Living Faithfully in the Family of God Titus

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best.

We have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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Introduction

Paul left Titus on Crete to set in order the local assemblies. Titus had to appoint elders and then instruct them how to perform their work as overseers of local assemblies. Paul gave Titus extensive instructions about the qualities elders must possess and the work they must do.

Paul also gave Titus great encouragement about sound doctrine. Rebellious men would be coming to the local assemblies and some of them were disturbing entire families. They must be silenced.

Paul also gave Titus specific advice about dealing with different groups of people. Titus and elders would have to minister to younger and older saints and slaves. Paul also wanted to encourage Titus in work with slaves.

Paul also looked to the future. He spoke about remaining faithful until the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Saints must learn to deny unGodliness and worldly desires. Jesus gave Himself to redeem us from every lawless deed, to purify for Himself a people zealous for good deeds. Titus must speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. No one should disregard him.

Paul finally talked about faithful subjection. Saints must learn to live in subjection to rulers and authorities. They must also be careful not to malign anyone. Saints used to be disobedient people consumed with their various lusts and pleasures.

Paul contrasted the old lives of saints with the coming of the kindness of God our Savior and the appearance of His great love for mankind. Through the Holy Spirit, we were washed and renewed and made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Saints must avoid foolish controversies. Factious men must be rejected after a first and second warning.

Paul concluded with the greetings. He mentioned the faithful ministers Artemas and Tychicus, Zenas and Apollos. Titus needs to encourage the saints to provide for pressing needs. All the people with Paul greeted Titus, and Paul bid grace to all in closing.

2

Faithful Titus Today

Paul considered Titus a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. Titus accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem after Paul spent fourteen years preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. After that journey, Paul sent Titus to Corinth, Greece where Paul had conflict with the Corinthians over their acceptance of immorality among saints. Paul trusted Titus to bring the Corinthians into obedience to the apostolic teaching and the Scriptures. Later, Paul left Titus on the Island of Crete to organize the saints there in their local assemblies. The pastoral tone and content of the epistle to Titus identifies it as a pastoral epistle, sharing that distinction with the two epistles to Timothy.

At Crete, Titus faced troublemakers and rebellious men. Paul directed him to appoint elders in every city. They would then be charged with the duty to speak and exhort sound doctrine. Rebellious men had to be silenced. Paul gave Titus very specific instructions on appointing the right men to be elders.

Titus had his hands full from day one. Paul had left, but the needs of the growing assemblies required his immediate attention. Paul was not present in body, but in spirit. He also provided Titus with clear, inspired instructions for many different situations, staring with his own spiritual relationship with God.

Day One Chosen of God Today



Why did Paul describe himself as a slave of God and apostle of Jesus Christ? Paul emphasized his slavery and apostleship were for the faith of those chosen of God and for the knowledge of the truth.

The term bond-slave implies voluntary servitude. At the moment of salvation, we were bought with a price and enslaved to righteousness. We are slaves of Christ because He bought us with His precious blood and He owns us for all eternity.

Paul had the spiritual gift of apostle. He did not hold the office of apostle, because that office consisted of only twelve men. Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot, and Matthias had to meet the qualification that he was with the disicples from the baptism of John to the resurrection of Jesus. Paul did not meet the requirements. We should not confuse the spiritual gift of apostleship with the office of apostle. Paul ministered to the people chosen of God, and Paul focused upon the saints. Paul also ministered by spreading the knoweldge of the truth, which is according to Godliness.

According to Godliness

1. <u>Slave.</u> Paul wrote as a slave of God. He meant that he served God as a slave serves his Master.

2. <u>Apostle.</u> Paul was also an apostle. He did not hold the office of apostle, because he did not meet the qualifications of Acts 1:20-26. Only twelve men could hold the office of apostle, and only twelve men.

3. <u>Spiritual Gift.</u> Paul received the spiritual gift of apostle, separate from the office of apostle. Paul saw the Lord Jesus after the resurrection.

4. <u>Service.</u> Paul's service and ministry focused upon faith. Here, Paul labored for the faith of the chosen of God (believers). God said that even our faith in Him is a gift of God.

5. <u>Ministered.</u> Paul also ministered the knowledge of the truth which is according to Godliness. Paul sought to increase Godliness in believers by ministering truth to them.

6. <u>**Godliness.**</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means the we have been chosen by God to have faith that saves us from perishing, but also produces Godliness in our lives.

7. <u>Faith.</u> Today, God uses the truth of the Bible to promote faith in Him and Godly living. we love to read His Word and live by faith in God.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by thanking God for gifting Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by recognizing that God intends for the saints to live according to the knowledge of the truth.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by praising God for the Godliness that the knowledge of the truth produces in us.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by concentrating on the knowledge of the truth which is according to Godliness. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by learning truths that are in keeping with Godliness?

Day Two Hope of Eternal Life Today



What hope do all saints have? We have the hope of the eternal life which God promised long ages ago.

Salvation rests upon God's promises. God always tells the truth and has all power to back up His promises. So we can trust Him to keep His promises for all eternity.

God made the promise of eternal life in eternity past. God knew us before we were born. He saved us before the foundation of the earth. Paul's apostleship was designed around spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples in distant places.

God brought people from many nations into His church. They all received the same promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ, the only Savior of all people. This verse also speaks of ages. Those ages go back before the world was created. God knew us and loved us before He created the earth. He also promised us eternal life.

Cannot Lie

1. **<u>Truth.</u>** Paul wrote about the knowledge of the truth, which is according to Godliness. He meant that as we know the truth of God, we live more Godly.

2. <u>**Hope.**</u> As we live Godly, we also live in hope. We hope for the things God has promised to us.

3. <u>Lies.</u> If you lie to me, then I have reason to believe that you are not always truthful. Lying means you did not tell the truth. You may have thought you were telling the truth, but you actually lied if you did not tell the truth, no matter what you were thinking.

4. **Promises.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we base our hope upon the promises of God.

5. <u>Devil.</u> God cannot lie. God has never lied. In contrast, the devil is the father of liars, because no truth is in the devil.

6. <u>**God.**</u> God promised born-again believers that they have eternal life. God made that promise long ages ago.

7. <u>Secure.</u> We are saved from eternal death by faith in God alone. God promised us eternal life and God never lies. Never, ever. We praise God our hope rests securely in God, who cannot lie.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by counting upon the promises of God.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by remembering that God promised us eternal life long ages ago.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by trusting God to keep His promises always, because He cannot lie.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by believing that God does not lie and will always keep His promises. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by praising God for promising us eternal life from long ages ago?

Day Three The Proper Time Today



When was the hope of eternal life manifested? The hope of eternal life was manifested at the proper time.

At the proper time, God manifested the hope of eternal life, which is His word. God entrusted Paul to spread the word of eternal life, according to the command of God our Savior.

Paul's apostleship related directly to God's commission for Paul to spread the knowledge of the truth. God's word brought the hope of eternal life, because He cannot lie, and He promised long ages ago.

At the proper time, God manifested His word through the proclamation of His messengers, including Paul. He was entrusted with that proclamation according to the commandment of God our Savior.

Paul had a duty to spread the word and build up saints, according to Godliness. Paul wanted Titus to understand that now was the time to spread the word and make disciples, because it was the proper time.

God Our Savior

1. <u>**Timing.**</u> Paul revealed the timing of God. The entire universe ultimately runs on God's time line. God sees all the future and all the past.

2. **Proper.** At "the proper time" means that God chose just the right moment to manifest the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

3. **Proclamation.** At just the right time, God entrusted Paul to proclaim the truth of eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

4. <u>Eternal Life.</u> Having entrusted Paul with the proclamation of eternal life, God also commanded Paul to go and preach the word.

5. <u>Savior</u>. Notice that God our Savior commanded Paul. Our Savior sent Paul forth so that our Savior would become their Savior too.

6. <u>**Promise.**</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that God has commanded all of His children to spread the promise of eternal life by faith alone in God our Savior, Jesus Christ.

7. <u>Share.</u> The time to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ is right now, today. As we share the good news of Jesus Christ, He will become the personal Savior of every one who receives Him by faith alone.

- > We live faithfully in the family of God by realizing we have all been entrusted with the word which brings the hope of eternal life.
- ➢ We live more faithfully in the family of God as we obey the commission God gave to all of us to spread His word.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by joining together to share the word, because it is the proper time.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by spreading the word of eternal life. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and speak to someone today about the hope of eternal life?

Day Four My True Child Today



Who was Titus to Paul? Paul called Titus his true child in a common faith.

Paul understood the family of God. It had many members of many ages. Paul looked upon Titus as his spiritual child, born by a common faith. Paul wanted Titus to remember how Paul looked upon him and why Paul considered him a spiritual son. They shared the same faith in God. They were both part of the spiritual family of God.

Paul used a common New Testament greeting: Grace and peace. Paul brought those happy tidings in the name of God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. Paul's Trinitarian roots reach both the Father and Son here. Grace and peace come from both God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. Because Jesus saved us, we have peace in Him because of the grace of God poured out in our lives. God the Father sent God the Son to bring salvation to us and so become our Savior.

Paul gave Titus a wonderful greeting and lifted up Titus with these early words of encouragement. Paul wanted Titus to know they shared a common faith that made them family. Within the family they shared grace and peace from God the Father and the Christ Jesus our Savior.

Grace and Peace

1. <u>Child.</u> Paul considered both Timothy and Titus his spiritual children because of their common faith in God.

2. <u>Faith.</u> As believers, we share a common faith. We all believe that Jesus was crucified for our sins, died, was buried and rose from the dead, all according to the Scriptures. We all believe that Jesus is God, has always been God from eternity past, and will always be God into eternity future.

3. **Peace.** Paul also greeted Titus with "grace and peace." Grace means God gives all things freely, without charge. Peace means all war and enmity with God have ceased in my life. Now, we have eternal peace with God, because Jesus took all the wrath and condemnation we deserved upon Himself and shed His blood to satisfy the demands of justice perfectly.

4. <u>Washed.</u> Many people live with a foreboding sense that God remains angry and displeased with them. Every believer should know that the blood of Jesus Christ washed away all our guilt for sin.

5. <u>Blameless.</u> Every child of God, like Paul, Titus, and Timothy, has been declared holy and blameless before God.

6. **<u>Grace</u>**. Living faithfully in the family of God means that we believe that God greets us with grace and peace each day. We should pass that greeting on to other family members.

7. <u>Greet.</u> Notice that both God the Father and God the Son (Jesus our Savior) greet us with grace and peace. What a wonderful Father and what a terrific Savior.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by greeting each other with words of grace and peace.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by reminding the saints we are all brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers if we have spiritual children.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by reminding our spiritual children that we live in grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by spending time with our spiritual children. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by contacting a spiritual child and greeting them with grace and peace?

3 Faithful Elders Today

Everly local assembly required faithful elders to shepherd the flock. Titus had to appoint elders in every city. This plurality of elders would be tasked with various spiritual duties. Therefore, Paul left specific instructions for Titus in selecting the right males to fill the office of elder in each local assembly.

Saints today should not confuse church offices with spiritual gifts. They are very different. Originally, the early church knew three offices: apostle, elder and deacon. The requirements to hold the office of apostle required that the apostle be with the other disciples from the baptism of John to the resurrection of Jesus. Only twelve males could hold that office and so they replaced Judas Iscariot with Matthias. Notice that Judas Iscariot was an unbeliever that held the office of apostle. Today unbelievers hold the offices of elder and deacon in many assemblies. In contrast, only saints receive spiritual gifts. At the moment of salvation, Jesus baptizes each believer with the Holy Spirit and seals them for the day of redemption. The spiritual gift of apostle remained distinct from the office of apostle. Likewise, the spiritual gift of leadership and the spiritual gift of pastors remained distinct and separate from the office of elder and the office of deacon. Saints may aspire to the office of elder, but God dispenses spiritual gifts as He alone deems best.

The elders had to do the work of overseers. In Acts 20, Paul described the works of overseers as shepherding the flock of God. They must protect the assembly from savage wolves from outside the flock attacking them. They must also protect the saints from perverted men arising within the flock seeking to draw saints away from the local assembly and fellowship into evil.

Day Five In Crete Today



Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? Paul left Titus in Crete so that Titus would set things in order there.

Paul went around the Mediterranean preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people became believers and local assemblies were planted in many places.

Paul left Titus in Crete. Apparently, Paul preached on the island of Crete and many people were converted there. New Christians need to be organized and elders appointed in the local assemblies. Paul left the assemblies in Crete in the capable hands of Titus.

Titus had several tasks given to him by Paul. First, Titus had to set in order the remaining things. Paul had confidence in Titus because they shared the same faith. Paul taught that all things in the church must be done decently and in order. Titus also had the task of appointing elders in every city. Paul gave Titus directions about appointing elders. Titus now had to carry out the task of appointing elders. Not just any person would do as an elder. The elders in a local assembly need to set great examples for the flock, and to protect the flock from evil men within the group and savage wolves from outside attacking the assembly.

Set in Order

1. <u>**Tasks.**</u> Paul explained to Titus that Titus must perform two related tasks on the island of Crete.

2. <u>Follow-up.</u> Apparently, Paul had preached in several places in Crete, and had departed. He left Titus to follow up the initial effort.

3. <u>Establish.</u> Every local assembly of believers needs to be set in order. God often sends men to help establish the new assembly.

4. <u>**Teaching.**</u> Paul first directed Titus to set in order the local assembly. This task obviously involved the basic teaching found in the Book of Titus. Living faithfully in the family of God means we recognize elders in every local assembly who faithfully shepherd the flock of God.

5. <u>Elders.</u> Paul also directed Titus to appoint elders in every city. Notice the plural "elders." Each local assembly was to have its own group of elders, not just one preacher or human leader.

6. <u>Work.</u> The New Testament describes the office of elder as a special work. The work of elders involves protecting the flock from wolves outside and false teachers enticing members of the flock to leave. The elders also shepherd the flock, exhorting in sound doctrine and refuting those who contradict, including silencing false teachers.

7. <u>Shepherd.</u> We rejoice today in the plan of God to have order in the local assembly. God also appoints elders to shepherd the local assembly, under the leadership of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by following through on the tasks that are given to us.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by remembering that every assembly should be set in order and elders appointed in every assembly.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by promoting Godliness by setting things in order in every assembly and having elders appointed in every assembly.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by setting things in order in each assembly, and by having Godly elders. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by following God's plans for your local assembly?

Day Six

Above Reproach Today



What qualities must an elder possess? The elder must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, believing children, and not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

Paul commanded Titus to appoint elders in every city. Those elders had to be mature believers with specific qualities.

An elder must be a man above reproach. This quality means the elder has such a good reputation for Godliness that saints do not accuse him of evil behavior.

Elders must be the husband of one wife, probably referring to not being a polygamist.

Elders must have children who believe. The way the elder runs his household, and particularly whether his children are believers, forms another crucial quality for the elder. Elders must not be accused of dissipation (indulging fleshly desires) and rebellion. Elders must be known as men who spend their time serving Jesus and living a holy life.

Not Accused

1. **Qualities.** Paul listed the qualities an elder should possess. As Titus considered men to appoint as elders, not just any man would do.

2. <u>Above Reproach.</u> The man must be above reproach. Reproach means a verbal accusation or rebuke.

3. <u>One Wife.</u> The man must be the husband of one wife. Although brief, this phrase probably means not a polygamist.

4. <u>**Children.**</u> The man must have children who believe. Children often testify with their lives about their spiritual upbringing.

5. <u>Not Dissipated.</u> The man must not be accused of dissipation. Dissipation means intemperance, so it conveys the idea of wild living and self-indulgence.

6. <u>**Obedient.**</u> The man must not be accused of rebellion. Obedience and submission are the opposite of rebellion.

7. **Behavior.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that elders should be special men, exhibiting high standards of behavior. We should all strive for high spiritual qualities in our lives and encourage them in the lives of our friends.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by looking for qualities in a man that indicate he has the qualifications of an elder.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by encouraging men to live as elders.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by understanding that elders should possess great qualities which distinguish their lives as men of God.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by looking to elders as leaders in the church who shepherd the flock in the Name of Jesus. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by thanking God for appointing elders?

Day Seven

Overseers Today



Elders do the work of an overseer. As under-shepherds of Jesus the Good Shepherd, they serve the assembly by protecting it from attacks from outside and inside the assembly.

Overseers, also known as elders, must be above reproach. Paul emphasized this quality with repetition. They must understand that God has delivered a stewardship to the elder. They must act not as an owner, but a steward who works for the owner. The steward takes care of the flock for the owner.

Overseers must not be self-willed. They must lay aside their own will and do the will of God. Overseers must not be quick-tempered, but restrained by the peace of God. Overseers must not be addicted to wine, not pugnacious (not to quick to fight others). Overseers must not be fond of sordid gain. Today, many ministers have millions of dollars of personal wealth they raised through the ministry. They are paid better than many chief executive officers of large corporations. Some of them have their own private jets. They take that money for themselves, and forsake their duties as stewards.

God's Steward

1. <u>Elders.</u> Paul linked the office of elder with the title "overseer." He referred to the office of elder by describing the work of the elder as overseeing the flock. The overseer looks over the flock to encourage Godliness and to protect the flock from spiritual attack.

2. <u>Stewards.</u> The overseer must recognize he serves as a steward. A steward was entrusted to perform certain tasks as a servant. Elders must never lose sight of their stewardship role.

3. <u>Not Angry.</u> The elder must not be self-willed; instead, the elder serves Jesus in ministering to the body of Christ, following His orders. The elder must not be quick-tempered. If you have outbursts of anger, or lose control over your tongue, then you are quick- tempered.

4. <u>Not Addicted.</u> If you drink alcohol and get buzzed, tipsy, or above the legal limit, then you are addicted to alcohol. Alcohol has taken control of you, or you are willfully sinning for the sake of alcohol. Either way, you have a drinking problem. The elder cannot have a drinking problem.

5. <u>Not Pugnacious.</u> The elder cannot be pugnacious. If you are always ready to fight, easily provoked, and generally ready to do battle over your opinions, then you are pugnacious.

6. <u>No Sordid Gain.</u> The elder cannot be fond of sordid gain. Notice the word "fond." Not only must you avoid sordid gain, you must not long for it. Turn on your TV and watch the TV preachers. If they live large, they are fond of sordid gain.

7. <u>Faithful.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means you live like a steward. You report always to God about your service for Him and you obey

His orders with joy. We love Jesus and praise Him for the elders who serve as His faithful stewards.

Summary for Today

- We live faithfully in the family of God by looking for men who meet the qualifications of elders.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God as we strive to have the reputation of an elder, even if we do not hold the office of elder.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by supporting men who have the qualifications of an elder.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by embracing the qualities described for elders. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by striving to have the same qualities that become an elder?

Day Eight Hospitable Today



What other qualities should an elder possess? Elders must be hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout and self-controlled.

When you read that list of qualifications, you realize that all saints should strive for those same qualities. Overseers should have a reputation for such qualities. They earn those reputations one person at a time, one day at a time. They gain the reputation because of the things they do for other people as servants of Christ.

Overseers must have an open home and open heart. They must love what is good, and not spend time doing evil things. They must be sensible, so that they are not caught doing stupid things or acting like the Gentiles who have no faith. They must be just in their business dealings and individual relationships. They must be devout, so that people do not see them as just Sunday Christians. They must be self-controlled, meaning that they do not need other people looking over their work to stay on track. They find self-control in their eating, drinking, working, talking, sleeping, and relationships with everyone.

Self-Controlled

1. <u>Hospitable.</u> Paul continued to describe the qualities of the overseer. The overseer must be hospitable. Hospitable here means you love strangers, or even known brethren, by providing for their physical needs-food, shelter, clothing. You may also open your home for meetings and fellowship. Welcoming would be a good summary.

2. <u>Love Good.</u> The overseer must love what is good. You may recall that Jesus said only God is good; humans are not good. Loving the good means you love and desire the things of God, God Himself, and all things and people loved by God. You hate evil.

3. **Sensible.** The overseer must be sensible. Sensible means we avoid acting out of control or foolishly. We live by faith, exercising Godly judgment in daily life.

4. <u>Just.</u> The overseer must be just. Just means you act impartially, timely, and according to God's will. You do not play favorites, and you satisfy the demands of righteousness.

5. **Devout.** The overseer must be devout. Devout means dedicated to God's purpose, with holiness, and without faltering.

6. <u>**Controlled.</u>** The overseer must demonstrate self-control. Selfcontrolled means you are not constantly apologizing for your sinful outbursts, drunkenness, drug addiction, gluttony, and other fleshly behavior. You practice walking in the Holy Spirit so that you do not carry out the desire of the flesh. You must not be easily provoked, or given to acting on unbridled impulses.</u>

7. **Behavior.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we invest our faith in the will and power of God to produce those qualities above in our lives. Not everyone is called to hold the office of an elder, but every believer should act like one.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by being hospitable to one another and to strangers.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by having the same qualities overseers have, because we have the same Savior and the same Holy Spirit indwells all saints.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by loving the Holy Spirit for producing His fruit in the overseers appointed to serve God.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by the Holy Spirit producing His qualities in our lives just as He does in the lives of overseers. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and by faith see the Holy Spirit produce the fruits in your life incumbent upon overseers?

Day Nine The Faithful Word



The elder must know the Scriptures and know how to apply them properly. They must hold fast the faithful word of God. Their teaching must apply the word of God, because nothing else has the spiritual authority of Scripture. The teaching of the elders should be the teaching found in the Bible.

Elders also have a duty to use the word of God properly. They must have the spiritual ability to be strong defenders of the faith and shepherds who oppose the wolves attacking the flock.

Elders must exhort believers in sound doctrine. Elders must know sound doctrine before they can exhort others. Elders must know the specific Scriptures that support the doctrine they teach and encourage others to follow. Elders must be seasoned warriors for Christ who use the sword of the Scriptures to refute those who contradict sound doctrine. Elders must know the verses and chapters which provide authoritative teaching to refute those people who oppose sound doctrine, which is found only in the Bible.

Elders must know sound doctrine, teach sound doctrine, exhort with sound doctrine, and oppose and refute people who oppose sound doctrine.

Sound Doctrine

1. <u>Elders.</u> Paul further described the work of elders.

2. <u>Living.</u> The elder must be holding fast to the faithful word. Not only can we put our trust in the word of God, but God puts the word of God into our lives by faith in Him. Holding fast the word of God includes not just knowing the word of God, but also living according to the Word of God.

3. **<u>Recognizing.</u>** The elder must also recognize that all teaching and doctrine must agree with the faithful word of God.

4. **Exhorting.** The elder must be skilled and ready to use the word of God. The elder must exhort in sound doctrine. To exhort builds upon the basic idea of coming alongside of a person. In this case, the elder uses the word of God to encourage Godly behavior.

5. **<u>Refuting.</u>** The elder must also use the word of God to refute those who contradict the word of God. In Christ, you are never free to believe lies; you must find the truth in the word of God and believe it. When people proclaim lies in church, they must be refuted from the word of God.

6. <u>**Contradictors.**</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we read the Bible, hold it fast as the word of God, and, as we are able, refute those who contradict.

7. **<u>Respect.</u>** We must respect elders in the church who follow Jesus and labor diligently and faithfully for Him. We must all act like elders, as God empowers us to hold fast His word.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by learning sound doctrine from the Scriptures.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by counting upon Godly elders exhorting the saints and refuting people who oppose sound doctrine.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by looking to elders to encourage and protect the assembly from wolves, robbers and perverse people who attack the flock.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by learning sound doctrine for the protection and encouragement of the assembly. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by spending more time learning the Scriptures so that you may protect against people who contradict sound doctrine?
Day Ten Many Rebellious Men



Who opposes sound doctrine? Many rebellious men oppose sound doctrine.

Paul commanded Titus with appointing elders in every city. Therefore, Paul provided Titus with a written manual for finding the right men to serve as elders. They had to posses many important spiritual qualities.

Paul also described the people who would oppose and contradict sound doctrine. Many assemblies suffer from ignorance of the Scriptures. They know more about feeling good and using God to seek health, wealth and prosperity.

God provided explicit instructions about dealing with people who contradict sound doctrine. People of the circumcision, Jews who

taught obedience to the Law of Moses, contradicted sound doctrine. Since Jesus came and died for our sins, we no longer look forward to our Savior coming. We have seen Him and He changed many things by fulfilling the Law, which was only a shadow of the good things which came with Christ in the flesh. The men of the circumcision were empty talkers and deceivers. Jesus opposes all such men and gave us the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Empty Talkers

1. **Description.** Paul continued to describe the work of elders.

2. **<u>Rebellious.</u>** Many rebellious men reject the truth of the word of God and lead people astray.

3. <u>Empty.</u> Those rebellious men are empty talkers. They are like clouds without water. Their words contain no truth.

4. **Deceivers.** They also are deceivers. They claim to be speaking the truth, but in fact are spreading lies.

5. <u>**Circumcision.**</u> Circumcision means not only the practice of removing skin, but also the practice of keeping the Old Testament Law. God said believers have been set free from the Old Testament Law because Jesus has come.

6. **<u>Harmful.</u>** Living faithfully in the family of God means we recognize that many rebellious men harm believers with their empty talk and deceptions. We reject their lies.

7. **Promise.** We love the Lord Jesus because He promised to keep believers in His hand, safe and secure. We know that rebellious men will try to deceive us with lies, but we recognize their tricks, follow the word of God, and rejoice in Jesus every day.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by opposing empty talkers and deceivers.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by counting upon the elders to help defend against rebellious men.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by praising Jesus for giving us elders who oppose the people seeking to impose religious law upon us which no one could keep, except Jesus, who fulfilled the requirement of the Law for us.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by supporting Godly elders who oppose rebellious men who are empty talkers and deceivers. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by standing for sound doctrine and against people who oppose Godly elders?

Day Eleven Silenced Today



Why must the false teachers be silenced? The false teachers must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families.

The elders have a spiritual duty to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict sound doctrine. The rebellious men bring their empty talk and deceptions into the local assembly. Some of them promote circumcision and keeping the Law of Moses.

Paul directed Titus to appoint elders who must fulfill their spiritual duty to care for the flock. Some people run from trouble or choose to ignore trouble. The elders must never allow rebellious men to spread their false teaching, deceptions, and empty talk.

Titus must be sure that the elders identify rebellious men and then deal with them. Those rebellious men teach things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. They also upset whole families. Titus had to choose the right men to be elders so that they can use the Scriptures to silence rebellious men. Those men must be prepared to refute those who contradict sound doctrine and the elders must silence the rebellious men.

Sordid Gain

1. <u>Silence.</u> Paul directs Titus to silence certain people.

2. <u>False Teachers.</u> Silencing means taking all appropriate steps to stop the false teachers from speaking further.

3. <u>Elders.</u> God has great concern for families and seeks to protect them. Here, the elders must guard the flock from false teaching.

4. **<u>Refute.</u>** The elders apply the Bible, the word of God, to refute the false teachers.

5. <u>**Greed.</u>** Sordid gain motivates the false teachers. Their greed causes them to disregard the upsets they bring upon families.</u>

6. <u>Sordid.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we support the elders who silence the false teachers upsetting whole families for the sake of sordid gain.

7. **Protection.** We can always expect that false teachers will attack the family of God. Some people in the family will be upset by such teachers. God opposes such evil men and loves to protect His flock. We live in the hand of God, enjoying His protection.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by taking note of the rebellious men who must be silenced.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by taking care that rebellious men do not upset whole families with their empty talk and deceptions.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by resisting the rebellious men by holding firmly to sound doctrine.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that some men must be silenced in the assembly. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by helping the elders silence rebellious men who teach things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain?

Day Twelve Prophet Today



What did a Cretan prophet say? The Cretan prophet said that Cretans are always liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons.

Paul reminded Titus of the kind of people the Cretan prophet described. The saints may have been Cretans as the prophet described, but when they were born again, they became new creatures in Christ. All the old things passed away. New things have come.

Titus was working with a population of people not known for their integrity and holiness. Only by the grace of God would things change. The power of the Holy Spirit changed everything for the Cretan saints.

The used to be liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons, but because of Jesus they have been born from above. As the children of God, they now have the power from God to live faithfully in the family of God. Titus did not have to believe the Cretan prophet, but Paul wanted Titus to remember that the general population had many problems. The local assemblies would face attacks from outside and inside the assembly.

Lazy Gluttons

1. <u>Appoint Elders.</u> Paul directed Titus to appoint elders in every city.

2. <u>Silence Evil.</u> The elders must silence evil men in the churches of Crete because they were upsetting whole families for the sake of sordid gain.

3. <u>**Cretans.**</u> Paul cited a prophet of Crete, one of their own, who called the people of Crete: (1) liars, (2) evil beasts, and (3) lazy gluttons.

4. **<u>Problems.</u>** In doing so, Paul was explaining to Titus that the new elders in the churches of Crete would have their hands full of problems.

5. **Spiritual.** Paul identified three spiritual problems. First, liars do not tell the truth. Second, some people are evil beasts (see 2 Peter 2:12). Third, lazy gluttons eat too much and do too little.

6. **<u>Behavior</u>**. Living faithfully in the family of God means that we avoid lying, acting like evil beasts, and living like lazy gluttons. We recognize such behavior as sin, confess it, and live in sanctification in Christ Jesus.

7. **Freedom.** We rejoice in Jesus that God placed all the condemnation we deserve for our sins upon Jesus, when He died on the cross. Now we live in both freedom from the penalty of sin and joyful slavery to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- > We live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that we were once people who were evil beast, liars and gluttons.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by thanking God we are no longer evil beasts, liars and gluttons because the grace of God abounds in our lives.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by encouraging one another to walk worthy of Jesus and to avoid all evil behavior, lying and gluttony.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging one another with testimonies of deliverance from our previously evil lives. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by thanking God that you no longer live as a slave to sin?

Day Thirteen Testimony Is True Today



What did Paul know about the Cretans believers? Paul knew they came from backgrounds of evil, lying and gluttony.

Paul commanded Titus to reprove them severely, so that they may be sound in the faith. The Cretans lived down to the general reputation of the unbelievers.

Elders must take the time to reprove people engaging in evil behavior, lying and gluttony, and other sins. Elders do not have the option to ignore evil behavior in the assembly. Their duty includes exhorting in sound doctrine.

Titus was an elder to the elders of Crete. He appointed them and would be available to help them learn how to be elders. They had to first practice personal holiness in all areas of their lives. They must be prime examples of loving service to God and to others. Titus had to reprove the elders who engaged in sin and the elders had to reprove the Cretan believers who lived in rebellion and silence the false teachers upsetting entire families. The assembly will never be a place where any kind of teaching should be accepted. Believers must promote sound doctrine.

Reprove Them Severely

1. <u>Warning.</u> Paul warned Titus that the people of Crete were liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons.

2. <u>Sin.</u> Now the cure for such evil behavior. Did you know that lying, acting like an evil beast, and lazy gluttony are all spiritual problems resulting from sin?

3. <u>Cleanse.</u> God never promised that all our physical problems would be solved on earth during our lifetime. In contrast, God did promise to cleanse us from all sin. Therefore, when we see evil working in our lives, we know that God will give us spiritual power to overcome that sin. In fact, the Holy Spirit already indwells each believer. As we walk in the Holy Spirit, we do not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

4. **Benefit.** Not only do we have God's power flowing from God within us, but we also benefit from faithful friends who reprove our evil behavior by sharing the word of God with us.

5. **<u>Reproof.</u>** At times, such reproof from our spiritual friends and elders may be severe. It may not be easy to hear the word of God as it pierces us, judging the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

6. **<u>Grow.</u>** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we need to expect reproof of our evil behavior. Reproof means to convict of sin (2 Timothy 3:16-17) by exposing it according to the word of God. Through reproof, we grow sound in our faith. Our behavior reflects the maturity of our faith.

7. **Doctrine.** My faithful friends let me know from the Bible about my evil behavior. Because of their faithful reproof, we grow in sound doctrine

and leave behind evil behavior. I am still growing, but I love to grow closer to Jesus in my behavior and my heart.

Summary for Today

- > We live faithfully in the family of God by supporting the elders who severely reprove sinful saints.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by receiving reproof graciously as a gift from God so that we may be sound in the faith.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God as fellow members of the body of Christ where each member supplies what is lacking for the proper functioning of the body.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by looking after each other spiritually. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by accepting the severe reproof if you continue in sin?

Day Fourteen Jewish Myths Today



What must saints do with Jewish myths and commandments? Saints must not pay attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men.

Titus had to learn that the elders must reprove severely the saints acting badly so that they may be sound in the faith. Titus had to practice severe reproof to help some saints become sound in the faith. He also had to train the elders in every city to do likewise.

Titus had to train the elders not to pay attention to Jewish myths and the commandments of men. The people of the circumcision may try to impose the Law of Moses upon believers, but they must be opposed. Likewise, all people who promote the commandments of men who turn away from the truth must be confronted and silenced.

When evil men remain unchecked, they will continue to upset whole families with their lies, empty talk and deceptions. The elders must step in

to refute them and to severely reprove believers for their evil behavior so that they may be sound in the faith. Being an elder comes with a duty to oppose evil men and their desire for sordid gain. The elders cannot sit idly by while rebellious men attack the assembly. Elders must train the flock to pay no attention to Jewish myths and the commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Turn Away

1. <u>Flock.</u> Paul instructed Titus about shepherding the flock of God.

2. <u>Myths.</u> Evil men taught Jewish myths and commandments as truth. Believers should never pay spiritual attention to such myths and commandments. False teachers today still spread myths. They tell you things like: (1) avoid meat on Fridays; or (2) women should never wear long pants; or (3) all modern music is evil.

3. <u>**Truth.**</u> Notice that false teachers do not teach the commandments of God, but the commandments of men. As believers, we distinguish between what men say and what God said in the Bible. The Bible is the word of God, absolute truth.

4. **Evaluate.** False teachers aim to turn people away from the truth. Each of us must carefully evaluate our beliefs against the Bible. Do we have clear, Biblical support for our beliefs? Can you show me in the Bible why you hold your beliefs?

5. **<u>Beliefs.</u>** Many people I know believe things about God that some trusted pastor, teacher, or friend told them to believe. If so, they are believing men, and not relying directly upon the word of God.

6. **Foundation.** Living faithfully in the family of God means we avoid teaching our friends myths and commandments of men; we rely solely upon the Bible for the truth, not men. Men may help us understand the Bible, but the Bible must be our foundation of truth.

7. **Power.** We praise God that Jesus is the truth and God never lies to anyone. God wants us to know the truth and live in spiritual freedom from evil. The truth provides power and clarity for living.

Summary for Today

- We live faithfully in the family of God by not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by expecting saints to remind us to stop paying attention to foolish things.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by learning what things to ignore and what things cannot be ignored even for a moment.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by not paying attention to foolish things that distract us from loving Jesus with all our hearts. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by turning your attention away from unfruitful things and focusing your attention upon Jesus and His plans for your life?

Day Fifteen All Things Today



What things are clean to the saints? All things are clean to the saints.

Paul emphasized that all things are clean to the clean. He meant that all things are clean to the saints. They do not have to follow the Law of Moses because Jesus declared all things clean.

In contrast, nothing is clean to the defiled and unbelieving. Both their mind and their conscience have been defiled. For all the Cretans arguing that people must follow the Law of Moses, nothing is clean. While the Law of Moses described things as clean and unclean, paying attention to the commandments of men only defiles people in their mind and their conscience. For people trying to obtain holiness through following the Law of Moses, they will never find salvation through the Law of Moses. If they could obtain salvation through the Law of Moses, then Jesus died needlessly. Only in Jesus and His cleansing blood can a person be born from above. For those saints, all things have become pure. Nothing entering into a man can defile the man, but out the heart comes things that defile both their mind and their conscience.

Defiled

1. **<u>Pure.</u>** Paul distinguished pure people from the defiled and unbelieving.

2. <u>Faith.</u> The blood of Jesus shed on the cross purifies everyone who accepts the free gift of salvation by faith alone.

3. <u>Believer.</u> Having been purified by Jesus, the believer finds all things pure. For the unbeliever, their mind and their conscience are defiled.

4. **Focus.** Notice the focus upon the mind and the conscience. The mind refers to our ability to reason and comprehend. The conscience acts as a moral compass of good and bad.

5. <u>Unbelievers.</u> For unbelievers, they have never been cleansed by the blood of Christ. Everything is unclean to them. Their entire outlook on life remains evil.

6. **<u>Differences.</u>** Living faithfully in the Family of God means that we understand that all things are pure to us; unbelievers, however, remain defiled in their mind and conscience. We must daily remember this difference as we live in this world.

7. <u>Clean.</u> Praise Jesus that we have the mind of Christ, clean and spotless. Our conscience has been sprinkled clean by the blood of Christ. To us, all things are clean.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by understanding that all things are clean for the saints.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by remembering that all things are unclean for unbelievers.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by praising Jesus that we are clean through the word He has spoken to us.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that all things are clean for the saints. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by thanking Jesus that your mind and your conscience are no longer defiled because of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus?

Day Sixteen They Deny Him Today



Do the rebellious men truly know God? The rebellious men profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him.

The rebellious men were upsetting whole families in the assemblies. They were empty talkers and deceivers, seeking sordid gain with their false teaching. Titus and the elders had to silence them. The elders had the duty to refute them.

The rebellious men talked a good game, but they actually were detestable and disobedient. God considered them worthless for any good deed. The Cretan believers required severe reproof so that they would be sound in the faith.

Paul emphasized to Titus the need for sound doctrine. Not only must the elders hold to sound doctrine, but the saints need to be taught sound doctrine. They should also be reproved when they hold to false doctrine. Doctrine matters. Believers should recognize the rebellious men as detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

Worthless

1. **Description.** Paul described some people as detestable, worthless and disobedient. What prompted such a description?

2. <u>False Teachers.</u> The false teachers in Crete had to be silenced. They professed to know God, but they actually never knew God at all.

3. <u>Works.</u> Today, just because someone tells you about his faith, do not conclude from words alone that person knows God. You must look at her works.

4. <u>Actions.</u> Although unbelievers can do many nice and kind things for people, and profess to know God, their actions indicate they are not serving God.

5. **Detestable.** Notice that God applied the words "detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good work" to unbelievers.

6. <u>Look Carefully.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means you look beyond professions of knowing God to look carefully at the works of each person.

7. **<u>Proof.</u>** We can enjoy the good works which God has prepared beforehand for believers. We walk in His works, because we know Him and we are His children. Our actions prove we know the God we confess.

- > We live faithfully in the family of God by recognizing that rebellious men profess to know God, but they deny Him by their deeds.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by recognizing that rebellious men are detestable and disobedient, worthless for any good deed.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by striving to please God, so that our deeds reflect our love for Jesus.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by recognizing rebellious men by their evil deeds and not listening to their words professing to know God. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by looking for deeds and not just listening to words?

4 Faithful Younger and Older Today

Older and younger saints must remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. Titus had to deal with younger people and older people. Older men and older women both needed to understand that God sought specific qualities in their lives and specific ministries for them. Younger men had to be sensible, showing themselves to be examples of good deeds. Paul also stressed doctrine, speech and public reputation.

No matter how old you are, in the body of Christ people will always be of different ages. If you use your spiritual gifts, you will be ministering to people that are younger and older than you are. Paul outlined the spiritual qualities specific to each age group. While some qualities overlap, some qualities remain unique to that particular age group. For example, older women have a ministry of encouraging younger women to love their husband and to love their children.

Day Seventeen Speak the Things Today



What should Titus say? Titus should speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

Many people today think doctrine makes no difference. Learning about atonement, sanctification, prophecy, and other doctrines makes little difference to them. Those people rarely, if ever, read their Bible or listen to it. They think they have a free ticket to heaven, but have little inclination to learn more about Jesus from the Bible.

Paul commanded Titus to speak the things fitting for sound doctrine. The rebellious men will be full of empty words and deceit. They will convince many people to listen to them and participate in their unfruitful deeds of darkness.

Titus had to choose his words very carefully. His must speak words of sound doctrine. He must spend time learning sound doctrine from the

Bible, not from rebellious men. All saints must learn their doctrine from the Bible, by reading or listening to the Bible for themselves.

Fitting for Sound Doctrine

1. <u>**Contrast.</u>** Paul drew a sharp contrast between false teachers and Titus. They differed on their doctrine. False teachers teach false doctrine. Sound teachers teach sound doctrine. Doctrine always matters.</u>

2. **Speak.** Paul commanded Titus to speak up. Today, many believers remain silent about doctrine.

3. <u>**Teach.**</u> False teachers proclaim doctrine which contradicts the doctrine of the Bible. Doctrine means teaching. So, they teach things contradicted by the Bible.

4. **Doctrine.** Paul commanded Titus to speak the things fitting for sound doctrine. Our words match our doctrine.

5. <u>**Consistent.**</u> While your actions may speak loudly, you must still speak words to your friends, your children, your spouse, and all people. Those words must be proper, appropriate, and consistent with sound doctrine.

6. <u>Fitting.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we take care with our words to speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. We promote sound doctrine in the family of God through the things we talk about.

7. **Sound.** We rejoice in speaking to our friends in Christ. We strive to speak about things that will promote sound doctrine, and expose false doctrine taught by false teachers. May God get the glory from every word we speak.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by speaking words fitting for sound doctrine.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by trusting God to teach us sound doctrine.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by speaking to one another words fitting for sound doctrine.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by speaking words fitting for sound doctrine. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by choosing your words carefully so that they promote sound doctrine?

Day Eighteen Older Men Today



What qualities should older men possess? They should be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

Paul told Titus what qualities to promote in the lives of older men. Titus should teach older men the spiritual fruit they should produce. God has very specific qualities that every older man should possess. In fact, every Christian should possess those same qualities. Older men, however, should be known for those qualities.

Older men should be temperate, not over-indulging. Older men should be dignified, not acting dishonorably. Older men should be sensible, not acting without thinking. Older men should be sound in the faith, not carried away by every wind of doctrine. Older men should be sound in love, not given to hatred. Older men should have perseverance, and not give up fighting the good fight.

Perseverance

1. <u>Sound Doctrine.</u> Paul commanded Titus to speak the things fitting for sound doctrine.

2. <u>Older Men.</u> Now we see that sound doctrine concerns how older men behave.

3. <u>**Temperate.**</u> Sound doctrine means older men demonstrate temperance. Temperance means not indulging too much. For example, temperance means you may have an alcoholic beverage, but you never get drunk.

4. **<u>Dignified.</u>** Sound doctrine also means older men must act dignified. Dignity and sound doctrine go hand in hand. Sound doctrine also means older men live sound in the faith. Sound doctrine and sound faith also go hand in hand.

5. **Examples.** Sound doctrine also means older men demonstrate love. Men should always be leaders in love. Sound doctrine also means that older men exemplify perseverance. They keep going, even in persecution and affliction, and walking with Christ daily.

6. **<u>Practice.</u>** Living faithfully in the family of God means that older men practice sound doctrine in the way they live.

7. **<u>Renewed.</u>** I turned sixty last year and I am surely an older man. My body reminds me frequently that it has aged significantly. Happily, in Christ, my inner man is renewed day by day.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging older men to persevere in Godliness and love.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by acting like older men who love Jesus with all their hearts.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by thanking God for older men who have persevered over decades.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by acting like older men who love Jesus and do deeds consistent with their love. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by encouraging older men to hang in there with Jesus?

Day Nineteen Older Women Today



What should older women strive for? They should be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good.

Titus not only had to teach older men, but he also had to teach older women. His duty including teaching all kinds of saints how to overcome their evil tendencies. The qualities Titus had to teach were the opposite of the natural inclinations of older women.

Older women must be reverent, not doing things displeasing to God. They should honor God in all ways. They should be reverent in their relationships with family members. They should be reverent with their spouses. They should be reverent at home and away from home.

Older women should not be malicious gossips. They should not spread rumors, but instead speak the truth in love. Older women should not be enslaved to wine, but filled with the Holy Spirit. Older women should be teaching what is good. They should teach their children and grandchildren. They should teach everyone by example.

Older Women

1. <u>**Holy.**</u> Paul linked sound doctrine to the behavior of older women. Holy behavior supports teaching what is good.

2. **<u>Reverent.</u>** Older women must be reverent in their behavior. I hear older women use vulgar language. At times, they even take God's name in vain saying, "Oh, G--" and "My G--" and "Oh, L---," and "L---." Some older women say those phrases without even thinking about it.

3. <u>Not Gossips.</u> Older women must also avoid malicious gossip. Malice means deliberate evil intent. Gossip means talking about people and mentioning details that are not confirmed as true.

4. <u>Not Alcoholic.</u> Older women must avoid being enslaved to much wine. Believing alcoholics often bring shame upon the name of Jesus Christ. By His power, Jesus delivers believers from slavery to alcohol.

5. <u>**Teaching.**</u> Older women must teach what is good. Younger women and children should be constantly taught by both older men and older women. You may remember that Jesus said only God is good, so older women teach about God.

6. **Behavior.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that older women teach what is good, and avoid gossip and slavery to much wine, always being reverent in their behavior.

7. <u>Minister.</u> Many older women minister to younger women and children. They love to teach children the Bible, and see young children come to Christ for salvation. They also enjoy teaching younger women to love their husbands. We thank God for the faithful ministry of older women, who live in holiness before God.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging older women to put away the old self.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by encouraging older women to teach younger women how to walk worthy of Christ.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by loving older women and honoring them for their decades of service to Jesus.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by instructing older women to live faithful lives for Christ. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by encouraging older women to walk in love for God and their neighbors?

Day Twenty Young Women Today



What should older women do with younger women? Older women should encourage younger women to love their husband and their children.

Older women must take time to help younger women. They must help their daughters, their daughters-in-law, their young female friends and relatives. The older women have a duty to Christ to take care of the young women.

Notice that Titus had a duty to encourage the older women to encourage the younger women. Those younger women need to learn to love their husbands and their children. People often talk about a mother's love, but older women also must love their children. As some children grow older, they do things to drive relationships apart by their sinful behavior.

Paul instructed Titus to help the older women live for Jesus. Part of living for Jesus means that the older women help the younger women love their husbands, even the disobedient husbands. Older women must also help younger women love their children. Those children will have all kinds of problems, but older women have more mature spiritual relationships with God. That spiritual maturity may be used to the glory of God in building love in families of the younger women.

Encourage the Young Women

1. <u>**Help.**</u> Paul commands Titus to help the older women to encourage the younger women.

2. <u>Young Women.</u> Young women often face issues related to husbands and children. Older women, mature in their faith, should have a vital ministry in the lives of young women. All believers live in the same family of God. Notice that God did not focus upon mothers and daughters, but rather addressed older women and young women.

3. **Love.** The ministry of older women to young women centers upon love. You may recall that only people born of God and who know God can love. Older women promote and help sustain love in young women.

4. <u>**Husbands.**</u> Young women benefit from spiritual encouragement to love their husbands. Every husband benefits from the love of a believing wife. Older women can help young women grow their love for their husbands, no matter what. Please recall that filing for divorce is never an option for believers.

5. <u>Children</u>. Children also benefit from the love of their mothers. Older women can help young women grow their love for their children, no matter what. Love always seeks God's will in our lives.

6. <u>Encourage</u>. Living faithfully in the family of God means that older women make time to encourage young women (not necessarily mothers encouraging daughters) to love their husbands and children.

7. <u>Ministry.</u> I truly enjoy watching older women minister love to young women. Young women need help in loving their husbands and their children. We praise God for His specific plans to grow love in the family of God.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging older women to help the younger women live for Jesus.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by helping younger women listen to older women about loving their husbands and their children.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by promoting more love in the family of God, especially with older women helping younger women.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging the older women to spend time in the word and praying with younger women. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by helping the older women fulfill their duties to the younger women?

Day Twenty One The Word of God Today



What qualities should older women possess? Older women should be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands.

Older women must not retire from Christianity. No matter their age, older women still have vital ministries to the body of Christ. To pursue those ministries, they must avoid dishonoring the word of God.

Older women must be sensible, and not flighty. They must be workers at home, not letting others do all the work. The must be kind, not meanspirited. They must be subject to their own husbands in the Lord, even if those men are disobedient.

Older women must maintain excellent testimonies. When they are not sensible, not workers at home, not kind, and not subject to their own husbands, then they dishonor the word of God. When people of all ages claim to be disciples of Jesus, then their conduct becomes a matter of public concern. Their conduct also reflects upon the word of God. Living sinfully at any age dishonors the word of God.

Not Dishonored

1. <u>Sensible and Pure.</u> Older women must teach younger women to be sensible, meaning they act with wisdom and discretion. Older women must teach younger women also to be pure, meaning clean entirely.

2. <u>Workers.</u> Older women must teach younger women to be workers at home. We know that a Godly woman may consider a field and buy it, or bail her husband out of foolish mistakes.

4. <u>Kind.</u> Older women must also teach younger women to be kind, meaning loving and compassionate in all goodness. Older women must also teach younger women to live subject to their husbands. As Christ submits to His Father, so also wives submit to their own husbands.

5. <u>Glorify.</u> Older women and younger women glorify God and honor God when they demonstrate the qualities and actions described in this verse.

6. **Honor.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that older women teach younger women to avoid dishonoring God by the way they live. Older women must teach younger women to live to the glory and honor of God.

7. <u>Walk Worthy.</u> We rejoice in the ministry of all Godly women, especially when older Godly women encourage younger Godly women to walk worthy of Christ and live in sound doctrine.
- We live faithfully in the family of God by not dishonoring the word of God.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by encouraging older women to live sensibly, working at home, displaying kindness, and be subject to their own husbands.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by valuing older women who have vital ministries inside and outside the home.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging older women to continue to live to the glory of God. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by supporting older women as they seek to honor the word of God?

Day Twenty Two Young Men Today



What do you urge you men to do? Urge the young men to be sensible.

Both older women and young men need to be sensible. They also need urging to be sensible. Not matter your gender or age, we all need to be sensible. Sensible means discreet and self-controlled.

The ministries in the church do not always depend upon age. Titus as a young man had to teach and encourage older men and women and also do the same with younger men.

The body of Christ functions like a human body. Each member of the body of Christ supplies essential functions for the whole body. The eye sees, the hand holds, and the foot supports us. When members of our human body no longer function for any reason, we miss those functions. When it comes to muscles, they need training and exercise. So also the spiritual qualities God seeks to produce in our lives. Believers train one another to live to the glory of God, as each of us use our particular spiritual gifts in the different ministries God has entrusted to us.

Sensible Young Men

1. **<u>Behavior</u>**. Paul explained that sound doctrine relates directly to how we behave.

2. <u>Young Men.</u> After speaking to older men, older women, and younger women, Paul spoke to younger men.

3. **Example.** Apparently, Titus would have been in the category of "younger men." He would serve as a living example of living in sound doctrine for younger men.

4. <u>Sound Doctrine.</u> Sound doctrine means that younger men be sensible. As we have seen, sensible means living with prudence, discretion and wisdom.

5. <u>Life.</u> Many younger men today do not work, but are able to work. Some young men work, but do drugs or get drunk. Some young men live to the glory of God.

6. **Sensible.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that younger men are sensible. Their lives display sound doctrine, because our doctrine affects the way we live.

7. **Direction.** We rejoice that God understands both the differences and the commonalities among various age groups in the church. Each group, and all the church, must live in sound doctrine, to the glory of God. God gives specific directions for each group. As we live for God, our relationships with each other and with God grow into full maturity and greater glory for God.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging young men to live sensibly.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by remembering that young men need encouragement from all the members of the body of Christ.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by looking after the young men and helping them learn sensible behavior.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging young men to live sensibly. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by spending some time with young men?

Day Twenty Three All Things Today



What kind of example should Titus set? Titus should show himself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine and dignified.

Paul loved listing the specific spiritual qualities people should seek. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they will see new qualities emerging in their lives to the glory of God.

Paul emphasized showing yourself as an example. Titus could speak to different people about the commands of God. If the words of Titus did not match the deeds of Titus, then his ministry would be compromised. Paul charged Titus with the obligation to be an example to the flock.

You may recall that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples on the night He was arrested. He said that even though He was the master, He acted like a slave for their sakes. He left them an example to follow. Teaching will always include an element of being an example. Words and deeds must align to avoid hypocrisy. Paul also emphasized purity in doctrine and being dignified. Without those spiritual qualities, the ministry of Titus would not prosper. Doctrine always matters and we must learn the doctrines from the Bible. Without personal dignity, we all dishonor the word of God.

An Example of Good Deeds

1. <u>**Titus.</u>** In the preceding verse, we understood that Titus was probably a part of the group Paul referred to as "young men." Now Paul directs Titus be an example.</u>

2. <u>Example.</u> Titus should be an example of good deeds. While believers do not seek glory from men, we do act so that people will see our good works and glorify God.

3. <u>**Purity.</u>** Titus should also demonstrate purity in doctrine. Our actions always reflect our doctrine.</u>

4. **Doctrine.** Pure doctrine means we have not contaminated our doctrine with error or compromise. Titus must remain devoted to the doctrine he received from Paul, the apostles, and the Scriptures.

5. **<u>Dignity.</u>** Titus must also live dignified. Without dignity, we appear trashy and dishonorable.

6. **Demonstrate.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we encourage the young men to live in pure doctrine, demonstrating good deeds, and to be dignified.

7. **Encourage.** We rejoice today because God has great plans for young men. Growing up in Christ presents many challenges. God provides super power for young men to reach their full potential in Christ. We can all encourage them as they encourage us.

- ➢ We live faithfully in the family of God by setting a Godly example of good deeds for others to follow.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by our pure doctrine and personal dignity.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by encouraging others to be an example of good deeds, pure in doctrine, and dignified in all things.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by caring about the examples we set for one another. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by setting an example of good deeds, purity in doctrine, and dignity in all things?

Day Twenty Four Sound in Speech Today



Why must Titus be sound in speech? Titus must be sound in speech which is beyond reproach so that the opponent has nothing bad to say.

Paul charged Titus to be careful with his words. He must be sound in speech which is beyond reproach. Paul meant that Titus must choose his words so carefully that they could not be misconstrued. When people have a reputation for sound speech, their opponents are less likely to attack them over what they said.

Paul also wanted the opponents of Titus to be put to shame. People would know that Titus told the truth and was sound of speech. Even his opponents would have to confess that Titus was sound of speech.

Paul left Crete in the administrative hands of Titus. He was going to appoint elders in every city. What Titus said would matter greatly to many local assemblies. He must careful with his speech because many rebellious men would be ready to attack any misspoken words. Paul wanted the speech of Titus to put them to shame, because they would have nothing bad to say about Titus.

Nothing Bad

1. <u>Works.</u> Paul continued on the theme that sound doctrine must produce good works.

2. <u>Words.</u> Young men must be very careful in what they say. Words matter and bear upon your doctrine.

3. **Opponents.** Believers also face opponents. These people oppose Jesus and His work. So they also hate Christians, especially young men who speak up for Christ.

4. <u>Sound.</u> Young men, like elders, must be sound in speech which is beyond reproach. So often, people let their emotions cloud their speech. Hatred, bitterness, malice, envy and strife spew forth in the words of believers unsound in speech.

5. **Speech.** As our opponents spew forth, we put them to shame. We are sound in speech, and they become speechless. They have nothing bad to say about us.

6. <u>Fitting.</u> Living joyfully in the family of God means that we speak sound words, fitting with sound doctrine, putting our opponents to shame, because they have nothing bad to say about us.

7. <u>**Control.</u>** We rejoice in Christ because we can control our tongues. By the power of God, we speak words fitting for sound doctrine, putting our opponents to shame. Our tongues no longer have to rule our lives. Jesus now reigns in our hearts and controls our speech.</u>

- We live faithfully in the family of God by being sound in speech.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by putting our opponents to shame because they have nothing bad to say about us.
- ➢ We live together faithfully in the family of God by encouraging others to be sound in speech, because opponents will always be looking for a way to attack the family of God.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by being sound in speech. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by choosing your words so carefully that they will be beyond reproach?

5 Faithful Slaves Today

Even while enslaved to an earthly master, slaves must be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. Titus had to teach and exhort slaves to remain faithful to their earthly masters. They must also be well-pleasing and not argumentative. They must not pilfer, but show all good faith.

Governments and masters had nothing to fear from Christians. They were not teaching slaves to rebel against their earthly master, but to submit to their masters and to the government, in the Lord Jesus.

Paul emphasized that slaves should adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all respects. Though enslaved, they could do their work for their master, while knowing that the grace of God has appeared, bringing them salvation.

Day Twenty Five Slaves Today



What did Paul urge slaves to do? Paul urged slaves to subject to their own master in everything.

Paul was talking to slaves. Nothing in the text indicates he was talking to slaves who had voluntarily chosen to continue in slavery to their masters as in Exodus 21. Some saints were slaves. Those slaves must be subject to their masters in all things.

Paul did not urge slaves to rebel because Christ had sent them free from the law of sin and death. Paul urged the saints to continue in subjection to their masters, and to be well-pleasing and not argumentative.

Paul essentially commanded those slaves to be model slaves. They were going to be like Christ to their masters. They were going to live in subjection and take orders well. They were to be so obedient that they would be wellpleasing to their masters. They would also be affirmative, and not argumentative. They would not be talking back and being disrespectful of their masters. Paul cared about slaves, and they too had important ministries for Christ.

Subject

1. <u>Attention.</u> Paul directed the attention of Titus to a group often disdained by society, and sometimes by Christians also.

2. <u>Slaves.</u> The term "slave" implies voluntary service, after being granted freedom (see Exodus 21:1-11). God purchased us and freed us from slavery to sin. At the moment of salvation, we became slaves of Christ. We are slaves (not slaves) of Jesus, because He bought us with His precious blood and we are compelled to serve Him. If we forsake service to Him, then we sin. Jesus never showed partiality in dealing with people. He treated all people the same. Notice that slaves were a group recognized in the New Testament assemblies, who welcomed them in Christ.

3. **Subject.** Slaves must be subject to their masters, just as Jesus will one day subject Himself and all things to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:28).

4. <u>Well-Pleasing</u>. Slaves must also be well-pleasing. Paul used this same idea to describe how the believer offers himself as a living sacrifice to God, so that through the renewal of the mind, the believer proves that the will of God is well-pleasing (acceptable) (Romans 12:2).

5. <u>Not Argumentative.</u> Slaves must also never be argumentative. The desire to assert one's own will often cause senseless arguments and harms a good testimony for Christ.

6. <u>**Pleasing.**</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we live as slaves to Jesus. So, at work or away from work, we must strive to be subject to people appointed by God to be in authority over us, and we must be well-pleasing and never be argumentative.

7. <u>**Power.**</u> We rejoice today that God provides divine power to subject ourselves to our bosses and all masters over us. We must always be well-pleasing, without hypocrisy. We must never be known as argumentative,

although we strive to present a defense of the hope that is in us through Jesus Christ and seek to share our faith.

Summary for Today

- We live faithfully in the family of God by encouraging slaves to be subject to their masters in all things.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God when we serve our masters trying to be well-pleasing to them and not argumentative.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by supporting the slaves and masters, urging each of them to love the other and remember all saints are slaves of Christ Jesus.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by urging slaves to be in subjection to their own masters. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by encouraging slaves and masters to be obedient to Jesus Christ?

Day Twenty Six All Good Faith Today



What does good faith mean for slaves? Good faith means that you do not pilfer from your master.

Pilfering means you steal small amounts of things. You may think if you just steal a little at the time, no one will notice. God always notices. He commanded all people not to steal. Do not take something that belongs to someone else.

Good faith means that you deal with someone else like you would deal with God. You treat them fairly and render to them a fair deal. By acting in good faith, without pilfering, slaves will adorn the doctrine of God.

Adorn in this case means that your good works will bear bright testimony to the doctrine of God, like wearing beautiful clothes. The beautiful clothes testify to the designers and workers who made the clothes. So also the good faith and good works of the slaves testify to the doctrine of God they follow in their lives. Doctrine should have an impact upon your life every day. In fact, most people live out their doctrine of God every day. If you believe you can get away with pilfering, then you are living out your doctrine about God. You believe He does not care. God remains always gracious, but He does care about the saints and their testimonies. He disciplines His own.

Adorn the Doctrine

1. <u>**Teaching.**</u> Paul continued teaching on sound doctrine for slaves.

2. **Not Pilfering.** Slaves must avoid pilfering, which means stealing small amounts. Slaves should never steal, no matter how small the money, the supplies, the time, or other things.

3. **Faith.** Slaves must live in good faith. Many contracts in modern law have an implied covenant of good faith dealing between the parties, even if the written contract never mentions it. So, the parties must strive to be honest and have good intentions. Likewise, we must deal with masters, and everyone, in honesty and with good intentions. We should also be careful what ornaments we hang on the Christmas tree for everyone to see. Let me explain what I mean.

4. <u>Adornment.</u> Have you ever hung a picture on a wall? If so, you adorned the wall by making it more attractive and beautiful. Think of hanging ornaments on a Christmas tree. You adorn the tree with ornaments.

5. **Doctrine.** Slaves adorn the doctrine of God by living out their sound doctrine. Their conduct toward masters demonstrates the beauty of sound doctrine and makes it more attractive. Our conduct should always glorify the beauty of God our Savior in every respect. Our behavior should always adorn the doctrine with glory and never shame. Be careful what you hang on your Christmas tree of life.

6. <u>Good Works.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means we never pilfer, but always live in good faith, so that we adorn God our Savior with the good works which He prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

7. <u>Glorify God.</u> We rejoice in adorning the doctrine of God today. In every respect, as one united family of God, we strive in good faith to glorify God in every respect.

Summary for Today

- > We live faithfully in the family of God by adorning the doctrine of God by not pilfering from others.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by dealing in good faith with everyone so that we adorn the doctrine of God.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by thanking Jesus that He loves for His children to adorn the doctrine of God in all things.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and avoid all kinds of pilfering?

6 Faithful Appearing Today

Titus had to instruct saints to live faithful lives because the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men. That same grace of God also enables all saints to live faithfully in the family of God.

The grace of God also instructs saints to deny unGodliness and worldly desires. Saints must live sensibly, righteously and Godly in the present age. Paul also emphasized hope. Saints are looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus. He gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed. He purified for Himself a people for His own possession. We are zealous for good works.

Paul commanded Titus to speak and exhort and reprove will all authority. Paul further commanded Titus: "Let no one disregard you." Paul gave Titus complete instructions for today, based upon hope for the future and promised return of Jesus. When He comes, His glory will appear. Until then, we live for Jesus.

Day Twenty Seven Grace of God Today



Why did the grace of God appear? The grace of God appeared, bringing salvation to all men.

Does that mean that everyone will be saved? No. Jesus brought salvation to all men by dying on the cross the for the sins of the whole world. His infinite sacrifice atoned for all sins. Yet, that sacrifice must be applied on an individual basis by grace through faith. You must still receive the free gift of eternal life and make that sacrificial death effective for you. You must receive Jesus as your Savior and be born again.

Paul emphasized that Jesus appeared to bring salvation to all men. Tragically, people reject Jesus and His free gift of salvation. By doing so, they store up anger for themselves to be revealed in the Day of Judgment. They will give an account and God will judge them according to their deeds. Those people who reject the free gift will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. Today we can share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He brought salvation for all men, but they must hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believe in Him for salvation. We must spread that Good News today. Our words must be consistent with deeds that adorn the doctrine of God.

Salvation for All Men

1. <u>**Grace.**</u> Paul emphasized the importance of every believer living in sound doctrine. Paul then expounded upon the truth that the grace of God appeared.

2. <u>**Truth.**</u> You may recall that John wrote when the Word became flesh and dwelt among them, they saw Him as full of grace and truth. In Jesus, we saw grace living in human flesh, and now in a glorified, resurrected body.

3. **<u>Appeared.</u>** Paul linked important truths to the grace of God appearing on earth, in the flesh. Because the grace of God appeared, that grace was bringing salvation to all men.

4. <u>**Result.**</u> Wait! Is Paul proclaiming that everyone is going to heaven because the grace of God appeared? No. Paul highlighted the result of the grace of God. That result means that salvation has been brought to all men. Men make individual decisions about receiving salvation as a free gift.

5. <u>Atonement.</u> Grace appeared, bring salvation for all men. Christ died for the sins of the whole world. The blood of Christ perfectly and completely atoned for the sins of the entire human population. Yet, each individual must join faith to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that faith is a gift of God.

6. <u>Salvation</u>. Living faithfully in the family of God means that we live because the grace of God appeared, bringing salvation to all men, especially to those who believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. <u>Faith.</u> We praise God for the grace embodied in Jesus Christ. Without faith, however, we would have no salvation. In Christ we stand saved and secure in grace.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by believing that the grace of God appeared bringing salvation to all men.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by sharing the good news that the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all men.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for bringing salvation to all men and saving our souls from an eternity in the Lake of Fire because He loved us and gave His life for ours.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by proclaiming that the grace of God has appeared. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and proclaim that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men?

Day Twenty Eight Instructing Us Today



What does the grace of God instruct us to do? The grace of God instructs us continually to deny unGodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and Godly in the present age.

If you think that the grace of God only covers your salvation, then ponder Titus 2:12. Paul explained that the grace of God has a continuing ministry in your life after your new birth into the family of God.

The grace of God instructs us to deny unGodliness. We no longer live like we have never experienced the grace of God. We no longer live in the unfruitful deeds of darkness.

The grace of God instructs us to deny worldly desires. God brings His power into our lives so that we live as the children of God who walk in the Light following Jesus each day. By the grace of God, we avoid indulging our worldly desires that lead us into sin so that we live like unbelievers. The grace of God instructs us to live sensibly, righteously and Godly in the present age. By the grace of God, we enjoy self-control, deal righteously with everyone, and we adorn the doctrine of God in all things so that we live Godly in this present age.

Deny

1. <u>**Deny.**</u> The grace of God appeared and it is constantly instructing us. This instruction comes in several areas for all believers.

2. <u>Ungodliness.</u> Believers must deny unGodliness. We must never indulge unGodliness, but deny it at every turn.

3. <u>Worldly Desires.</u> Believers must also deny worldly desires. This world entices believers with the boastful pride of life, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes.

4. <u>Live Godly.</u> Believers must live sensibly. They must live with prudence and careful, thoughtful decisions.

5. <u>**Relationships.**</u> Living righteously means that we live in holy relationships with other people. We also live Godly in this present age. Our relationship with Christ must dictate our relationship with everyone else, and never vice versa.

6. <u>Embrace.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we embrace the instructions provided by the grace of God.

7. **Instruction.** We rejoice today in living in the grace of God which has appeared. God's grace instructs us continually in the decisions we make and the relationships we have. By His grace, we live in Jesus Christ.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by the grace of God changing our lives every day.
- ➢ We live more faithfully in the family of God by denying worldly desires and living by God's grace in this present age.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of Jesus Christ our Savior to produce Godliness in our lives each day.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by trusting the grace of God to produce Godliness in this present age. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by rejoicing in the grace of God active in your life today?

Day Twenty Nine The Blessed Hope Today



What should saints be looking for? Saints should be looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our Great God and Savior Christ Jesus.

Every saint needs hope and that hope must be fastened upon our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus is God and always has been God. As God, He took flesh and dwelt among men. He brought the grace of God in salvation to all men.

Saints look forward to the day of glory when Jesus will return to earth and set His feet on the Mount of Olives. He will return to establish His Millennial Reign upon the earth.

Because Jesus promised to return to earth in bodily form and reign from His throne in Jerusalem, we have hope for today. We are blessed by that hope. We look forward to the appearing of the glory of Jesus our Savior coming back to earth. He will rule the nations with a rod of iron, and lead His sheep personally as we serve Him in resurrected bodies on earth. We look at Jesus as both our great God and our Savior. He could not be the one without the other. Because He is God, He is our Savior. Because He is our Savior, He is our God. Jesus fulfilled His word and will do so again and again.

Our Great God and Savior

1. <u>**Grace.**</u> Paul described the results of the grace of God appearing. One of those results concerns "looking."

2. **Looking.** Looking for what? We are looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

3. <u>Blessed Hope.</u> As believers, we are continually looking for the blessed hope. Many believers fall into hopeless patterns of living because they have stopped looking for the blessed hope. They may be hoping for better days, but the grace of God prompts us to be looking for the blessed hope, a better hope than all other hopes and dreams.

4. **<u>Appearing</u>**. Notice the relationship between the grace of God appearing (Titus 2:11) and the glory of God appearing (Titus 2:13). Our hope remains fixed on the future day when our Savior will return in glory and we will reign with Him on earth--our blessed hope.

5. <u>God.</u> Please notice too that the Holy Spirit chose the following words: "our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." This title emphasizes Jesus is the great God, filled with and radiating divine glory. Jesus is also our Savior, who came to suffer in the flesh, bringing salvation to all men (Titus 2:11), with glory to follow.

6. **Savior.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that by the grace of God, we have a blessed hope that sparkles in our lives with dazzling beauty. We are looking for the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

7. <u>**Glory.**</u> We rejoice in the appearing of the grace of God as we are looking for the future glory of Christ, the great God and our Savior. Praise Jesus and look for the blessed hope today.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by having our hope steadfast in Jesus, our Great God and Savior.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by sharing our hope with other people who have no hope.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by loving Jesus for always keeping His promises and providing hope that endures because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by holding fast our hope in the glory of the appearing of our Great God and Savior, Christ Jesus. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by enjoying your hope in Jesus today?

Day Thirty Gave Himself Today



Why did Christ Jesus give Himself for us? He gave Himself for us to redeem us.

Christ Jesus gave Himself to redeem us from every lawless deed. No sin, great or small, escaped the redemption of Christ Jesus. He covered every sin and not a single sin was left out of His redemptive work. The entire slate of evil deeds was wiped clean by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Christ Jesus not only redeemed us, but He also cleansed us for Himself as a people for His own possession. Just as Jesus cleansed the eleven disciples through the word spoken to them, so also He has cleansed us by that same word of salvation contained in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ Jesus redeemed us and cleansed us so that we would be His own possession. He bought us with the price of redemption, His own precious blood. That blood offering cost Him His life. He poured out His life blood so that we would be washed clean in that blood and every sin removed forever as far as the east is from the west. Christ Jesus also redeemed us so that we would be a people zealous for good deeds. He did not save us to ride clouds of blue chiffon. He saved us to be His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we would walk in them.

God Gave Himself

1. <u>**Redemption.**</u> Paul explained the core of salvation in writing about redemption.

2. <u>**God Gave.**</u> God gave Himself for us. This central truth changes everything. Salvation means God gave Himself. We give nothing when it comes to salvation.

3. <u>**God Bought.**</u> God gave Himself to accomplish two divine goals. First, God gave Himself to redeem us from every lawless deed. Redemption relates to buying something, even a human slave, for a price. We were bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

4. <u>Believers.</u> Second, God gave Himself to purify for Himself a people for His own possession. Notice that God acts here for Himself, but not selfishly. As believers, God washed away all our stinky sins so that we would be His possession. God bought us and owns us. We are now bright and shiny believers, because we have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ.

5. <u>Zeal.</u> As believers bought by God and now united to Him as His people, we have a zeal to do good works. Instead of the lawless works we once indulged, we now live with zestful desire to do good works to the glory of God. We eagerly seek to do His will.

6. **Eager.** Living faithfully in the family of God means we live as the redeemed possession of God, eager to do good works prepared by God that we should walk in them.

7. <u>Good Works.</u> We rejoice in the truth that God gave Himself for us. Yet, His giving only opened the door to a new life with Christ in us. He now possesses each one of us as His beloved child, and we love doing good works in Him.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by being zealous for good works.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God as we remember that Jesus redeemed us and cleansed us.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for redeeming us and cleansing us so that we would be His people for His eternal possession.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God being zealous for good works. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by thanking Jesus for redeeming us and cleansing us so that we may be His own possession?

Day Thirty One All Authority Today



How should Titus exercise authority among the assemblies? He should exercise authority by speaking, exhorting and reproving with all authority.

Titus had to appoint elders in every city. He had the authority of the apostolic teaching, which we have today in the Bible. He had to talk with the elders and assemblies to train them in following the ways of God.

Titus had to speak. He did not have the option of simply ignoring problems. He had to silence some rebellious men and he had to encourage the entire assemblies to walk with God.

Titus had to exhort. The term "exhort" has many uses in the New Testament. It meant to build up people and to confront them when necessary. The purpose is to encourage believers to do good works and leave behind bad works.

Titus had to reprove. The term "reprove" means to expose a fault and then help solve it. By reproving someone you intend to build them up by understanding their sin and then confessing and overcoming that sin.

Titus must not allow people to disregard his authority. By relying upon apostolic teaching, Titus had to enforce obedience to God's revelation to the apostles.

Disregard

1. **Doctrine.** Titus received plenty of teaching in the first two chapters regarding sound doctrine. Now he was commanded to use it in the churches of Crete.

2. **Speak.** First, Titus must speak. Likewise, we all must speak the things God revealed in the Bible for sound doctrine.

3. <u>Exhort.</u> Second, Titus must exhort. The term exhort has broad meaning in the New Testament: preach, urge, implore, demand.

4. **<u>Reprove.</u>** Third, Titus must reprove. This term means to convict, to demonstrate the error of something, to point out what is wrong.

5. <u>Authority.</u> Taken together, Titus must speak up, encourage the good, and confront the evil. He used the teaching of this epistle as his standard of sound doctrine, just like we turn to the Bible to know sound doctrine. Because Titus relied upon the doctrine revealed by God, he must act with the authority of God, so that no one may disregard him.

6. <u>**Basis.**</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that each believer speaks up, exhorts and reproves other believers, based upon the word of God, with His full authority.

7. **<u>God's Word.</u>** We rejoice today knowing that God loves for His children to live in sound doctrine. We speak with His authority and no one should disregard us when we act on the authority of the word of God.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by speaking, exhorting and reproving believers.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God as we follow apostolic instructions contained the in Bible.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by recognizing the authority of God's word and encourage one another to follow it.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by obedience to the Scriptures and their instructions for daily living. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by speaking, exhorting and reproving another saint to build up the family of God?

7 Faithful Subjection

Saints must live in faithful subjection to rulers and authorities. Living in the Roman empire put some pressure on saints. Over time, the pressure upon believers because more intense and persecutions drove Christians to new places. They brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

Saints must live in faithful obedience. They should not hold a reputation for defying government and rulers, unless they do so by clear command from God. You may recall Jeremiah telling the people heading to captivity in Babylon to pray for prosperity there. So also Paul gave a similar message not to incite rebellion.

Saints must ready for every good work. If they are arrested for murder, theft, or other crimes, then they will not be good witnesses for Jesus. They will not be ready for good works, but awaiting trial. Paul also described that subjection to include maligning no one, to be peaceable, gentle and showing every consideration for all men. Paul reminded all saints how evil their lives were before they came to Christ as Savior. They used to be enslaved to various lusts and pleasure.

Day Thirty Two Remind Them Today



What must the saints remember? Paul commanded Titus to remind the saints to follow his apostolic teaching.

Paul specifically mentioned being subject to rulers and authorities. Christians must be no cause for alarm to the governing authorities, because God appointed them to serve Him. Slaves should also be subject to their masters.

Paul also required saints to be obedient. They must be obedient to God first, and then others as directed by God. Saints should respect the elders who teach, exhort and reprove according to the Scriptures.

Paul also commanded saints to be ready for every good deed. When saints live in sinful habits, their usefulness to God wanes. They must live cleansed lives so that God may use them for every good work. Titus had to model these qualities for the assemblies. His devotion to God would have a big impact upon other believers. If Titus strayed from the truth, then many saints in other assemblies would be affected by his bad conduct.

Be Subject

1. **Be Subject.** Paul reminded Titus to be subject. The term "subject" means to obey, to follow the directions of another. This same root term describes how Jesus will be subjected to the Father in the future (1 Corinthians 15:28).

2. <u>**Rulers.**</u> Believers must be subject to rulers. This term refers to positions of power.

3. <u>Authorities.</u> Believers must also be in subjection to authorities. This same term is used of authoritative teaching, the authority of a commanding officer, authority over demons, disease and all matters of life and death. Therefore, all persons with such power should be obeyed, as a general rule.

4. <u>**Obedient.**</u> Believers must also be obedient. This general word means we should obey the people God puts in charge.

5. **<u>Prepared.</u>** Believers must also be ready (prepared) for every good work. God ties our obedience and submission to being ready and prepared to serve God. We serve by following Jesus, denying ourselves, and taking up our cross daily.

6. <u>Good Work.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we obey rulers, authorities and obey God. We remain prepared for every good work.

7. <u>Like Jesus.</u> We rejoice in our obedience and submission. We live like Jesus, doing the will of the Father. As Daniel showed, at times we must follow God if obedience to anyone else means we forsake obedience to God first. In Christ, we obey Him and rejoice always.
- We live faithfully in the family of God by obedience to rulers and authorities, prepared for every good work.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God as we understand that our ministries benefit from avoiding needless conflict with government authorities.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by promoting submission to ruling authorities unless those authorities order saints to oppose God's will.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by obeying rulers, as in the Lord. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by thanking God for rulers who protect the rights of Christians?

Day Thirty Three Malign No One Today



How should Titus interact with ruling authorities? Titus should show every consideration for ruling authorities.

Titus had to deal with a Roman government. The emperor of Rome often portrayed himself as a god. Rome exercised its power to persecute saints, and a Roman governor condemned Jesus to death.

Paul had much experience with Roman government. At times they helped him and at times they opposed him. Paul gave Titus commands inspired from God concerning how to deal with governments.

Paul commanded Titus to avoid maligning people, but particularly not to malign governments. Stirring up government opposition would be counter-productive to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples and planting new assemblies. Paul also commanded Titus to be peaceable and gentle. When the population knows that saints have a reputation for love, then their peaceful and gentle ways support their general submission to ruling authorities.

Titus also had to teach the assemblies to show every consideration for all men, not just ruling authorities. Everyone deserves consideration.

Consideration for All Men

1. <u>Instruction.</u> Paul instructed Titus about living for Jesus Christ, and part of the ministry of Titus included teaching other people.

2. <u>**Responsibility.**</u> As believers, we all have a responsibility to make disciples, which involves teaching the disciples to live for Jesus.

3. <u>Disciples.</u> We must teach disciples to be gentle and malign no one. Gentle means we avoid pushing too hard. Malign here means not to blaspheme, not to speak evil of, and to avoid evil words.

4. **<u>Peaceable.</u>** We must teach disciples to be peaceable. Often we may avoid sharp words by seeking peace with other believers.

5. <u>**Considerate.</u>** We must teach disciples to show consideration for all men. Some people only consider their own desires, without giving any thought to what other people may want. Other people do not consider how their actions may have a very negative impact on other people.</u>

6. <u>Life.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we must never malign anyone, be peaceable, and show consideration for all men (not just believers).

7. **Power.** We rejoice today because God promised us His unlimited power to avoid speaking bad words, so that we may live in peace, always considering others before we act or speak, so that we may be a blessing to them.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by being gentle and peaceful, and showing consideration to all men.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by promoting consideration for all men in the local assembly.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God by being gentle and peaceful with each other, showing every consideration for others in all things.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by being gentle and peaceful with other all people, even those who oppose us. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by showing consideration for all men?

Day Thirty Four Disobedient Today



What were we like before we were born of God? We were engaged in all kinds of evil.

Before we were born from above, we were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved to various lusts and pleasures. When we forget what we used to be like before Christ came into our lives, then we do not appreciate the grace of God actively working in our lives.

Before we were born from above, we spent our lives in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. We did not love people, because only the people who know God love. When we let malice, envy and hate dominate our lives, then we are no longer acting like saints.

Paul wrote these things to Titus to remind him of our past. If our present looks identical to our past, then things have not changed enough. At times, saints fall back into evil behavior, but God is faithful to discipline His children so that they forsake their sin and serve Him.

As saints, we are no longer enslaved to sin. We no longer have to participate in all the things the world values. Instead we follow Jesus and live for Him, putting away the evil things once charactering our lives.

Once Were

1. <u>We Were.</u> Paul reminded Titus of all the evil things we once were. Notice we did not do bad things, we were those evil things. Now, however, we have been redeemed from great evils in our lives and should never forget the grace and forgiveness of God.

2. **<u>Disobedient.</u>** We once were foolish and disobedient. Many foolish people I know pretend to know things, but actually know nothing. Likewise, they also boast of disobedience to parents, government, and God Himself, as if disobedience were a virtue.

3. **Enslaved.** We once were deceived and enslaved to various lusts and pleasures. Deceived means you do not know that you believe lies. Enslaved to various lusts and pleasures means your cravings control all you do, like a master controls a slave. You lived to enjoy your pleasures and indulged your lusts, without a single thought about Jesus and His plans for your life.

4. <u>Malicious.</u> We once spent our life in malice and envy. Malice means acting with evil intention. Envy means you want what others have with evil desire. You lived with evil motivating your thoughts, actions, and words. You lived wanting to take what belonged to others.

5. <u>Hateful.</u> We once lived in hate, as hateful people, hating one another. Living in hate means we have a profound lack of love. Instead of seeking the will of God for others, our own wants and pleasures ruled our lives.

6. **Before.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we have a keen, Godly memory of who we once were, before Jesus became our Lord and Savior.

7. <u>New.</u> We rejoice today in knowing we no longer are what we once were. By the glory of God, we now live for Jesus. We became new creatures in Jesus, and all the old things passed away.

Summary for Today

- We live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that we once acted as slaves of sin.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God as we consider our former manner of life and its sinful habits.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by loving God and loving our neighbor which keeps us from falling back into our old sinful habits.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that were disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by praising Jesus that He changed everything at the moment of salvation?

8 Faithful Kindness Today

Saints must remember the appearing of the faithful kindness of God our Savior and love for people. God saved us by His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Holy Spirit. Our deeds done in righteousness played no part in salvation. God poured the Holy Spirit upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. We have been justified by His grace and made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Paul commanded Titus to speak about these trustworthy statements with confidence, so that believers will be careful to engage in good deeds.

Saints should avoid foolish controversies, which are unprofitable and worthless. Saints should reject a factious man after a first and second warning. Such men are perverted and are sinning, being self-condemned. Saints should remember those factious men and warn them and then reject them after two warnings.

Day Thirty Five The Kindness Today



When Jesus took flesh and dwelt among us, what appeared? The kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared.

As God, Jesus always existed. He took flesh and came to earth, where He lived as human being. He brought the kindness of God our Savior with Him. Jesus healed people, proclaimed good news to the poor, healed the lame, gave sight to the blind, cast out demons, and ultimately gave Himself up as the perfect and complete sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus was known for His kindness. He said that He did the works of His Father. Therefore, we know that Jesus was reflecting the kindness of God the Father by doing the works of the Father.

Jesus also loved all mankind. He loved us so much that He laid down His soul for us. No one took it from Him. He drank the cup His Father set before Him because He loved us, just as the Father also loved us and did not spare His only Son. Jesus loved the Pharisees and repeatedly explained the way of salvation to them. He lovingly confronted them with their blindness and sinfulness and offered Himself as the way for them to go to heaven. He loved Samaritans which everyone else disdained. He loved lepers and allowed them to touch Him. Unclean people came near to Him, and He loved them. When others tried to keep people away from Jesus, He allowed them to draw near. Jesus was kind to everyone because He loved all mankind, just like His Father.

But When

1. <u>**Time.</u>** Paul often emphasized timing. God acts on His own sovereign timetable, at just the right time.</u>

2. <u>**Hope.**</u> In this case, Paul has already presented the blessed hope of the future appearing of Christ with glory. Paul then looked back at our salvation, as the moment we stopped living for ourselves and turned to God.

3. <u>**Kindness.</u>** Paul chose the word "kindness" to describe the God who came as our Savior.</u>

4. <u>**Coming.</u>** Paul also chose the phrase "love for mankind" to highlight the great event of Christ coming as Savior.</u>

5. <u>Salvation.</u> Taking these two ideas together, we see that God brings salvation with His divine kindness and motivated by His great love for mankind. What a wonderful Savior indeed!

6. <u>Eternal Life.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we look back at both the kindness and love of God our Savior. Because Jesus came as Savior, we have eternal life in the family of God.

7. **<u>Appeared.</u>** We rejoice today knowing that God our Savior demonstrated His kindness and great love for us by giving His Son to die as our Savior. Jesus not only died, but He also rose from the dead, to come again in glory. Until then, we live in freedom from our old ways of life, under the Lordship of Christ our Savior. Jesus appeared at just the right time as Savior.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by adoring God our Savior for His kindness and love for all mankind.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by remembering that Jesus appeared, and He is the embodiment of kindness and love.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by stimulating one another to act with the kindness and love for all mankind Jesus demonstrated.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by demonstrating the love and kindness God first showed to us. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by loving others like God loves you and showing the kindness that God shows to you every day?

Day Thirty Six He Saved Us Today



How did Jesus save us? Jesus saved us according to His mercy.

Jesus did not save us on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness. All of our righteousness is as filthy rags to God. We have no natural ability to redeem ourselves from the penalty of sin. Before salvation, we were dead in our trespasses and sins. We were without hope in this world.

Jesus saved us according to His mercy. He withheld the punishment we deserved. We earned the wages of sin, which is death. We all deserved the death penalty because we have all sinned and we all fall short of the glory of God.

Jesus saved us by the washing of regeneration. We were born of the seed of God. We became brand new creatures at the moment of salvation. New things have come and the old things have passed away. The washing of regeneration means that we were born from above and we were washed in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit took up permanent residence in our lives. Our bodies because His temple. By the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit our lives will now be acceptable to God.

His Mercy

1. <u>God.</u> God saved us. This profound spiritual truth changes everything. God did not save us because of our good deeds done in righteousness.

2. <u>Mercy.</u> God saved us because of His mercy. Mercy means God withheld the punishment we deserved--the death penalty.

3. <u>**Regenerated.</u>** God also regenerated us. At the moment of salvation, we became new creatures in Christ, born of the seed of God. Notice that the washing of regeneration makes us holy and clean.</u>

4. **<u>Renewed.</u>** We are also renewed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit renews us by His divine ministry in our lives.

5. <u>Salvation</u>. As we look back at salvation, we see the powerful and perfect work of God in us to make us new creations, according to the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

6. **Power.** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we enjoy the mercy of God that regenerated us and renewed us, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. <u>Secure.</u> We rejoice today because we remain secure in our salvation. God saved us, regenerated us, and washed us, all in the Holy Spirit. God now lives in us, and we are new in Him, sparkling clean.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that God saved us according to His mercy.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by praising God for His great mercy.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by rejoicing in the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by praising God for saving us by His mercy and not by our works. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by bowing your heart before Jesus and praising Him for the power of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit?

Day Thirty Seven Poured Out Today



Who was poured out richly upon us? The Holy Spirit was poured out by God.

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit took up residence in our lives. He now indwells every believer. He lives inside of us.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. He commanded His disciples to wait until the Holy Spirit had come upon them to go out witnessing for Him. The Holy Spirit came down upon them at Pentecost. He spread among them as tongues of fire.

God poured out the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Jesus has not been born of God. Every child of God has been born of the Holy Spirit and baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

God did not give us just a drop or moment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came into our lives and changed us forever. His indwelling presence leads us into all truth and helps us to know the deep things of God. He also intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. The fruit of the Holy Spirit blesses us in many different ways. We have also been sealed with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption.

Richly

1. <u>Holy Spirit.</u> The Holy Spirit ministers in our lives every day, often unnoticed.

2. <u>**Perspective.**</u> God poured out the Holy Spirit in our lives. From God's perspective, He poured the Holy Spirit into our lives. From our perspective, we are baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

3. <u>Sealed.</u> God seals our lives with the Holy Spirit, awaiting the day of redemption. God commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

4. <u>**Trinity.</u>** Every believer receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit is a Person and one of the three divine Persons composing the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One God, eternally existing in three divine Persons. Remember the baptism of Jesus, the Dove, and the Father speaking from heaven.</u>

5. <u>**Poured Out.**</u> Notice the role that Jesus plays in people receiving the Holy Spirit. God the Father poured out the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. God only pours out the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ as Savior. If you are not born again by faith in Jesus, then God has not poured out the Holy Spirit upon you.

6. <u>Indwells Us.</u> Living joyfully in the family of God means we know the Holy Spirit indwells each one of us. We see His fruit in our lives.

7. <u>**Comforts Us.**</u> We rejoice today in the comfort, love and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In Him, we glorify God and enjoy God forever.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by remembering that God poured the Holy Spirit upon us richly.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God as we live in the power of the Holy Spirit each day.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by enjoying the Holy Spirit living within us.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by thanking God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and spend time with the Holy Spirit today?

Day Thirty Eight Justified by His Grace Today



Why are saints heirs of eternal life? Saints are heirs of eternal life because we have been justified by His grace.

Having been justified by His grace, we were made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. We know that Jesus said eternal life was knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent. Jesus also said that eternal life may be defined as everyone who lives and believes will never die.

Because the Holy Spirit has been poured out in our hearts, we have hope that will not disappoint. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives brings hope and peace and joy and comfort and many other things. In particular, His presence brings hope of eternal life.

We only have eternal life because Jesus gave us the free gift of eternal life. He gave us that gift of eternal life by His mercy, not as a reward for any works we have done. We praise Jesus today for sending the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit lives within us, we have hope unlike anything the world has to offer. Our hope remains bright and strong because the Holy Spirit testifies of our eternal life because we are the children of God, adopted into God's family. We have become heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ Jesus.

Made Heirs

1. <u>Links.</u> Paul links great truths to our daily lives.

2. **Justification.** Justification means that God has declared us to be acquitted of the guilt of all our sins and the death penalty. Think legal proceeding and a courtroom. Only through Jesus Christ can anyone receive justification.

3. <u>**Grace.**</u> Justification only comes by the grace of God. We are guilty sinners before God, deserving the death penalty. Only because Jesus paid our sin debt in full, and gave His life to pay the death penalty we deserved, can God acquit us of all condemnation and declare us acquitted of all charges.

4. <u>**Heirs.</u>** Because we have been acquitted, God has made us heirs of God. Imagine having that day in court. You enter the courtroom guilty of all crimes and leave having been acquitted on all counts plus declared an heir of God. Praise God for His grace!</u>

5. **Hope.** All of these blessings from God mean we live according to the hope of eternal life. When we let the great truths of justification and being an heir of God sink into our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have tremendous joy, hope and peace with God. We look forward in hope to eternal life. Our hope of eternal life rests upon the eternal truths God revealed in the Bible, the Word of God.

6. <u>Eternal Life.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means we live in the grace of justification and being an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

7. <u>Live Accordingly.</u> We rejoice today in the grace of justification, making us heirs of God, so that we live according to the hope of eternal life.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by praising God that we are heirs of God by His grace.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by rejoicing in our hope of eternal life.
- > We live together faithfully in the family of God as we enjoy the bond of fellowship we have as people justified by His grace.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by rejoicing in the grace of God which justified us. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and worship God for making us heirs according to the hope of eternal life?

Day Thirty Nine Trustworthy Statement Today



What should saints be careful to do? Saints should be careful to engage in good deeds.

Paul stressed the theology of mercy and grace for salvation. He specifically denied that our works of righteousness played any part in our salvation. He emphasized that God saved us by His grace and mercy, not our works.

Paul then stressed good works for saints. Good works never play a part in salvation, but good works must play a part in the lives of all saints after salvation. In other words, saints must engage in good deeds.

Paul commanded Titus to speak confidently regarding the trustworthy statements of the apostles. The people in all the assemblies needed to hear Titus speaking confidently about mercy, grace, salvation and eternal life. They needed to hear about Jesus and His Father and the Holy Spirit. People who have believed must be careful to engage in good deeds. Titus must heed the instructions from Paul about speaking, because doing good works will be good and profitable for the saints. Saints will have better lives for God and His ministry as saints do the works of God.

Good and Profitable

1. <u>**Trustworthy.**</u> Paul proclaimed that his epistle was a trustworthy statement. He meant that we too must trust every statement of God as true.

2. <u>**Confident.**</u> Titus must speak confidently. Because we rely upon trustworthy statements breathed out from God, we must sound confident.

3. **Speak.** When we confidently speak the truth, then believers must be careful to engage in good deeds.

4. <u>Seek.</u> Men seek good and profitable things after they receive salvation as a free gift of God.

5. **Engage.** Have you considered your confidence today? Are you speaking up for God, so that believers are careful to engage in good deeds?

6. <u>Good Deeds.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we speak confidently the trustworthy statements from the Word of God, so the people will do good and see profit from God in their lives.

7. **Profitable.** We rejoice today because God wants to build up our lives with His goodness and profit. God commanded us to speak with confidence so that other believers will engage in good deeds.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by being careful to do good works.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by leading good and profitable lives by doing good works for God.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by urging other saints to be careful to do good works, because their lives will be good and profitable for God and the family of God.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by being careful to do good works. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by leading a good and profitable life of good works?

Day Forty

Foolish Controversies Today



Why should believers avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law? Because they are unprofitable and worthless.

Paul commanded Titus to avoid foolish things. Disputes and strife about the Law of Moses were unprofitable and worthless. They were worthless because Christ has appeared bringing salvation to all men. The Law of Moses could not and did not save anyone. It only provided a reminder of how sinful people are year by year. If salvation came through the Law of Moses, then Christ died needlessly.

Paul wanted Titus to understand that those preaching that circumcision under the Law of Moses was essential to salvation, were misleading people and upsetting entire families. Controversies about genealogies and the Law of Moses produced nothing good, profitable or worthwhile. Paul wanted Titus to avoid all such disputes. Titus must focus upon sound doctrine. The Law of Moses pointed to Christ coming and fulfilling its purpose. Christ our Savior has appeared and finished the work of salvation once and for all. What the blood of bulls and goats could never accomplish, Christ did with His death on the cross.

Unprofitable and Worthless

1. <u>Worthless.</u> Paul warned Titus to avoid four sources of problems. He described them as unprofitable and worthless.

2. <u>**Controversies.**</u> First, Paul commanded Titus to avoid foolish controversies. Perhaps all of the things in this verse pertain to the Law of Moses. In any case, wasting time with foolish controversies will always be a bad idea.

3. <u>**Genealogies.**</u> Second, Titus must avoid genealogies. You may recall that Jesus emphasized a spiritual family of believers who do the will of God.

4. <u>Strife.</u> Third, strife must be avoided. Angry words between believers often do not glorify God.

5. <u>**Disputes.**</u> Fourth, disputes about the Law of Moses must be avoided. Believers have been freed from the Law of Moses, because Christ came and fulfilled every requirement of the Law for us. He even became a curse for us. So, never waste time with disputes about the Law.

6. <u>Avoid</u>. Living faithfully in the family of God means that we avoid conflicts before they even start. We stay away from unprofitable and worthless conversations.

7. **Unprofitable.** We rejoice today in God's wisdom in directing us away from things that cause problems, dissensions, and factions because they are unprofitable and worthless to start with. God wants our time and talk to glorify Him in all things.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by avoiding foolish controversies about the Law.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by avoiding all unprofitable and worthless disputes and strife.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by avoiding foolish controversies and unprofitable and worthless disputes.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by avoiding unprofitable and worthless disputes. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by focusing upon trustworthy statements and avoiding foolish controversies about the Law?

Day Forty One Warning Today



What do you do with a factious man? Titus must reject a factious man after a first and second warning.

Jesus emphasized unity among His children. He said that they should be one even as He was One with His Father. The world would see their unity and so the world might believe that the Father sent Jesus.

Factious men divide the body of Christ. The factions represent different beliefs and different practices. All beliefs and practices must come from God, and not human traditions. God provided apostolic leadership for the early church. Titus could look to Paul the apostle for guidance. Today we look to the Bible for guidance. We do not look to the commandments of men or the traditions of men.

Titus had a duty to warn factious men. If they continued dividing the Body of Christ into factions, then they must be rejected and removed from the assembly. Paul told Titus to reject them after a first and second warning. Therefore, we have a clear picture of church discipline and the way it works concerning false teachers. Warn them twice, and then reject them.

Reject a Factious Man

1. <u>Sound Doctrine.</u> Titus received many commands regarding sound doctrine. God revealed that sound doctrine includes how the believers act.

2. <u>Factions.</u> In some cases, some people divide believers into different groups. Think of those groups as factions.

3. <u>Interfere.</u> A "factious" man divides people into groups. The new group teaches its own ideas and interferes with the ministry of Christ.

4. **<u>Divide</u>**. The elders must warn the factious man to stop dividing believers so that they form a new group.

5. **Oppose.** The new group, a faction, opposes the ministry of Christ. It teaches the doctrine of men instead of the Word of God.

6. <u>Identify and Separate</u>. Living faithfully in the family of God means that you identify factious men and women and separate from them, after two warnings from the elders.

7. <u>Seek Unity.</u> We rejoice today in knowing that Jesus seeks absolute unity in the body of Christ, based upon fidelity to the Word of God. Factious people divide believers, must be warned to stop such behavior, and repent of their sin, or else be excluded from the fellowship. Jesus always seeks unity, based upon sound doctrine.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by rejecting a factious man after a first and second warning.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by warning factious men and not ignoring them.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by noting and warning factious men.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by warning factious men of their errors. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and avoid creating factions in the assembly?

Day Forty Two Perverted Today



What do we know about factious men? We know they are perverted and they are sinning.

Factious men are perverted because the subvert the unity of the body of Christ. They disturb whole families and separate believers from one another by teaching unfit things for sordid gain.

Factious men are self-condemned. Their teaching and behavior identify them as opponents of Jesus and sound teaching. They love to teach evil doctrine to mislead people.

Paul commanded Titus to warn factious men. Because they are perverted, they will draw other people into their perversions. They will attempt to divide the assembly in various factions.

Paul described the Corinthians as babes because of the factions among them. They were perverting the true teaching of Paul, Apollos and Jesus. They were leading themselves astray and forsaking the sound teaching they had received from Paul and his traveling companions. He urged them to leave their factions behind and unite in Christ. Paul was instructing Titus to remove the perverted men to promote unity in the body of Christ.

Self-Condemned

1. <u>Factious.</u> The factious man broadcasts his spiritual problems to the congregation.

2. **<u>Perverted.</u>** The factious man is perverted. This word "perverted" means here to deviate from sound doctrine. The text emphasizes the totality of perversion in the factious man.

3. <u>Sinning.</u> The factious man is also sinning. When a person uses perverted doctrine to divide the congregation, then that factious man is sinning. Notice the continuous nature of the sinning.

4. **Self-Condemned.** The factious man is self-condemned. His own perversion and sinning demonstrate his self-condemnation. His own acts testify against him.

5. <u>Believers.</u> Believers must not fall prey to factious men. They populate virtually every congregation.

6. <u>Avoid.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we avoid factious men, because they are perverted and sinning, standing self-condemned.

7. <u>United.</u> We rejoice today in the unity in Jesus Christ, the only Savior and Head of the church. Factious men will come and go, but Jesus will always build His church, with believers joyfully united in Him for eternity.

- > We live faithfully in the family of God by recognizing perverted men.
- > We live more faithfully in the family of God by removing unrepentant perverted men, because they are sinning and self-condemned.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by supporting the removal of all perverted men who refuse to repent and leave their sinning action behind.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by understanding that factious men are perverted and sinning. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by recognizing perverted men as self-condemned?

9 Faithful Ministers

Paul traveled with faithful ministers. He named Artemas and Tychicus as saints he would send to Titus. When they arrived, Paul directed Titus to make every effort to come to Nicopolis to meet Paul there.

Paul also mentioned the faithful lawyer Zenas and the faithful preacher Apollos. Paul commanded Titus to help them on their way with diligence. Titus must be sure that the saints supply their needs so that they will lack nothing. The saints must learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Needs and deeds go together for the ministry of the saints.

Paul closed his letter with greetings from all the saints. He also urged Titus to greet those who love all the people in faith. The letter ended with a very Pauline goodbye: "Grace be with you all."

Day Forty Three Artemas and Tychicus Today



Who were Artemas and Tychicus? Artemas was only mentioned here in the New Testament and Tychicus was a native of Asia and beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.

Artemas stands for the proposition that a name may be mentioned only once in the New Testament, but Paul had high confidence in him. He mentioned him by name to Titus. Apparently, they knew each other because both of them ministered with Paul on ministry teams.

Tychicus, a native of Asia, accompanied Paul as he returned from Ephesus through Macedonia along with several of Paul's companions. Paul called Tychicus his beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord. Paul trusted Tychicus to make known his personal circumstances to the Ephesians and Colossians. Paul also sent Tychicus to Ephesus later in life. Paul trusted Tychicus to carry important news and to travel to distant lands. Paul made disciples who would carry on his ministry. He traveled with them and ministered with them. They witnessed a great apostle spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and planting assemblies in many lands. Paul went through tough times, and trained disciples in enduring hardship. He also sent them on missions to encourage local assemblies. Paul did not labor alone.

Come to Me

1. **Team.** Paul labored as one member of a missionary team. We read about many people that served with Paul in making disciples for Jesus Christ.

2. <u>Willingness.</u> Artemas and Tychicus served Paul by their willingness to glorify Jesus by traveling. Paul apparently intended to send only one of them, but both seemed able to go.

3. **Travel.** Paul also believed in face to face contact. Travel then was much more time-consuming than today. Yet, Paul wanted to see Titus face to face.

4. <u>Expected.</u> Paul directed Titus to meet him at Nicopolis, perhaps referring to a city in Greece. Paul expected Titus to travel.

5. <u>Coordinated.</u> Paul planned to winter in Nicopolis. This single verse shows us that the ministry teams planned and coordinated their labors, with different believers playing important roles at different times and in different places.

6. <u>**Global.**</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that believers must see themselves as part of the global effort of Jesus to make disciples all over the world. Jesus sends each believer to serve Him at just the right time and place. Jesus has global plans.

7. <u>Service.</u> We rejoice in knowing that believers are meeting all over the world today, planning together how to serve Jesus by making disciples. We all must serve Him, as we see fit locally, as His family serves Him globally.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by remembering Artemas and Tychicus for their faithful service to the Lord Jesus.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by working with other saints on ministry teams to accomplish greater goals for God.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by serving Jesus united together, where we serve shoulder to shoulder with other believers in the common ministry to the family of God.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by remembering Artemas and Tychicus for their faithful ministry. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today and join a ministry team for Christ?

Day Forty Four Help Today



What kind of help should Titus give to traveling Zenas the lawyer and Apollos? Titus should give them diligent help so that they lacked nothing.

Missionaries carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to different cultures, in different places, to different people who speak different languages. Sometime missionaries even leave their city. In many cities today, different cultures with different languages abound. In the New Testament, a group of people traveled far and wide to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul mentioned two men to Titus for special attention. Zenas the lawyer is only mentioned in this verse for today. Paul also mentioned Apollos, a well-known preacher who spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos speaking in the synagogue at Ephesus. He was only familiar with the baptism of John, but they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. He powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating that Jesus was the Christ from the Scriptures. Paul worked in harmony with other missionaries. He wanted them to be well-provisioned for their travels and ministry. Titus could build support for them among the assemblies in Crete. Paul wanted to be sure that both Zenas and Apollos were lacking nothing.

Nothing Is Lacking

1. **Duties.** Titus had certain duties to help other believers who traveled for Jesus, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples.

2. <u>Zenas.</u> I am pleased that at least one lawyer in the Bible received honorable mention: Zenas the lawyer.

3. <u>Apollos.</u> Likewise, Apollos the well-known preacher was coming to Crete and needed help.

4. <u>**Team.</u>** Paul constantly worked with other believers as part of a ministry team.</u>

5. <u>**Diligently.</u>** Notice the word "diligently" before help. Paul commanded Titus to be quick and energetic in his efforts to help Zenas and Apollos. By the grace of God, we help believers so nothing is lacking.</u>

6. <u>Ministries.</u> Living faithfully in the family of God means that we must be diligent to help other believers with all they need to pursue their ministries, so that they lack nothing.

7. <u>**Help.**</u> We rejoice today in knowing we do not labor alone, and that God can use us, our time, and our possessions to help other believers use their spiritual gifts to the glory of God.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by remembering to help people who share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by being diligent to help the people who travel, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by stirring up support for missionaries and doing all we can to be sure they lack nothing.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by being diligent to provide for the needs of missionaries passing through. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by remembering missionaries who need your support today?

Day Forty Five Engage Today



Why do we engage in good deeds? We engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs.

Paul commanded that people work so that they would have an abundance to share with those people in need. Paul commanded Titus that our people must learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs.

People learned to engage in good deeds by Titus teaching them and exhorting them to perform good deeds. Like the needs of Zenas and Apollos, so also other people ministering for Christ will have pressing needs.

People become unfruitful when they have the ability to engage in good deeds, but do nothing instead. Some people consider themselves too old, too tired, too young, too sick, and so on to engage in good deeds. Of course some people will be severely limited in what they can do by physical

conditions. But the vast majority of saints can learn to engage in good deeds.

All believers must learn to engage in good deeds. The needs and deeds go together. Paul mentioned pressing needs, indicating some needs require immediate attention and help. We must stay in touch with people to know what the pressing needs are for the moment. We will not be unfruitful when we engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs.

Meet Pressing Needs

1. <u>Holy Spirit.</u> The Holy Spirit indwells each believer at the moment of salvation. Jesus Himself baptizes us at the moment of salvation with the Holy Spirit, by Whom we are sealed for the day of redemption.

2. <u>One People.</u> We become one people at the moment of salvation, called by God to be members of His family.

3. **Learn.** Even with the anointing of the Holy Spirit teaching us all things, we always need to learn some things from Him.

4. **Specific.** According to Paul, speaking under inspiration from God, believers must learn to engage in specific good deeds.

5. <u>Needs.</u> The specific good deeds meet the pressing needs of the moment, so that we are not unfruitful.

6. **<u>Recognize</u>**. Living faithfully in the family of God means that we recognize the spiritual and physical needs of people around us and engage in good deeds to help them, so that we bear spiritual fruit to the glory of God.

7. **Bear Fruit.** We rejoice today in being fruitful children of God, learning always how to bear more fruit by meeting the pressing needs of people by engaging in good deeds.

- We live faithfully in the family of God by learning to engage in good deeds.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by engaging in good deeds to meet pressing needs.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by not being unfruitful, but instead learning how to engage in good deeds to meet the pressing needs of the moment.

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by learning to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by engaging in good deeds, so that you are not unfruitful?

Day Forty Six Greet You Today



Who greeted Titus? All the people with Paul greeted Titus. In this case, Paul did not mention everyone by name, but many people traveled with Paul at times. During his imprisonment, saints ministered to Paul and friends visited him.

Paul traveled widely and often brought people with him that he met while traveling. Paul did not travel alone on purpose. He was intent upon making disciples and so invited saints to travel with him.

Paul also instructed Titus to greet the saints who love Paul and his companions. Notice the words "in the faith." Paul singled out the saints for this special greeting based upon their love in the faith. They were not talking about worldly love, but love in the faith.

Paul closed the epistle with the words "Grace be with you all." Paul loved greeting using the word grace. Paul spoke about the unmerited favor

of God brought to us through Jesus Christ. Paul wanted to remind the saints of God's grace and also to bless them with God's grace.

Paul loved people and he loved staying in touch with people. Many saints need to stay in touch with people, especially other saints.

Who Love Us in Faith

1. <u>Friends.</u> Paul had friends who travelled with him. Here they greet Titus. I enjoy hearing from my friends as they labor for Jesus.

2. <u>**Particular.**</u> Paul gave an interesting and particular greeting. Notice the words "who love us in the faith."

3. <u>**Greeting.**</u> This particular greeting targeted faithful believers who love Paul and the ministry team. Knowing that faithful believers loved him, even when he do not see them, seems very precious to Paul.

4. **Spiritual.** Notice also the spiritual component of love. Love in faith means here that their love for Paul rests upon their faith in God.

5. <u>**Common Love.</u>** We know that only people born of God and who know God can love people (1 John 4:7). Therefore, believers sharing a common faith often have a common love in faith for other believers. Because we love them, we greet them with a blessing of grace to them.</u>

6. **<u>Blessings.</u>** Living faithfully in the family of God means that we love believers in faith. We greet them with blessings of grace to you.

7. <u>Faith.</u> We rejoice today in loving believers in faith and letting them know that we love them, especially when we have not seen them in person for a while.

- ➢ We live faithfully in the family of God by greeting one another.
- We live more faithfully in the family of God by loving people in the faith.
- We live together faithfully in the family of God by greeting one another with words like "Grace be with you all."

Application for Today

Today, we may live faithfully in the family of God by greeting other saints. Will you live faithfully in the family of God today by saying "Grace be with you all?"

Conclusion

Paul encouraged Titus to live faithfully in the family of God. He had to appoint elders in the every city. Those elders would then shepherd the flock as overseers and, like Titus, instruct people to live faithfully in the family of God. Titus had to be concerned about promoting and defending sound doctrine and instructing all age groups. He must build hope by focusing upon the return of the Lord Jesus.

Titus also had to practice Godliness in every area of life and instruct others to do the same. In contrast to their old life filled with evil indulgences, Jesus changed everything by His great love and salvation. The kindness of God our Savior appeared and redeemed us as a people for His own possession, zealous for good works.

Paul loved to work with other people, and Titus had the job of providing everything traveling missionaries needed. Paul closed with greetings from the missionary team and the blessing of "Grace be with you all."