

141. The Book of Titus

By John W. Rood

Praise God. We are looking forward to a wonderful, wonderful time together. Many times people say, ask me before the meeting, are you ready? And my answer is always, I'm ready when I woke up but today I was ready before I woke up. So, I'm thinking there's really something special here. We have some handouts for you all. Are they ready to go? Everyone has those? Good. And this is the order that we'll pretty much refer to them, everyone has them in order then as well. So that's wonderful. As you can see we're going to speak about the Book of Titus. Tell me everything you know about Titus. Okay, we'll wait 'til after the session. Titus is going to bless your life. And our purpose today is to give you an impartation from God's word that you literally will keep forever.

And God has chosen an entire book of the New Testament in Titus, so there's very, very important things that God has in mind to impart to us. It's His idea. It's not ours. And so, we have many favorite verses and it would help us sometimes to see the context of those verses, maybe what comes before, what becomes after but also, we should have an idea of what's in particular chapters and what's in particular books. So here, we have a perfect illustration of an entire New Testament book that God has placed in the Bible. Now, all of the Bible is for us but not all of the Bible is written to us. Of course, we have Old Covenant and the New Covenant. And in the New Testament, we have the Epistles which are the letters written to the church.

And so those are written to you, all of the Bible is good for admonition, it helps us but the Epistles are written to us. Now, we have an example of an entire New Testament book that's written to us. And so, I believe that God has very important message for us because this is literally an entire New Testament book. Amen? And so, it's not a preconceived idea. Let's just dive in and see what God has for us in the Book of Titus. What is the impartation from heaven to us today? And so, we want to seek God's heart. We want to have Bible results. So, therefore as we look to God's heart and God's impartation to us as we put it into practice, that's how we're going to get Bible results. And just the same as today, Pastor Arlene said, this is written in the Book of James, we're going to put this into practice and we're going to have Bible results. It's the same thing.

Titus is a very, very practical book and it has a lot of things to do. In fact, if you just take a casual reading of Titus, you might think its sort of a book of a lot of do's and don'ts. But it's not really that. It's much, much deeper than that and there's reasons why everything is there. We're going to get a real good opportunity to jump right in and then see what God's imparting to us directly in terms of the very practical application that's in this book. It's three chapters long, it only takes five or six minutes to read. That's not bad. That's not bad. In fact, if we just read the book ten times today, we would all be shouting hallelujah. But I'm going to let you read it and study it. I usually give you homework as you know.

Last time we were together, we talked about the three-hundred scriptures in the New Testament that deal with the second coming. It's hard to imagine that there are literally more than 300 scriptures in the New Testament alone, just about the second coming. And we managed to cover those in much less than an hour. So, we're accustomed to this. So, Titus is forty-six verses, surely, we can handle that. Right? And it always helps because we categorize and we outline. And so, to find the important points, we should have a habit when we study the word, we should have a habit of how we approach to get the main ideas that the word and God is imparting to us. We should see the things that are stressed.

We should see the things that are repeated. We want impartation of God's thought. So, I'm going to give you a little homework. It's okay as we said, we could read the whole book five to six minutes and you'll find time during the day if you just check your phone a little less and go to your Bible app, you'll

be amazed how often you'll be able to get through Titus. In fact, you can even put on the audio app. Isn't that great? And you could even put on repeat then we have really accomplished something today. Glory! As you study a New Testament book, let this be sort of a template to you because you could literally adapt the New Testament Epistle and make it yours. And every time I've done this, I have remembered the time specifically of impartation just by taking one book and reading it over and over and over again until the lights come on.

If we read Titus and we think it's just a book of do's and don'ts, we haven't had the lights come on. But we're going to have the lights come on today. So, do it by repeating it and let the truth be imparted to you. Then we're going to look at some of the handouts that we have here which are outlines. And then let's identify the themes, let's look at the keywords, let's look at the key verses, let's see the things that are repeated and bottom line is, we want to get a grip on the word. Know the word for yourself. It's not just what you hear in church that changes your life, it's what you receive for yourself and act on that gives you Bible results. So that's what we want to do is for everyone here get a grip on the word, get a grip on Titus, tell your neighbor, you're going to get a grip on Titus.

That's right. You're going to know. I want to, just after our session together, you're going to say, you know what, I really understand something about the Book of Titus. God has imparted to me a truth that's so important. That's an entire New Testament book and it changes your life and then your life could be used to change others because that's God's plan for us, is to multiply and help people. So, we're going to just take a quick look at the background because after all, who is Titus? Good question. Good question. We have this book, the Book of Titus but Titus is actually mentioned eleven times in the New Testament outside the Book of Titus. So, we see that he greatly encouraged the Apostle Paul, he was a missionary companion, he was left in Crete, the Island of Crete, today in Greece, to finish some work.

And he is being used as a partner and a fellow worker of Paul. We should mention that the Book of Titus is part of what we call the Pastoral Epistles. So, this is 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. These three are the last of Paul's letters that were written from prison. We have 1 Timothy and Titus, are very, very similar. In fact, Titus is a sort of mini 1 Timothy. So, if 1 Timothy is already pretty important, correct? Now we even have a condensed version. So, it's very interesting. So, it's able, if there's 1 Timothy and Titus are so similar, what's the differences about them? Glad you asked. Timothy actually was based in Ephesus and Titus was left in Crete. Timothy was from a half Jewish descent, Titus was a Gentile Greek that was saved.

And Timothy, being in Ephesus which was sort of the mega church of the day, there, the Ephesus is on establishing churches. But for Titus who is left in Crete and Crete had a situation which really needed a lot of help as we're going to see, then Ephesus is more on establishing and making new churches. So, Timothy is establishing churches that are already there very strong and then in Titus, where he is actually starting new churches. In Timothy, we have emphasis on leadership and in Titus, we have an emphasis on godliness. And so, God's very concerned for local churches. Isn't that right? That's his plan, be a part of something bigger than yourself. And so, it's great that you're plugged in, we're here today to hear from God and put into practice.

The church, the word church is actually mentioned a hundred times in the New Testament. And the majority of these times, surprisingly, it's referring to the local church, not necessarily the universal church. The majority of time, it's the local church.

So, let's just look at a few verses, explaining us who Titus is and get a look at his life and character, his position, his purpose.

2 Corinthians 8:23, Titus is Paul's partner, *"Whether any do inquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellow-helper concerning you."* So, he had actually travelled with Paul on missionary journeys but it's very surprising that Titus is not mentioned in the Book of Acts. But you would think he'd be there and this is sort of a mystery because Titus was with Paul from the very beginning.

But he's never directly mentioned in the Book of Acts but we see he is with Paul during critical crucial moments of his life. He had accompanied Paul to Jerusalem, he ministered with Paul in Macedonia and actually later on but we better get this out of the way since it's on my mind, it says, he left Titus for Dalmatia. This is actually 2 Timothy 4:10 at the very end of Paul's ministry. He mentions because 2 Timothy is actually the last book that Paul wrote. It's saying that he left Titus in Dalmatia. Dalmatia is Croatia. And Croatia is in the news today as you're probably aware, they just finished the World Cup Final but they lost to France. But it's pretty interesting that we got Croatia mentioned twice in one day. Isn't that right?

So, Titus had actually been in Croatia. Now, he had been with Paul in Macedonia. Paul sent him to Corinth and Paul left him in Crete. Titus was with Paul from the very beginning, Galatians 2:1, *"Fourteen years after, I went up again to Jerusalem, with Barnabas, and I took Titus with me. I went by revelation, communicated the Gospel which I preach among the Gentiles."* So, this was even before Paul was introduced to the other apostles in Jerusalem, Titus was with him from the very beginning.

And it says, verse 3, *"Neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek was compelled to be circumcised."* So, Titus is literally Paul's sidekick.

Paul also was eagerly expecting to see Titus, 2 Corinthians 2:13, *"I had no rest in my spirit because I could not find Titus."* 2 Corinthians 7:6, *"Nevertheless, God that comforts those that are cast down comforted us by the coming of Titus."*

So, Titus was a very nice fellow. He had a good character. 2 Corinthians 7:13, *"By all this we're encouraged in addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you."* So, Titus has a refreshing spirit, he's joyful, he's encouraging to others, sounds a bit as the Bible speaks about Barnabas.

2 Corinthians 8:17, *"He had not only accepted the exhortation by being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord."* So, Titus is refreshing, joyful, encouraging, dependable and diligent, sounds like a good church member.

Then last thing, he has the same spirit as Paul. 2 Corinthians 12:18, *"I urged Titus and sent our brother with him, did Titus take advantage of you? Didn't we not walk in the same spirit, didn't we not walk in the same steps?"*

So, had the spirit the same spirit as Paul? And so, this is an interesting look into the tone of the Book of Titus and because it's not giving a correction to the church, Paul understands that Titus is a well-versed that he is an experienced minister although he is young. But it's not giving doctrine, it's not trying to straighten him out. In fact, the Pastoral Epistles are the only New Testament books that are written to individuals. So, it's actually written to Titus because Titus has a mission to do as a minister. So, if this is God's impartation to a young minister, I would imagine that today in terms of ministry, the Book of Titus is going to be very, very pertinent, wouldn't you say?

And so, it's not answering their questions like Corinthians, 1 and 2 Corinthians. It's not giving correction to the church there. It's actually explaining the mission and it's not a big theological explanation because he knows already that Titus is strong in the word and strong in faith. He's been his disciple and sidekick. He is dependable, he is diligent. He is a good guy. Titus gets a whole book. Glory! And so, this letter from Paul to Titus, only forty-six verses, only forty-six verses. But now we'll

look and see some of the themes and some of the things that are happening directly in the book. So, everybody should be turned to the Book of Titus. And it's very interesting, here in my Bible, it actually just fixed exactly on two pages. Isn't that nice?

It's nice, this special edition. It's very nice for preaching too. So, we're just excited because God's imparting us something that's so concise. He is giving us a word that's so important to us and the church and our mission and it's concentrated.

So, let's just look in. We've given you some of the outlines and we'll get to those. I'll just be sort of a little aid right there. But we're going to look specifically at the book and at the text. Now, verse 1, I'm going to read from Message Translation because we probably have another translation out but I'll tell you, let's read first from King James. So, Titus 1:1, *"Paul, a servant of God, an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; but hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our savior. To Titus ..."*

So, this beginning, actually the first four verses, I believe, are actually one sentence. And so, you know, Paul has a tendency for some run-on sentences that are very important. But this is how he starts the Book of Titus. This is literally one sentence. Now, I found in Message Translation and it's even a little clear. Let me read here. *"I, Paul, am God's slave and Christ's agent for promoting the faith among God's chosen people, getting out the accurate word of God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago - and he doesn't break promises. And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I've been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself. Dear Titus, legitimate son in the faith: Receive everything God our Father and Jesus our Savior give you."*

So, this is all it starts off. It starts off really heavy already. But notice Paul is saying, he is a minister, he is Christ's agent and apostle and his purpose here to God's people is getting out the accurate word of God and how to respond to it correctly. So, we already have one of the themes of the book, right there at the very, very beginning. And he is saying, God, this was his plan from the beginning of time, he promises us this and God doesn't lie. This is very, very important because later on in chapter 1, we see down at - we're talking about the false teachers to be warned against starting verse 9, let's start there. *"Holding fast the faithful word has been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."* One of the key subjects, topics of the book is sound doctrine.

So that's mentioned there. We'll look at the others. Sound doctrine, and so being compared to the sound doctrine, contrasted verse 10, *"There are many unruly and vain talkers, deceivers especially they are the circumcision: Whose mouth must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things that they ought not to for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."* So, verse 9 sound doctrine, verse 13, sound in the faith, we want to be the examples of God's word and how to accurately put it into action. And we're doing that by sound doctrine which produces good works. So, in contrast, we have the false teachers here. And it's interesting now, because we're getting back to our previous connection here, it says, "One of the Cretans own prophets had said, *"The Cretans are always liars, evil beasts and slow bellies. This witness is true."* Now, literally for years I thought about this. And that's kind of an unusual verse, don't you think? That's kind of the Cretans are jerks. The Cretans need help. And so, it says, even one of their own prophets and actually a poet in history, it's actually on your one hand out sheet, it's the one that looks sort of cartoonish. It actually says, down here at the bottom, Epimenides said it best. So, it's actually, you could actually look up this quote in classical Cretan literature. And it says, "Cretans are always liars, vicious beasts and lazy gluttons."

And that kind of fooled me for years because I thought that was kind of getting down on the Cretans. And it says this testimony is true. So, I thought, okay, this is true. It's true that the prophet said this. Right? It's true that he said that. But you can't get around it. I don't know how I fooled myself into thinking that for years and years because he says, this is true and therefore you have to rebuke them. And so, it turns out the Cretans were really a bad bunch. And very surprisingly, also on this one sheet up in the upper left, it says, the Greek word *credtizo*, derived from the island of Crete is the Greek word "to be a liar." So, there is really something about this. The Cretans were liars, that Greek word for lying is to be a Cretan. So now, at the beginning of the book, aha, now it's beginning to make sense.

Chapter 1:2, *"in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie promised before the world began."* So now we have this, the contrast is like, this island is really reprobate. This island is in big help, the churches have not been formally established, then we need to start somewhere. So, we're going to appoint elders and the word elder, overseer, bishop and pastor are essentially synonymous in the New Testament. So, you need to be appointing pastors in every city. Paul left Titus in Crete for this mission, to start churches. But how is he supposed to do it in the society that's so reprobate and so anti-God and they are known to be liars and many, many other things, how are they going to establish these churches to not only have strong churches but to establish the outreach and to reach the surrounding culture which is degenerated.

That's really what's happening here in the Book of Titus. So, you can actually go through the rest of these. We have outlines here. Three chapters, this is, if you get anything, get this one. It's very simple. Chapter 1, appoint. Appoint the elders. It says in verse 5, *"for this cause I left you in Crete that you should set in order the things that are wanting, ordain elders or pastors in every city."* And there's a qualification for those. Then chapter 2, teach. And then chapter 3, remind. We have through the entire book, we have the theme of good deeds and we have the entire theme throughout the book of sound doctrine. Sound doctrine produces good deeds which gives the impetus, which gives the expression of Christian living to the outlying culture and society to bring them in, to be the example. That is the very, very heart of the Book of Titus.

Then just to quickly see here, we have, in this handout, we have three chapters. Number one. Titus is taking charge. He is appointing pastors. You have to deal with the rebellious teachers, the false teachers which we've mentioned. Chapter 2 is giving advice of walking in the sound doctrine. And so that's why we see this idea throughout the book, giving advice how to do right, what is right? Chapter 3, doing right, but it's not a book do's and don'ts, it's a book of putting God's word into practice. It's the emphasis of sound doctrine that produces good works. And it's very nice how it's done in a very, very concise way.

And then we have our comic which is very, very nice. You can spend some time on that one. Titus, the Introduction, Titus Tasks, and then the New Godly Christian Household, how it contrasts the Cretan culture and then the New Way of Living the New Life. That's there as well. So, we're getting already, getting a very, very good grip. But if you could only read one, I would say this is the one to get. The Preservation of Sound Doctrine, chapter 1, the practice of sound doctrine to specific groups. It's saying here, older men, older women, younger women, young men, et cetera is going through the practice of sound doctrine, putting the word into practice for specific groups and then the sound doctrine to all believers.

So, we're seeing here a very distinct pattern from our outlines that sound doctrine, Godly teaching is actually the way that it's brought to believers how to live correctly which gives an example to their corrupt surroundings. Do you think that could be applicable today?

So, there is our answer about starting churches. That's our answer. And so again, we see the purpose of the book. It's very, very concentrated. It's not giving all the theological arguments. It's not giving

the corrections, it's giving the mission. This is how we start church. This is where we go from here. We give an example to this corrupt world. So, we started out with the long sentence and we see that Paul is saying, God does not lie, you're surrounded by liars, everyone knows this.

And so, you're going to appoint pastors in all these different cities and they have qualifications which is chapter 1 verse 5 through 9, qualifications for elders, bishops, really all qualifications for ministry. And if you could say this is qualifications for ministers, I think you could just as likely say its qualifications for all believers. Wouldn't you say that? When I pastored, I remember many times sometimes I'd be in counseling sessions and people would say to me and they're like, well, pastor, I just don't see that. I just don't see that that's wrong. I say, okay, what if I was doing that? What would you think? Oh, I'd be wrong. So, I kind of use that example. So, I would say when we're getting qualifications for all ministers, I think that's all good that it's really what God expects of all believers. But especially for being in ministry, we need to be lined up with the word in qualifications. And then again, the majority of Titus has parallel verses in the Book of 1 Timothy.

So, we have qualifications for ministers from chapter 1 verse 5 through 9, above reproach, husband of one wife, children are believers, above reproach, not quick-tempered, not a drunkard, not violent, not greedy for gain. You see, we're getting a lot of notes. That's why we get this idea that the book is about do's and don'ts but it's not, it's qualifying. Not greedy for gain, hospitable, a lover of God, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined, holding firm, able to instruct and able to rebuke the contradictors.

So, there we have qualifications for the ministers which are implementing God's plan. So that's very straightforward, wouldn't you say? So, in chapter 1, we have the extended greeting which is a very important passage, just right off the bat, telling about his purpose, about his purpose with the word imparted to believers to change lives, then to appoint the pastors to give the word, then to correct the false teachers because the situation on Crete at this time is filled with false teachers, many of Jewish descent. And so, this has to be opposed, this has to be exposed, they need to be rebuked. Now, if there are false teachers in the time of Titus, do you there be more or less false teachers today?

I would venture to say there is more. So, we have to watch out. In 1 John, there's a warning about anti-Christ spirits. And it says there's many anti-Christ spirit that is with us now. Well, we need to be careful for that and we should, it's not that the Bible is telling us to identify the anti-Christ. We're never told to look for the anti-Christ. We're told to see for Jesus return more than three-hundred times in the New Testament. Amen. But it says, to be aware that there's anti-Christ spirit, at the time of the writing of 1 John there is anti-Christ spirit, there is many anti-Christ, it says. Well then today do you think we're dealing with more or less anti-Christ? Are we dealing more or less false teachers? So then therefore, we need to put into practice what the word is saying. Amen? Amen. So sometimes we kind of say, well, you know, everything is okay but it's not okay.

We need to be aware and we need to have our filters on because now we have so many avenues that we can get teaching and just because we hear something we could have the tendency to think it's true, in reality it could be completely off. So, let's stay, let's stay right with the word, let's stay right with our mission and the message is here embedded in the book as well.

So, then chapter 2 deals about teaching sound doctrine. Then it speaks about the grace of God. Chapter 3, to be ready to do good, speaks about God's mercy and then avoiding divisions.

Now, we want to look at some of the keywords like we said and as you study, you'll see not only the themes which were beginning to shine here, we see the things which are repeated as well but I'd like us to see the keywords.

So here is a few and this really, this really will bring the lights on. So, one of the very, very important themes and keywords in the Book of Titus, good work, good work.

So, let's just look at these references and it's six times in the Book of Titus, good work. So, if anything you can remember, Titus is concerning in good works of believers which ultimately are the example into a corrupt society to bring people in to saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus. First reference is 1:16, *They confessed, profess that they know God but in works they deny him, (speaking about the false teachers) being abominable and disobedient and unto every good work reprobate*. So that's the first one, reference to the false teachers are unto good work completely reprobate.

But the purpose, the action, the focus is still the good work, they don't just qualify. 2, verse 14, *"Looking to our great God and savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works."*

I think we skipped one, 2:7, *"In all things showing yourself a pattern of good works in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity."* So, the false teachers are reprobate concerning good works and all things we are to show ourselves a pattern of good works and then Jesus gave himself for us making us a peculiar people zealous of good works. What do you think God's will is through the believers? Have good works. Have good works. But we're not saved *by* good works, absolutely not, but we're saved *for* good works. We're not saved *by* good works but we're saved *for* good works. That's our job. Thank you, Lord.

Chapter 3 verse 1, *"Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and authorities."* And so, you will think now, why would you have to tell people to obey the authorities? But again, we see how Crete was at this time. You know, it's just a real standard thing to be a rebel. It says that they should obey the principalities, the authorities, the courts, and be ready to every good work. That's 3:1, so be ready for every good work. 3:8, *"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that you affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works."*

Glory to God, are we getting the good work revelation? Right here in Titus, you will never forget Titus is talking good works, mentioned six times just in three chapters.

Then 3:14, *"and let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."* So, God is imparting his word to us that we can produce good works. Not saved by the works, but once we're saved, we're expected to produce good works. What are the good works? The good works are all the things that are mentioned here in Titus that we thought was a list of do's and don'ts. The entire Book of Titus is actually telling us what to put in to practice, what is the standard, what is the basis, what is the foundation of our Christian faith that we put in to action thereby we're producing good works.

So now, we have another keyword, sound, sound. And sound actually means to be healthy. So, we can interchange sound with healthy, to be safe, to be wholesome. How can you tell if something is sound or healthy? Look at the results. That seems good enough. So, sound, chapter 1 verse 9, sound doctrine. *"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."* 2:1, *"but speak those things which become sound doctrine."* So, this is healthy teaching of the word. This is Titus' mandate, those we receive from God to impart to the churches that are just being started a healthy impartation of God's word, speak the things which becomes sound doctrine. Why, because people have to know what to put into practice. They need to know how to live according to what God is saying. They need to know how to get Bible results, they need to know how to be an example to their corrupt surrounding. So therefore, you speak the good healthy teaching of the word.

Then we have to be sound in faith. 1:13, *"rebuke the false teachers sharply that they may be sound in the faith."* So, they're giving an unhealthy version of what they see to be teaching. We are to give healthy teaching in the faith. 2:2, *"that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."*

Then we have sound speech, 2:8, there we start with 7, *"in all things showing thyself a pattern of good works,"* (now it's beginning to all overlap here) *"doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned."*

So, God has a healthy plan for us through healthy doctrine, healthy word, healthy teaching, healthy in the faith and healthy in our speech. So, we have good works and then we have the sound doctrine. The plan is, Titus has the mandate to start these churches, to appoint the teachers that qualify, the pastors that qualify, who in turn give a healthy teaching of the word which produces sound works which is an example to the corrupt society. Are we there? We made it all? I mean, that was a quantum leap right there. Now you can say I am getting a grip on Titus. I'm getting a grip. You with that and we crossed over now. Now, this is really, really something to look at.

The word Savior, now we're going to get into the strong basis of the book. The word Savior is six times, six times in the Book of Titus. Now, that's something because we see that the main theme of good works is mentioned six times. So, this is mentioned as much as anything else in the book. But the interesting thing is, the word Savior in the entire New Testament is only twenty-four times. So that means that one-fourth of every reference in the New Testament, the Savior is literally in these forty-six verses. So, so, we see the emphasis of everything we've added to the foundation that Jesus is God, our Savior, the foundation of all the soundness in teaching, the foundation of our purpose for everything that we're accomplishing.

So, let's look at these. Chapter 1 verse 3, *"God who cannot lie,"* verse 2, *"has in due times manifested his word through preaching which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our savior."* So right from that beginning, first treatise, that first four verses of one sentence, He is putting the emphasis, the foundation on Jesus the Savior. God our Savior. Verse 4, *"To Titus, my own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior."* So, verse 3, *"God our Savior."* Verse 4, *"the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior."* So, God is emphasizing, He is the Savior to this corrupt society. This is our purpose. How are we going to reach them, how are we going to accomplish this? By receiving this word, the saving grace and from there we are imparting the solid truth that creates good actions and Christ living which is an example. And then people are willing to hear. Amen?

So, we're on Savior, 2:10, *"not stealing, purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."* So again, emphasis is on God's saving grace. 2:13, *"looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."* That is such a tremendous passage, we're going to come back to this. It's one of the very, very key passages of the book. Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. 3:4, *"but after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared,"* 3:6, *"which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."* So, we have God our Savior, chapter 1, Christ Jesus our Savior, chapter 1, chapter 2, God our Savior, chapter, God and Savior Jesus Christ, chapter 3, God our Savior and then chapter 3 Jesus Christ our Savior, God and Jesus, our Savior.

Now when we think of Savior, we often think exclusively of Jesus. But this is saying as well God is our Savior, Jesus is God. And so, can you see the foundation how everything is emanating from the truth of God, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who saved us in the midst of this corrupt surrounding. And this is the pattern. This is the pattern. This is the injunction. This is the direction. This is the how to. It's all here concentrated into the Book of Titus. Amen? So, we see here, we see the references

therefore to Savior or that we have good works, we have sound, we have Savior. So, we see many of the keywords there. And there's more but those are the main ones and that's how they fit together.

Here, another one is self-control. Now, this, you won't find this in King James but other translations will have these words as self-control. 1:8, said, "a lover of good self-control," one of the characteristics or qualifications for an elder overseer. 2:5, it says, "*women to be self-controlled and pure.*" 2:6, "*to experience, the young men to be self-controlled*" and 2:12 "*to live self-controlled upright and Godly.*" And again, we see a contrast there because they were in a very uncontrolled environment as well. And of course, Crete is a whole type of the world, isn't it? Isn't it, because everyone needs the truth, everyone needs to know the impartation that Jesus is their Lord and Savior and His salvation is available to all. Amen?

And so, we saw the concentration on good works, and I think I'll just make a comment here. You know, you can do something wrong and miss it with a good heart. That happens all the time. We can be seemingly judgmental of people, you know, they really blew it but maybe they did what they thought was right and had a good heart about it. But you can also do the right thing with a good heart. Right? So just concentrate on that and concentrate on a good motivation and do the good works and everything the Bible is telling us what to do, not just in Titus but let's have our motivation of doing good works with a good heart. And that's a good motivation from receiving the sound healthy teaching. Get in the Word and feed on the Word as your very own spiritual food and it will give you a healthy way to exhibit the life of God in Christ to this surrounding world.

Now, we want to just take a look at some of the themes and these are just themes that I wrote out as I studied, I found different things from different sources. And I think you'll say amen to this list. So different themes from the Book of Titus and you'll see already from just our little time together today, how all of these are pertinent and how they all make sense to us from the text.

A theme for the Book of Titus - getting out the accurate Word of God and how to respond to it.

Another theme, I'm actually, this is a handwritten, it's not on any of your handout. Yeah. - Doing good works for the sake of outsiders. That makes sense.

Sound teaching leads to godliness as doctrine is received and loved, all kinds of people will learn to live in ways that are pleasing to God. Yes.

Knowing and doing what is right, yes.

Qualified leaders promote sound doctrine that builds genuine faith that issues in good works of service to others. Yes. Good, we got 100% agreement. That's a good sign anytime.

Shows, the Book of Titus, theme, shows us how good works or the conduct of the Christian is vitally connected with the person and work of Christ past, present and future.

Theme, to create a Godly people full of good deeds.

Theme, to get a grip on yourself and a grip on the message. Titus is pretty deep book. I'm glad you came today.

Theme, the true message of Jesus that helps God's people live a new kind of life. Glory. We're getting into shouting territory now.

And then here is one I just put together. The Book of Titus is God speaking to us, to be mindful of the Word in a healthy sound way. To be able to use the word of God skillfully, this is how churches are established, then the practicality of living out the word of God by good works. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus. I think we're getting good things, we're getting good things from the Book of Titus.

We have an expression that was used in chapter 3 verse 8, "This is a faithful saying, this is a faithful saying." In 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus, the Pastoral Epistles, this expression, this is a faithful saying is used five times. So, if the Bible says, *this is a faithful saying*, then what is it? It's a faithful saying.

And so, it could be sort of a creed. It could be an expression, it can be a confession. And so, I'll just give this to you quickly.

1 Timothy 1:15, "*Christ*", (this is a faithful saying), "*Christ Jesus came in the world to save sinners.*"
1 Timothy 3:1, "*this is a faithful saying, if you desire the office of a bishop, you desire a good thing.*"
1 Timothy 4:8, "*this is a faithful saying, godliness is profitable to all things.*"
2 Timothy 2:11 and beyond, "*This is a faithful saying, we live with him.*" And then Titus chapter 3, "*this is a faithful saying and I will that you affirm constantly that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.*" So, you can see God is very concerned about how you live.

Sometimes we kind of put that aside but God's very concerned how you live not only to listen and obey him but to be an expression of Christ Jesus and His truth and His impartation, he is a Savior to mankind to be that an expression to others. That is how we reach this world. Amen?

Okay, now, in closing, I'd like us to look at three passages and these are the super concentrations. So, we have Titus as a concentration of 1 Timothy. I almost said first Titus. We have 1 Timothy concise incorporated in Titus with the various differences that we know it. Now, in Titus, we have three passages which are so intense, so concentrated. They're the basis for the whole thing, for the whole message.

And just like we saw the concept of Savior is by far the most concentrated in the Book of Titus than any other New Testament book. So, these are going to be the passages that bring out the mega concentration. This is for you to meditate on this book. These would be the three passages, these would be the three key passages of Titus and we're just going to close with this. Amen.?

The first one, and we put emphasis on this as we were teaching today, chapter 1, 1 through 3, "*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.*" Now, a lot of this, will just leap off the page now from our emphasis of teaching today. "*In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; but hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior.*"

This is possibly the most effective summary of ministry in the entire New Testament. That's how concentrated it is. This is possibly the most effective summary of ministry in the entire New Testament. And then I'll read it again in Message, "*I, Paul, am God's slave and Christ's agent for promoting the faith among God's chosen people, getting out the accurate word of God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago — and he doesn't break promises! And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I've been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself.*" Possibly the most effective summary and concentration of the concept topic of ministry in the entire New Testament.

Then, chapter 2, starting with verse 11. In this passage is much of the culmination of the teaching on the second coming where we have three-hundred verses in the New Testament that speak about Jesus soon return. They're in the - some of the verses, Jesus says He's coming back. Some of the verses are pictures of the second coming. He's coming with ten-thousands of his saints, flaming fire, angels, He's coming on white horse, saints accompanying Him, therefore there is a picture of the second coming. But the vast, vast majority, 90% of all the verses in the New Testament dealing on the second

coming are talking about our responsibility, how we are to live, what we are to do in the light of Jesus soon returning.

And when we do that teaching which we did last time, these verses here are what we use for the summary. This is it. Book of Titus gives it to us.

So therefore, I submit to you, Titus 2:11 through 14, are possibly the most effective summary of the Christian life in the entire New Testament. Are you ready? 2:11, *“for the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

It's just amazing, those four verses, possibly the most effective summary of Christian living, Christian life in the entire New Testament and it's because Jesus is coming back. That's the basis. That's the whole basis.

Then the third last passage, chapter 3, we have these key passages, chapter 1, chapter 2, chapter 3 and chapter 3 starting with verse 4, possibly the most effective summary of salvation in the entire New Testament.

So, chapter 1 we have possibly the most effective summary of ministry in the entire New Testament. Chapter 2 passage, we have possibly the most effective summary and you know when I think about it, most effective summary of a Christian life in the entire New Testament. Chapter 3 we have possibly the most effective summary of salvation in the entire New Testament.

Chapter 3, verse 4, *“But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

So, I want you to, encourage you to continue with the Book of Titus. Let today be a beginning of all and see what is enlightened to you. But we see God's imparting to us specifically His pattern, His method, His directives, on reaching this surrounding world by having a foundation of Jesus our Savior, having a focus of sound teaching of the Word which brings Godly living which affects our surroundings. This is the Bible way.

And so please continue feed on the Word, adapt other epistles, and just take the same approach to find the themes, just read over and over until the lights come on. Amen?

So, thank God for the Book of Titus. My pleasure to share and teach this morning and I believe we have the impartation which is life-changing, you will never ever forget who Titus is and why he is in your Bible. Amen? God bless you. Thank you so very much.