific groups to general conduct of all believers.
4. How would you describe Paul's tone as he writes this chapter?
5. How should Christians respond to authorities? (Read 1 Peter 2:13-17 and Romans 13:1-7.)
6. If a Christian doesn't agree with the authorities, how should he or she respond? How can he be a good citizen without compromising his faith?
7. Why is a Christian that is a good, law-abiding citizen a great witness to the world?
 

**A. Duane Litfin said this: "A Christian should be an influence for good in the community in every way, demonstrating the loveliness of Christ to all through courteous and gracious behavior."**
8. How is your witness in your community? In your neighborhood? Are you a law-abiding citizen?
9. How are we supposed to treat "all" people? Why?

The word peaceable means "tolerant" or "one who is not a fighter." The word gentle describes one whose temper is under complete control.

In verse 3, Paul reflects on his past and reminds Titus that they had both acted the same way before they were saved. We can't be prideful when we preach, knowing that we were once in the same condition. If we

remember what we were and where we came from, we won't be critical or treat others mean. Barnes said, "When a Christian is tempted to unkind thoughts or words toward others, nothing is more appropriate for him than to reflect on his own past life."

10. How would you describe your past? Does remembering your past keep you from criticizing others?

The phrase "ready for every good work" means "cooperating in those matters that involve the whole community." In other words, ready to do your part.

11. Are you "ready for every good work"? What do you think is your responsibility as a citizen?
12. Do you speak evil of people, including those in authority over you? Do you complain in an evil manner, especially in front of your children? Are you living peaceably?

Paul tells Titus to live peaceably, showing humility to all. After all, they used to be in the same condition. That goes for us too. When he saw a criminal on his way to the gallows, Whitefield said, "There but for the grace of God go I." How true. But something changed them. Someone, I mean. We were redeemed for a higher purpose!

**The act of redeeming us was one of great kindness, or goodness.** The plan of salvation was founded on God's love to man and was the highest expression of that love.

13. How are we saved? Is it based on anything we do? Why or why not? Read Ephesians 2:8-9.
14. What would happen if we could work, or earn, our salvation? How do people try to do this?

- 15.** Who was poured out on us abundantly at salvation? Read Acts 2:38 and Romans 8:9.

God saved us because of His kindness, love, and mercy. He did this through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are “born again,” being regenerated by the Spirit. (John 3:5, 8) We become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Paul uses the phrase “washing of regeneration.” This washing can mean “bathed all over.” When a sinner accepts Christ and is born again, he is cleansed from all his sins, and is made a new person in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The word “renewal” means to make new again and is closely linked together as two ways to express the work of one Spirit.

**Has your spirit been regenerated?** Are you born again? This is the most important decision you will ever make. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). All of us need a Savior. Because Christ died for us and paid the penalty for our sins, God is prepared to extend mercy to us. He is rich in mercy, which means He has plenty of it! Romans 10:9-13 says, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

If you don’t know the Lord and would like to ask Him into your heart and accept Him as your Savior, please let your group leader know. She would love to pray with you and answer any questions you might have.

- 16.** Do you remember what the word “justified” means? What are we justified by?

- 17.** What is the result of God’s kindness toward us, according to verse 7?

A good way to remember what the word “justified” means is, I’ve been made “just as if I’ve never sinned.” Wiersbe defines it as “the gracious act of God whereby He declares a believing sinner righteous because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. God puts to our account the righteousness of His Son, so that we can be condemned no more.”

- 18.** Why does Paul call this “a faithful saying”?
- 19.** What should be the fruit of a believer’s life, according to verse 8? For what purpose were we created? Read Ephesians 2:10.
- 20.** Why do you think Paul uses the word “maintain”?

God doesn’t want our own good works. If we could earn or work for our salvation, we wouldn’t need a Redeemer. The work of Christ would be unnecessary if we could “do” anything to earn our salvation. Isaiah 64:6 calls our righteousness “filthy rags.” Although works can’t save us, if our faith is real, it will be proved by works. A living and true faith manifests itself through good works. The Wycliffe Bible Commentary says that “The grace of God is the root; the good works are the fruit.” God’s grace produces faith, and good works will follow.

- 21.** Read James 2:14-26. In your own words, explain what is meant by the phrase “faith without works is dead.”
- 22.** What do you think would be considered “good works”? How are they profitable to men?

- 23.** Heart check. Would you say that you are being careful to maintain good works? Is your faith living or dead? Take some time and ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart.

Warren Wiersbe said, “The only evidence the unsaved world has that we belong to God is our godly lives.” Think about it. Does your life provide enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian?

- 24.** What things does Paul tell Titus to avoid? Why?

- 25.** Why is it wrong to argue about non-essentials of the faith? What are some topics that may fall into that category?

The word “divisive” in verse 10 means heretic. Heretic applies to one who holds some fundamental error of doctrine. This divisive man is usually one who causes divisions in the church instead of promoting unity.

- 26.** What should you do with a divisive person? Should you act rashly?

- 27.** What does the word “admonition” mean?

- 28.** This may sound like a strange question, but do you think you would be considered divisive? Do you cause division with your discussions or arguments? Do you delight in quarreling? If so, pray and ask the Lord to change your heart and give you the desire to promote peace.

- 29.** Name the people in verses 12-15 and what Paul says about each of them.

**30.** Who was supposed to meet him in Nicopolis? Why?

We don't know anything about this man Artemas, except that Paul wanted either he or Tychicus to replace Titus on Crete so he could join Paul at Nicopolis. Tychicus was the bearer of the letters to the Colossian and Ephesian churches (Colossians 4:7 and Ephesians 6:21). We don't know anything about Zenas. Apollos was a well-known teacher, being "mighty in the Scriptures." (Acts 18:24) These two men must have been traveling together, possibly carrying this letter to Titus. They may have been sent by Paul to visit churches, and Titus was to make sure they had everything they needed.

**31.** Paul returns to the main theme of the book in his closing. What does he exhort Titus to do in verse 14?

**32.** Who is "our people"?

**33.** What needs do you think would be considered urgent? How willing are you to meet urgent needs?

**34.** Why do you think people who don't meet needs or do good works are considered "unfruitful"?

**35.** How does Paul close his letter to Titus?

Without works, a believer's life may be considered barren and worthless. The word "maintain" may mean "to be concerned with" but can also mean "to lead or rule." Some believe this to mean that Christians should be in the lead in doing good works.

Let's review the book of Titus. Can you see the main theme any clearer now? Do you have a better understanding of what Paul is saying to Titus?

36. What are some practical lessons that are taught in this book? Which ones specifically spoke to your heart? What made the biggest impact on you?
37. How can you be more of a “Titus 2” woman?
38. How does the **HOPE** of the Resurrection instill **HOPE** for the present? How does it motivate you to live a holy life?

Well, this is it. We’ve completed our study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus. I can’t believe it! Time has flown by. I pray that you have grown as much as I have from studying these books. I have grown to love the character of Paul even more. I learned a lot about the young man Timothy, as well as Titus. In 1 and 2 Thessalonians, I was reminded to look forward to the return of Christ at any minute and exhorted to live a holy life while I wait. In 1 and 2 Timothy I was challenged to guard, hold fast, and preach the truth. In Titus, we learned that our faith should produce good works, which will be a testimony to the world of who our God is.

Paul’s writings have instilled a passion in my heart to know the Word of God better. I want to be as close to the Lord as I can. I want to love Him with all my heart and learn to love others as He does. I want to live my life in a way that honors and glorifies Him. I want to be able to say, **“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.”**

Well, this is it. It’s exciting to finish a book, but it’s also kind of sad. I hope that you ladies grew in leaps and bounds this year. May God continue to speak to your heart as you study His Word, and may you find more **“Reasons to Rejoice”** everyday!



