

**Episode 9: Titus**

**March 13 / 14**

Introduction and Context

***12****One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”* ***13****This testimony is true. (1:12-13)*

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|  | Author | Date | Recipient | Place of Writing |
| Titus | Paul | 62-64 A.D. | Titus; in Crete. | Nicopolis |

1. **What is the Purpose?**
   1. Focus—False Teachers (in other letters he has focused more on False Doctrine)
      1. ***10****For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party.* ***11****They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.*(1:10-11)
      2. **10**As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, **11**knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. (3:10-11)
   2. **What good leaders should look like.** 
      1. ***5****This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—* ***6****if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.* ***7****For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,* ***8****but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.* ***9****He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.* (1:5-9)
      2. **To Titus: *7****Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,* ***8****and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.*
2. **What is Powerful (Doctrine)?**
   1. *But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.* (2:1)
   2. The theme of Titus is the inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior. This truth is the basis for its critique of false teaching as well as its instruction in Christian living and qualifications for church leaders.
      1. ***16****They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (1:16)*
   3. ***The Gospel—The basis for Christian living and Ethics***
      1. *“Truth is in Order to Goodness” -- their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,…* (1:1)
      2. *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.* ***4****But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,* ***5****he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,* ***6****whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,* ***7****so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* (3:3-7)

***Key Themes***

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| 1. The gospel by its nature produces godliness in the lives of believers. There is no legitimate separation between belief and behavior. | 1:1; 2:1, 11–14; 3:4–7 |
| 2. One’s deeds will either prove or disprove one’s claim to know God. | 1:16 |
| 3. It is vitally important to have godly men serving as elders/pastors. | 1:5–9 |
| 4. True Christian living will commend the gospel to others. | 2:5, 8, 10 |
| 5. Good works have an important place in the lives of believers. | 2:1–10, 14; 3:1–2, 8, 14 |
| 6. It is important to deal clearly and firmly with doctrinal and moral error in the church. | 1:10–16; 3:9–11 |
| 7. The gospel is the basis for Christian ethics. | 2:11–14; 3:3–7[[1]](#footnote-1) |

1. **What is Problematic (Controversial)?**
   1. *Divorce and Family Leadership: the husband of one wife (?), and his children are believers…* (1:6)
2. **What is Poetic (The Rhetorician-- just beautiful)?**
   1. ***11****For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,* ***12****training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,* ***13****waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,* ***14****who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.* (2:11-14)
3. **What is Personal?** 
   1. *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,* ***2****in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began* ***3****and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;* (1:1-3)
4. **What is Practical?**
   1. ***12****When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.* ***13****Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.* ***14****And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.* (3:12-14)
5. **Pastoral Summary**
   1. Christian Living in Contrast to the False Teachers (2:1–3:8)
      1. Proper living by age and gender groups (2:1–10)
         1. ***2****Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.*
         2. ***3****Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,* ***4****and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,* ***5****to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*
         3. ***6****Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.*
         4. ***9****Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,* ***10****not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. (2:1-10)*
6. Proper living, particularly with respect to outsiders (3:1–2)
   1. 2:15 Let no one disregard you. 3:1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2**to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. (2:15-3:2)
   2. ***9****But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.*(3:9)

1. Crossway Bibles. (2008). [*The ESV Study Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esvsb?ref=BibleESV.Tt&off=4721) (p. 2346). Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)