

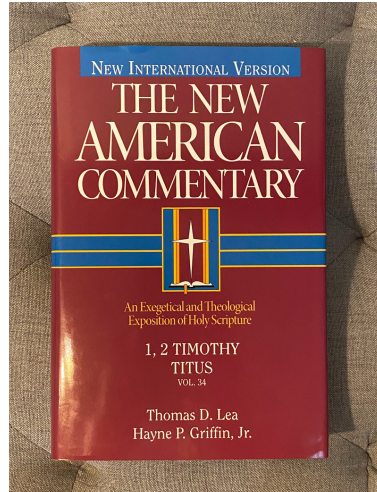
PASTORAL EPISTLES

TEXT

TITUS 3:1-15

- 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.
- 3** 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.
- 8** The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.
- 9** But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.
- 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.
- 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.
- 15** All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

RESOURCE



We find ourselves at the end of our book study and discussion, and are now transitioning back to following the passage that is preached on Sunday. If you and your group have not finished the *Why Elders?* book and discussion, please do so before proceeding. The remainder of the Pastoral Epistles series will utilize *The New American Commentary* for 1 and 2 Timothy, as well as Titus. This commentary, when used will provide helpful ways to approach both understanding and asking questions for our groups.



OPENING

- Consider a time when you engaged a discussion, only to realize later that it was foolish or controversial. What made you believe it was foolish or controversial? What have you learned from that experience about how to engage discussions now?
- Is there a time that you had to remove a toxic or dangerous person from your life? What did that look like? How did you handle the physical, emotional, or spiritual well-being of yourself and those around you so that the toxic person was not allowed to influence you any longer?

PASTORAL EPISTLES

DISCUSSION

TITUS 3:1-15

As a group, utilize the following set of questions to discuss the passage for this week. Basic Bible study skills of Observation, Interpretation, Application will be beneficial for all members of the group. This content is not meant to be exhaustive but instead give groups a starting place for discussion and discipleship.

As an additional note, when it comes to Interpretation, remember that Content, Context, and Culture are all important aspects for reading and interpreting the Bible. If you or someone in your group desires a greater understanding of and growth in the ability to study the Bible, please reach out to Pastor Justin as he is happy and able to equip people wanting to grow in Bible study methods.

- One commentator said "The keystone of the chapter (3) is usefulness." What the commentator was getting at was that, in view of God's grace, Christians were to live in such a way that our lives and actions are to be useful for the glory of God and useful to the lives of people around us. How did the theme of usefulness reveal itself to you in this chapter? Please explain.
- In verses 1 and 2 of this chapter, we see several duties that the Christian must do. What are those duties (i.e. be submissive, obedient, et cetera)? Why are those duties important to the individual Christian and to the Church?
- In what ways were the early Christians to be submissive to the rulers and authorities? In what ways are we to be submissive today? Where do you struggle being submissive to authority? Is there a story from your life that can highlight either submissiveness or obedience that glorifies God?
- What does it mean to speak evil of no one? In what ways might the early Church have struggled with this? How do we struggle with it today? Why is that a problem that needs to be remedied?
- Of the duties listed for the Christian in verse 1 and 2, are there any that you would like to discuss that we haven't talked about already?

- In verses 3 through 7, Paul shares the gospel in such a gracious and loving way. Is there anything found in verses 3 through 7 that stands out to you that you would like to discuss or need clarification on? Spend a few moments considering the beauty of the truth that Paul shares.

- In verse 9, Titus is warned to avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law. Furthermore, those things are said to be unprofitable and worthless. In what ways (expound upon) are those things unprofitable and worthless? Have you found yourself engaged in one of the aforementioned actions? How did that come about? And how did you become aware of the uselessness of engaging such discussions? How can we help those brothers and sisters that are engaged in such actions?

- Paul gives Titus instructions to warn divisive people several times before having nothing to do with them (namely false teachers). Why is this an important step in the life and health of the Church? Have you seen this done in your life/church? If so, was it handled well? If it was not handled well, why is that? How is it a loving act to remove such cancerous teaching from the life of the Church?

- Is there anything else that stood out to you in Titus 3 that you would like to discuss?

CLOSING

As the group closes, prayerfully consider where your duties and actions lie. Pray that God would illumine your heart and mind to His revealed will in Scripture and His duty for you as one of His children.

Furthermore, pray that false teaching would not take root in our church or in our groups. Pray for boldness among leadership to lovingly correct any false teaching they may hear, and that they would watch their life and doctrine closely.