



HANDOUT

Session 1: Introduction

Discuss

As you reflect on this session, what stood out to you from Chip's overview of the book of Titus? What did you learn about Titus that you did not know before?

Who is Paul? What gives him the authority to write a letter like this?

What does Acts 9:1–11 teach us about Paul?

In verse 3, what term does Paul use to describe his preaching?

Who is Titus?

What do 2 Corinthians 8:23 and Galatians 2:2–5 tell us about Titus?

How did Chip describe the island of Crete? What was the basic cultural context?

What similarities do you see between the culture of Crete and the world we live in today?

What did Chip describe as the main theme for the book of Titus?

What are the three problems Paul mentions facing the church in Crete?

According to Chip, what were Paul's recommendations for dealing with the issues in Crete?

What would you consider some of the primary problems facing the Church today? If Paul were writing a letter to us, what would he identify as areas in need of correction?

What are some areas in your life where you struggle with behaving in a way that matches your beliefs?

How could that struggle reflect a misunderstanding of the gospel in your life?

As you approach this study, what are you hoping for God to do in your heart? In what ways are you asking Him to shape you over these next few weeks?



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Session 1: Introduction

Live it Out

Prayer: Each day this week, set aside some time to specifically ask that God would open your eyes to areas of your life that need to change to better display His gospel to the world.

Confess: Make a commitment this week to at least one other person in your group to confess behaviors that do not match your beliefs as the Lord brings them to light over the course of this study.

Ask: As you seek to grow in your obedience to Christ, reach out to a mature believer you know and ask them what they see from your life. Ask them to be honest with you about the ways they see your faithful obedience as well as potential blind spots and be intentional about seeking the Lord for change in those areas.

Encourage: Pay attention to the believers around you this week and make an intentional effort to encourage them in the ways you see their behavior making visible the good news of Jesus Christ.

Journal: As you identify areas of your life that need to change behaviorally, write them down and continue journaling at least twice a week in order to record and reflect on the work God does in your life throughout this study.

THE BOOK OF TITUS

Outline of Titus:

Chapter 1—Doing Good in the Church

- Author and Purpose (1:1–3)
 1. From the Apostle Paul
 2. For the faith of God’s chosen people and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness
 3. Based on our hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ
- Titus’ Assignment #1 (1:4–9)
 1. Set things in order and appoint godly leaders
 2. A leader must be:
 - a) Blameless in marriage and family
 - b) Blameless in character
 - c) Hospitable, committed to what is good, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined
 - d) Theologically sound and able to guard the truth
- The Reason (1:10–16)
 1. False teachers, deceivers, and mere talkers are ruining whole families with dishonesty and promoting Cretan values over Christian values
 2. They claim to know God but deny Him by their deeds

Chapter 2—Doing Good in Relationships

- Titus’ Assignment #2 (2:1–10)
 1. Teach what “good” looks like in daily life to:
 - a) Older men
 - b) Older women
 - c) Younger women
 - d) Younger men
 - e) Slaves
 2. Specific results (1:5, 8, 10)
- A Theology of “Doing Good” (2:11–14)

Chapter 3—Doing Good in the World

- Titus’ Assignment #3 (3:1–2)
 1. Remind God’s people to:
 - a) Submit to authorities
 - b) Be ready to do whatever is good
 - c) Slander no one
 - d) Be peaceable and considerate
 - e) Show true humility to all people
 2. The reasons we carry out good works (3:3–4)
 - a) Our past life
 - b) Our new life by God’s grace demands a new lifestyle
- A Theology of “Becoming Good” (3:5–8)
 1. Not by “works”
 2. Regeneration by His mercy to a “new birth”
 3. We are justified by grace
- Warnings and Instructions (3:9–15)
 1. Avoid foolish controversies
 2. Warn a divisive person
 3. Send co-workers, help others



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Session 2: Titus 1:1-9

Discuss

Why do you think the introduction to Titus is the longest we have of Paul's letters? What's significant about the introduction for the purpose of this letter?

How does Paul describe Titus' purpose in Crete in verse 5?

Can you relate to the temptation of skipping over sections like this? What is the danger in overlooking a section like this?

What are areas of life where God has given you discipleship opportunities? Where are you able to influence others for the sake of the gospel?

According to Chip, what is the fundamental question answered in verses 6–9?

Why do you think Paul draws such a close connection between a person's home life and leadership in a local church?

Which of the characteristics in Paul's list stood out to you the most? Why?

If this list is ultimately aimed at the content of our hearts, how does that truth change the way you view the qualifications Paul lists?

If we are "a product of what we put into our mind," as Chip said, how should that inform the way you approach certain areas of your life such as entertainment, work, future plans?

Who has been the best model of a leader in your own life?

What made their leadership especially effective?

If these qualifications ultimately describe a life of integrity and Christ-likeness for all Christians, where do you see an opportunity to grow the most personally?

What practically could you do differently this week to grow in faithfulness to your family, emotional maturity, and devotion to God's Word?

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Session 2: Titus 1:1-9

Live it Out

Prayer: Ask God to open your eyes to the leadership opportunities in your life and look for ways to demonstrate a life of integrity within them.

Study: Identify 2–3 topics in Christianity you would like to learn more about, ask around for helpful resources, and begin studying the topics to deepen your understanding of your faith.

Forgive: If you have suffered under bad leadership in the past, commit yourself to forgiving those who were involved and ask God to free you from any bitterness you may have experienced as a result.

Encourage: If you belong to a church with consistent, godly leaders, make a point this week to thank them for their faithful leadership and share how it has encouraged you in your faith.

List: Make a list of the characteristics Paul introduces in this passage, select 1–2 that represent areas you could improve in your witness, and begin to intentionally incorporate them into the places where God has given you influence.



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Session 3: Titus 1:10-16

Discuss

What is the first word of verse 10?

How does it connect the following section (vs. 10–16) with what Paul has previously said?

What does Chip describe as the theme of this session?

What are the three characteristics of false teachers Paul mentions in verse 10?

When you think about the Church today, where do you see false teaching happening? What form does it take?

On a personal level, how have you experienced false teaching in your own life?

How did you deal with it?

How did Chip define license and legalism?

According to verses 10 and 14, which of the two—license or legalism—was the church in Crete facing?

Between legalism and license, which of the two do you find yourself battling the most in your walk with Christ?

What are some of the ways in which it surfaces in your life? How do you tend to respond to it?

What were the three ways Chip shared for spotting a false teacher?

In addition to these questions, what does Paul point to as evidence that demonstrates false teachings (v. 16)?

How does legalism threaten the message of the gospel?

What does Paul prescribe as the proper response to false teaching (vs. 11, 13)?

As you consider your own life, where are some areas that you could step into as a light of truth among false teaching?

What can you do practically to point to truth?

Where are you prone to false teaching? What could you do to remain disciplined in growing in the truth of your faith? Who could you invite into your life for the sake of accountability?



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Session 3: Titus 1:10-16

Live it Out

Prayer: Spend this week praying that God would protect you, your small group, and your local church from the influence of false teaching.

Memorize: Commit to memory the 3 distinguishing marks of false teachers that Chip mentioned in order to have a clear lens for recognizing false teaching in the future.

Speak: If you are aware of false teaching within your group or local church, be willing to start a conversation with the person spreading it like Chip encouraged in the session. If there is no resolution, consider approaching your pastor or elders and bring it to their attention.

Encourage: Reach out to someone who has been instrumental in your understanding of true teaching and encourage him or her in his or her faithful contribution to your faith.

Volunteer: If you have a gift for teaching and communication, volunteer your gifts with your local church to serve and teach the truth in whatever way your pastoral leadership deems most appropriate.



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Session 4: Titus 2:1-10

Discuss

How does Paul make the connection between belief and behavior?

How does this verse contrast with the way in which Paul described false teachers?

What did Chip describe as the theme for this session?

What are the five groups addressed in verses 2–10?

Which group best corresponds with your current stage of life?

Based on Paul's commands to that particular group, how does your life need to change to reflect greater obedience to God's Word?

What practical steps can you begin to take over the course of this next week to grow in this area?

What difference would it make in your interactions with those around you?

In what ways do you practice self-control?

When you think about the importance placed on it in this passage, what could you do practically to grow in self-control?

Who in your life is a good example of self-control? Why?

How has their example encouraged you to live differently?

How does this passage change the way you think about God's expectations for His people in what might be consider unjust circumstances?

In what ways do you strive to live out the example set in verses 9–10 within your job setting? Where could you stand to improve?

What are the reasons Paul gives for why believers should live what he prescribes?

How does this strike you in terms of the role our character plays in the lives of those around us?

As a result of this session, where do you believe God is calling you to greater discipline in your life? What difference do you think it would make in the lives of those around you?



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Session 4: Titus 2:1-10

Live it Out

Prayer: Over the course of this next week, ask God to help you see the areas of your life where you need to grow in self-control and follow Him in obedience as He leads you into greater spiritual maturity.

Serve: If you are an older man or woman, be intentional about pursuing a discipleship relationship with a younger man or woman in the church as a way of serving the body of Christ.

Seek: If you are a younger man or woman, seek out relationships with more seasoned believers and allow them to speak into your life and disciple you towards greater maturity.

Draw: If you prefer to process in creative ways, set aside some time to draw an image that best represents your understanding of self-control.

List: Identify which of the categories above best corresponds to your current life stage and list out the behaviors this passage calls you to exhibit. Wherever you see room for growth, be intentional about asking God for His grace and strive to follow Him faithfully.



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Session 5: Titus 2:11-15

Discuss

What did Chip say was the main theme of this study?

Why did Paul write this letter to Titus?

Based on what we learned from sessions two and three, how did Paul instruct Titus to bring about positive change in the Cretian church?

How did he accomplish this in the previous session?

What did Chip identify as the theme for this session?

What does Paul point to as the basis for a transformed life in verse 11?

When you consider your own life, how has God's grace transformed you? What forms of "ungodliness" characterized you prior to coming to know Christ?

In what ways have you learned "self-control" since then?

What are some examples of "worldly passions" threatening the Church today?

Where do you see the body of Christ struggling to deny worldliness? Where do you see it succeeding?

What is the motivation for our good works today (v. 13)?

According to verse 14, what did Paul list as the three purposes of our "God and Savior Jesus Christ" during His earthly life?

What are some practical ways to practice keeping an eternal perspective? In other words, what could it look like to live in a way that shows your hope is in Jesus' return?

How does an eternal perspective motivate us toward doing good on a regular basis?

What are the four ends Chip mentioned that doing good reveals?

What priorities does it reveal about your life?

Would you say you have a clear understanding of what good works God desires from you at this point in your life? Why or why not?

In what ways might your priorities distract you from good works? What needs to change?



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Session 5: Titus 2:11-15

Live it Out

Prayer: As you go about your week, ask God to give you opportunities to carry out good works throughout your day and boldly walk in obedience when He opens those doors for you.

Reflect: At least twice this week, set aside 10–15 minutes to reflect on God’s grace in your life. Spend some time meditating on His kindness to you through prayer, journaling, and worship.

Confess: If during this session the Lord brought to light any “worldly passions” present in your life, be intentional about confessing those to a trustworthy believer and ask for help in moving toward freedom from them.

Evaluate: Take some time this week to evaluate your day-to-day routines, especially as they relate to how you use your time, money, and energy. As you identify any worldliness, be intentional about surrendering that in prayer to God and asking Him to replace it with an eternal perspective.

Praise: Set aside some time this week to meditate on how God appeared to you and saved you. As you think on that truth, praise Him through prayer, song, and gratitude for what He has done in your life.



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Session 6: Titus 3:1-2

Discuss

How would you describe the reputation of Christianity in your culture?

In what ways is it represented positively? How is it represented negatively?

What would it take to change the reputation of Christ in your community?

What are the six “reminders” Paul lists in verses 1–2?

Which of these do you find most difficult to live out? Why?

In your experience, how have the Christians you know tended to act towards this kind of authority?

Is their behavior reflective of Paul’s words to Titus? Why or why not?

How have you seen Christians live in ways that reflect the teachings in these passages?

In contrast, how have you seen Christians live in ways that depart from these teachings?

What impact has their behavior had on the reputation of Christ?

In what ways is your life characterized by an “eagerness” to do what is good? How would you like to grow in this attribute?

When you think about your immediate context (neighborhood, workplace, city, etc.), what needs exist that you could address? How could you begin to live with a greater eagerness to do good where God has placed you?

How do you typically speak about others? In what ways do Paul’s words convict you to change your patterns of speech?

What are some concrete examples of ways in which you yield your rights for the sake of others?

What are some ways in which you are prone to quarreling? How could you pursue a more “gentle” way of living?

What difference would this kind of living make in your community (neighborhood, workplace, city, etc.)?

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Session 6: Titus 3:1-2

Live it Out

Prayer: Pick a place where you spend a good amount of time on a normal basis (neighborhood, workplace, gym, etc.) and ask God to give you opportunities there this week to influence people with the good news of Jesus.

Resolve: Choose one of the six commands from the passage and ask God to help you obey it in a more faithful manner.

Serve: Identify a practical need in your neighborhood or workplace and use the gifts God has given you to serve that specific need for the sake of the gospel.

Seek Forgiveness: If you have contributed to quarrelling or division, seek out those harmed by your actions and ask for their forgiveness this week.

Speak: Pay attention to the way you speak this week and guard yourself against divisive and hurtful speech. Instead, make it a point to praise, encourage, and serve others in the way you speak to them throughout your week.

Discuss

As a result of the last session, what are some practical ways you have come up with to live out the good works Paul describes?

According to verse 3, what are the eight characteristics Paul used to describe the Cretans' former state apart from Christ?

In what ways could these characteristics describe your life before you knew Christ?

When was the last time you thought about your former life before you knew Christ? What circumstances or people did God use to bring you to saving faith?

Where might you be today if not for God's saving grace?

How could thinking about your former life compel you to care for those in your life who do not know Christ?

How could you be more intentional about sharing God's message of forgiveness with them?

Who does Paul say carries out the work of salvation (v. 5)?

By what means does He save?

What is the end result of salvation (v. 7)?

What are some of the opportunities God has given you to share your story of salvation with others?

Do you feel confident in your ability to explain the gospel? Why or why not?

How should the truth that salvation is a work of God influence any fear or hesitation you have toward sharing your faith?

Why are these to be avoided?

Where is distraction or division present in your life (small group, church, family, etc.)? How can you apply Paul's commands to display the good news of Jesus Christ through your actions?

As we close this study, where can you more fully devote yourself to good works for the sake of displaying Christ to others?

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Session 7: Titus 3:3-15

Live it Out

Prayer: Each day this week, devote a portion of your prayer time to asking God for a greater level of kindness and compassion for the lost in your life.

Reflect: Set aside some time over the next week to reflect on your former life before you knew Christ. As you remember all that God saved you from, praise Him and trust Him with the opportunities He places in front of you to point others to His saving grace.

Memorize: Commit to memory Titus 3:4-7 and ask that God would draw you continually to the truth of the gospel for your hope in life.

Write: At some point this week, write out your testimony, specifically keying in on your former life and how God has transformed you since. Read over it throughout the week and praise God for how He has worked in you.

Proclaim: Consider those God has placed in your life who do not yet know Him and look for an opportunity to share the gospel with one of them. Ask God for the courage to do so and that He would bring forth new life in that person.