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Titus

The book of Titus is one of the letters or epistles of the Apostle Paul in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. It is a short letter consisting of only three chapters and 46 verses. Here is a summary of each chapter:

Chapter 1: In this chapter, Paul introduces himself as the author and greets Titus, his fellow worker in the faith. Paul then gives instructions to Titus on how to choose and appoint elders for the churches in Crete. He warns Titus to be careful in his selection, making sure that the leaders are of good character and able to teach sound doctrine.

Chapter 2: This chapter contains specific instructions to various groups within the church community, including older men, older women, younger men, and slaves. Paul emphasizes the importance of living a godly life and being an example to others, and encourages Titus to teach these principles to the believers in Crete.

Chapter 3: In this final chapter, Paul reminds Titus and the believers in Crete of the grace of God, which has saved them through faith in Jesus Christ. He encourages them to devote themselves to good works and to avoid foolish controversies and arguments. Paul closes the letter with personal greetings and a blessing.

Overall, the book of Titus is a practical guide for church leaders and members, emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine and godly living. It also emphasizes the grace of God as the basis for salvation and the motivation for good works.

Titus 1

New International Version

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness— 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, 3 and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Appointing Elders Who Love What Is Good

5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint[a] elders in every town, as I directed you. 6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe[b] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. 8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Rebuking Those Who Fail to Do Good

10 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." [c] 13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Footnotes

Titus 1:5 Or ordain

Titus 1:6 Or children are trustworthy

Titus 1:12 From the Cretan philosopher Epimenides

The first chapter of the book of Titus in the Christian Bible is a brief introduction to the letter, in which Paul identifies himself as the author and addresses it to Titus, a fellow worker in the faith. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the chapter:

Verse 1: Paul introduces himself as a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Verse 2: He greets Titus, referring to him as a "true child in the common faith," indicating that they share a strong bond in their Christian beliefs.

Verse 3: Paul expresses his hope that Titus will experience grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Verse 4: Paul then launches into the main purpose of the letter, which is to give instructions to Titus on how to appoint elders for the churches in Crete.

Verses 5-9: Paul outlines the qualifications for elders, emphasizing that they should be men of good character, mature in their faith, and able to teach sound doctrine.

Verse 10: Paul warns Titus to be on the lookout for false teachers and to rebuke them firmly, in order to prevent them from spreading their false teachings.

Verses 11-16: Paul concludes the chapter by highlighting the importance of sound doctrine, particularly the gospel of grace that he himself has been entrusted to proclaim. He warns against those who teach things that are contrary to the truth and urges Titus to rebuke them sharply.

Overall, the first chapter of Titus serves as an introduction to the letter and sets the stage for the instructions that will follow. Paul emphasizes the importance of choosing good leaders for the churches in Crete and warns against false teachers who would lead the believers astray.

Here are some of the important verses from chapter 1 of the book of Titus in the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location within the chapter:

1. "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness." (verse 1) - This verse introduces the letter, identifying Paul as the author and emphasizing his mission to strengthen the faith of God's chosen people by teaching them the truth that leads to godly living.
2. "The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you." (verse 5) - This verse explains why Paul left Titus in Crete, giving him the specific task of organizing the church and appointing elders to lead in each town.
3. "One of Crete's own prophets has said it: 'Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.'" (verse 12) - This verse quotes a well-known statement about the people of Crete, suggesting that they have a reputation for dishonesty, brutality, and laziness.
4. "To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure." (verse 15) - This verse reflects on the importance of purity in the lives of believers, while also acknowledging that those who are corrupt and do not believe may see everything as tainted.

The Book of Titus is one of the New Testament books in the Bible, and it contains teachings and instructions primarily related to church leadership and conduct within the Christian community. Let's explore the theological thought and influence found in Titus chapter 1:

Theological Thought in Titus Chapter 1:

Qualifications for Church Leaders: In Titus 1, the Apostle Paul outlines the qualifications for elders or overseers in the church. These qualifications emphasize the moral character and spiritual maturity of leaders. This reflects the importance of godly leadership within the Christian community.

Sound Doctrine: Paul emphasizes the need for sound doctrine and the ability to teach it. This underscores the importance of correct theological understanding within the church. Leaders are expected to be capable of teaching and defending the faith.

Rebuking False Teachers: Paul warns about the presence of false teachers and encourages Titus to silence them, as their teachings can be detrimental to the faith of believers. This highlights the early church's concern for doctrinal purity and the need to protect the flock from false teachings.

The Gospel Message: The chapter also underscores the importance of the gospel message as a foundation for the Christian faith. Paul mentions the gospel entrusted to him and its role in bringing about faith and knowledge of the truth.

Theological Influence:

The theological thought in Titus chapter 1 has had a significant influence on Christian theology and church practice throughout history:

Ecclesiology: Titus 1's qualifications for church leaders have influenced the development of ecclesiology (the study of the church). It has shaped how many Christian denominations select and appoint leaders within their congregations.

Doctrine and Teaching: The emphasis on sound doctrine and the ability to teach it has contributed to the development of Christian theology. It highlights the importance of theological education and the role of leaders in maintaining doctrinal purity.

Defending the Faith: The idea of refuting false teachings and protecting the faith from heresy has been a recurring theme in Christian history. Theological debates and the formulation of creeds and statements of faith have been influenced by this concern.

Gospel-Centered Ministry: The emphasis on the gospel message as the foundation of the Christian faith has been central to Christian preaching and evangelism. It reminds believers of the core message of Christianity and its role in bringing people to faith.

In summary, Titus chapter 1 contains theological thoughts related to church leadership, sound doctrine, defending the faith, and the centrality of the gospel message. These ideas have had a lasting influence on Christian theology, ecclesiology, and the practice of the Christian faith.

Titus 2
New International Version
Doing Good for the Sake of the Gospel

2 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, 10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

The second chapter of the book of Titus in the Christian Bible provides specific instructions for various groups within the church community, including older men, older women, younger men, and slaves. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the chapter:

Verses 1-2: Paul instructs Titus to teach the believers in Crete to live in a way that is consistent with sound doctrine. He urges Titus to speak with authority and to exhort the believers to live a godly life.

Verses 3-5: Paul then gives instructions to the older women in the church, urging them to be reverent in their behavior, to avoid gossip and excessive drinking, and to teach the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, and to be busy at home.

Verse 6: Paul exhorts younger men to be self-controlled and to set a good example in all that they do.

Verse 7: Paul urges Titus to be a model of good works and to demonstrate integrity in his teaching.

Verses 8-10: Paul instructs Titus to urge the slaves in the church to be obedient to their masters and to be honest in their dealings with them.

Verses 11-14: Paul then reminds Titus of the grace of God, which has appeared to all people through Jesus Christ, and which teaches us to renounce ungodliness and to live a self-controlled and godly life.

Verse 15: Paul concludes the chapter by urging Titus to speak with authority and to exhort the believers to live a godly life, in accordance with sound doctrine.

Overall, the second chapter of Titus provides practical instructions for various groups within the church community, emphasizing the importance of living a godly life and setting a good example for others. Paul urges the believers to live in accordance with sound doctrine and to demonstrate integrity in all that they do. He also emphasizes the grace of God as the motivation for living a self-controlled and godly life.

Here are some of the important verses from chapter 2 of the book of Titus in the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location within the chapter:

1. "You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine." (verse 1) - This verse emphasizes the importance of teaching correct doctrine and sound theology.
2. "Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance." (verse 2) - This verse instructs Titus to teach older men in the church to embody virtues such as self-control, respect, and endurance.
3. "Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled." (verse 6) - This verse instructs Titus to encourage young men in the church to exercise self-control.
4. "Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good." (verse 3) - This verse instructs Titus to teach older women in the church to be honorable in their behavior, avoiding gossip and drunkenness, and to be willing to teach what is good.
5. "Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." (verses 4-5) - This verse instructs older women in the church to teach younger women to love their families, exercise self-control, be kind, and submit to their husbands, so that the gospel message will not be maligned.

In Titus chapter 2 of the New Testament, you'll find theological thoughts and teachings related to various aspects of Christian living, ethics, and the role of different groups within the church. Let's explore the theological thought and influence in Titus chapter 2:

Theological Thought in Titus Chapter 2:

Teaching Sound Doctrine: Paul emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine throughout this chapter. He instructs Titus to teach what accords with sound doctrine (verse 1). This underscores the foundational role of correct theology in the Christian life.

Behavioral Instructions: Paul provides specific instructions for different groups within the church, including older men, older women, young women, and young men. These instructions include themes of self-control, purity, godliness, and respect for authority. The theological thought here is that correct beliefs should lead to transformed behavior.

The Grace of God: In verse 11, Paul highlights the theological concept of God's grace, which brings salvation to all people. This is a central theme in Christian theology—the idea that salvation is a gift from God, not something earned through human effort.

Awaiting the Blessed Hope: Paul also mentions the "blessed hope" of the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (verse 13). This is a reference to the second coming of Jesus Christ, a significant theological theme in the New Testament that reminds believers of their future hope and the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises.

Redemption and Purification: The theological thought of redemption and purification is present in verses 14 and 15. Christ is described as the one who gave Himself to redeem us from lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession. This reflects the idea of Christ's work of redemption and sanctification in the lives of believers.

Theological Influence:

The teachings in Titus chapter 2 have had theological and practical influences within the Christian tradition:

Ethical Guidance: The instructions for different groups within the church have influenced Christian ethics and behavior. These teachings continue to guide believers in living a godly and moral life.

Sound Doctrine: The emphasis on sound doctrine as the basis for Christian living has been influential in theological education and the development of doctrinal statements within various Christian denominations.

Grace and Salvation: The theological concept of God's grace and the idea that salvation is a gift from God have remained central to Christian theology. This chapter reinforces the foundational Christian belief that salvation is by grace through faith.

Eschatology: The mention of the "blessed hope" and the second coming of Jesus Christ has influenced Christian eschatology—the study of the end times. Believers have been encouraged to live in anticipation of Christ's return.

Redemption and Sanctification: The theological concepts of redemption and sanctification through Christ's sacrifice continue to be central to Christian soteriology—the study of salvation.

In summary, Titus chapter 2 contains theological thoughts related to sound doctrine, ethical living, the grace of God, the blessed hope of Christ's return, and the concepts of

redemption and sanctification. These teachings have had a lasting influence on Christian theology, ethics, and eschatology.

Titus 3

New International Version

Saved in Order to Do Good

3 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Final Remarks

12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. 13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. 14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

15 Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.

The third and final chapter of the book of Titus in the Christian Bible is a reminder to Titus and the believers in Crete of the grace of God and the importance of good works. Here is a more detailed breakdown of the chapter:

Verses 1-2: Paul instructs Titus to remind the believers in Crete to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, and to speak evil of no one.

Verses 3-7: Paul then reminds the believers of their own former way of life, when they were foolish, disobedient, and enslaved to various passions and pleasures. But God saved

them through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, so that they might become heirs of eternal life. Paul emphasizes the importance of this salvation, which is not based on works of righteousness, but on the mercy of God.

Verses 8-11: Paul urges Titus to remind the believers to devote themselves to good works, to avoid foolish controversies and arguments, and to reject those who are divisive.

Verses 12-15: Paul concludes the letter with personal greetings and a final exhortation to the believers to greet one another with love.

Overall, the third chapter of Titus emphasizes the grace of God as the basis for salvation and the motivation for good works. Paul reminds the believers in Crete of their own former way of life and urges them to devote themselves to good works, avoiding foolish controversies and divisions. The chapter concludes with personal greetings and a reminder to love one another.

Here are some of the important verses from chapter 3 of the book of Titus in the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location within the chapter:

1. "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good." (verse 1) - This verse emphasizes the importance of submitting to those in authority and being ready to do good deeds.
2. "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another." (verse 3) - This verse reminds readers of their former state before coming to faith, highlighting the contrast between their previous sinful behavior and their new life in Christ.
3. "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." (verses 4-5) - This verse highlights the role of God's mercy in saving believers, emphasizing that salvation comes through God's grace rather than through our own good deeds.
4. "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior." (verses 5-6) - This verse speaks of the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of salvation, emphasizing that believers are made new through the Holy Spirit's work of rebirth and renewal.
5. "So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (verse 7) - This verse speaks of the hope that believers have for eternal life through their justification by God's grace.

In Titus chapter 3 of the New Testament, you'll find theological thoughts and teachings related to Christian conduct, salvation, and the transformative power of God's grace. Let's explore the theological thought and influence in Titus chapter 3:

Theological Thought in Titus Chapter 3:

Salvation by Grace: The chapter begins by emphasizing the theological concept of salvation by grace. In verses 4-7, Paul highlights that God's mercy and grace, not human works, are the basis for salvation. This aligns with a central theme in Christian theology that salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned.

Renewal by the Holy Spirit: Paul mentions the role of the Holy Spirit in regeneration and renewal. Believers are justified and saved through the work of the Holy Spirit, who cleanses and renews them (verse 5). This underscores the importance of the Holy Spirit in the process of salvation and sanctification.

Good Works: While Paul emphasizes salvation by grace, he also stresses the importance of good works. Believers are encouraged to be "ready for every good work" (verse 1) and to maintain good works (verse 8). The theological thought here is that genuine faith leads to a life characterized by good deeds.

Avoiding Controversies: Paul advises Titus to avoid foolish controversies and quarrels about the law, as they are unprofitable and worthless (verses 9-11). This suggests a focus on unity and the avoidance of divisive theological disputes within the church.

Transformation and Regeneration: The chapter underscores the idea of transformation and regeneration through the Holy Spirit. Believers are described as those who have been washed, renewed, and justified by God's grace, resulting in a new life and identity (verses 4-7).

Theological Influence:

The teachings in Titus chapter 3 have had theological and practical influences within the Christian tradition:

Grace-Centered Theology: The emphasis on salvation by grace through faith, as seen in this chapter, has been central to Christian theology. It has influenced the development of doctrines related to justification, regeneration, and sanctification.

Role of the Holy Spirit: The recognition of the Holy Spirit's role in regeneration and renewal has had a lasting impact on pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit) within Christian theology.

Good Works and Christian Living: The balance between grace and good works, as presented in Titus 3, has influenced Christian ethics and the understanding of the relationship between faith and works in the Christian life.

Unity and Avoidance of Controversy: The advice to avoid divisive controversies and maintain unity has influenced Christian ecclesiology (the study of the church) and how believers handle theological disagreements.

Transformation and Renewal: The theological concept of transformation and renewal through God's grace has remained a foundational theme in Christian soteriology (the study of salvation).

In summary, Titus chapter 3 contains theological thoughts related to salvation by grace, the role of the Holy Spirit in transformation, the importance of good works, the avoidance of controversies, and the concept of spiritual renewal. These teachings have had a lasting influence on various aspects of Christian theology and practice.

Notes:

Questions related to the book of Titus are the most difficult and still unanswered, as different people may have different perspectives and opinions on this matter. However, there are some challenging questions that scholars and theologians have debated over the years regarding the book of Titus. Some of these questions include:

1. **Authorship:** Although the book is attributed to the apostle Paul, some scholars have raised questions about whether he actually wrote it. The writing style and vocabulary used in Titus are slightly different from Paul's other letters, which has led some to suggest that it may have been written by someone else in Paul's name.
2. **Date:** The exact date of the writing of Titus is also uncertain, with scholars placing it anywhere from the late 50s to the early 70s AD.
3. **Purpose:** The purpose of the book of Titus is not entirely clear. Some scholars see it as a letter of instruction for a specific individual (Titus), while others believe it was intended as a general instruction to churches in Crete or the wider church.
4. **Crete and the Cretans:** The book of Titus speaks of Crete and the people who live there in a somewhat negative light. This has led some to question whether the letter accurately reflects the situation on the island or if it was based on stereotypes or rumors.
5. **Theological content:** The book of Titus contains several theological statements that are not fully developed and leave some questions unanswered. For example, the phrase "the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5) has been interpreted in different ways, and the meaning of the phrase "the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13) has been the subject of much debate.

These are just a few examples of the difficult questions that have been raised about the book of Titus. While there may not be clear and definitive answers to all of them, scholars and theologians continue to study and discuss the book in order to deepen their understanding of its message and significance.