

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

Hold Fast

Titus 1:1-9

Lesson 11

We now begin our study of the book of Titus. The Apostle Paul addressed this letter to Titus, but it was also for all the Christians he was ministering to. Titus was most likely won to the Lord by Paul which makes him, like Timothy, Paul's son in the faith. Much of the instruction given to Titus repeats what Paul said to Timothy in the book of 1 Timothy. Since the Holy Spirit has put it in the Word again, it must bear repeating. Our part is to carefully take heed to the instruction and follow it so we will be equipped for the fight that our faith requires.

While Timothy was busy laboring in Ephesus, Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete to work with and instruct the churches there. The churches on Crete were full of difficulties, but Titus was committed to finding competent people and training them for godly leadership so they could stand against any false doctrine. It probably would have been easier for Titus to walk away from these church problems, but he chose to be patient and loving and remain where God had placed him. Maybe you have difficult people or circumstances in your life that you feel like giving up on. Let Titus' example remind us that it is best to remain where God has placed us and to hold fast as we trust Him to see us through!

Paul's instruction includes a list of both character qualities we want to have and traits we want to avoid. We will examine this list for our own lives as it is a pattern that goes beyond leadership to include all Christians who desire to live a life that fully represents Christ. The heart of his instruction is that we must continue holding fast to the faithful Word. In the Word, we will find all we need for our days this side of heaven. It will never change, fade or become obsolete. As it has instructed God's people and God's leaders over the centuries, so too will it perfectly instruct us today.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: Titus 1:1-9

"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ²in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, ³but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; ⁴To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁵For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you ⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict." NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

"Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."
Titus 1:9

1. According to verse 2 of this week's scripture, what had God promised before time began?

a. How does Jesus reinforce this statement in John 11:25-26? _____

b. What is the only thing we have to do to receive this promise? _____

c. Does knowing that this promise is from God, who cannot lie, help you to receive this hope? _____

“Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He is your Keeper. He has kept you hitherto. Hold fast to his dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, he will bear you in his arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. Our Father will either shield you from suffering, or he will give you strength to bear it.”

– Saint Francis of Sales (1567–1622)

2. According to verse 5, why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? _____

3. To help young Titus with this difficult task, Paul gave him guidelines as to how to choose the right elders for the job. Read verses 6-8 in the New Living Translation and note what prospective elders of the churches “must be” and “must not be”.

MUST BE

MUST NOT BE

_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____

- a. Pick one of the “must be” attributes and note why you think it is so important for an elder or bishop to have this quality. _____

- b. Now pick one of the “must not be” attributes and note why you think it is so important for an elder to not have this negative characteristic. _____

4. According to verse 9a, how are elders and bishops able to live a “blameless” life? _____
- _____
- _____
- a. What reason does verse 9b give us for “holding fast to the faith”? _____
- _____
- _____
5. The requirements stated in these scriptures can be applied to all of us. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we should endeavor to live godly lives so that no one can attribute negative actions to us. How do the following verses reinforce this truth?
- a. 1 Peter 2:9: _____
- _____
- b. 1 Peter 4:11: _____
- _____
- c. 1 John 2:15-17: _____
- _____
- d. 1 John 5:20-21: _____
- _____

Group Discussion

How can we, as believers, endeavor to be ambassadors for Christ in our society today?

“God does not supply us with character; he gives us the life of his Son, and we can either ignore him and refuse to obey him, or we can so obey him, so bring every thought and imagination into captivity, that the life of Jesus is manifested in our mortal flesh. It is not a question of being saved from hell, but of being saved in order to manifest the Son of God in our mortal flesh. Our responsibility is to keep ourselves fit to manifest him.”

– Oswald Chambers (1874–1917)

