

TITUS

FOR BEGINNERS

MIKE MAZZALONGO

TEACHER'S GUIDE

BibleTalk^{TV}



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Titus for Beginners

Mike Mazzalongo

Paul's letter to Titus is focused on preparing leaders to accurately teach the church and recognize the type of results this should produce.



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**Teacher Guide created by
David Laton, D.Min.
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Overall Teaching Strategy

It is recommended that teachers use a combination of informal lecture and guided discussion to present these lessons. There are discussion questions associated with each lesson that teachers may use and/or supplement their own questions. A student notebook is also provided for each lesson.

It is recommended that teachers have students view the associated video or read the text for the lesson. This helps students come to the class ready to discuss the lesson and to formulate questions of their own. Teachers should begin the class with a review of key points from the video/text before starting the discussion.

Begin each lesson with appropriate introductory statements that help students focus on the lesson. Teachers should also provide a brief summary of the previous lesson and an overview of key points of the new lesson. This helps students see the ongoing narrative of Scripture.

Conclude the lesson by summarizing, or having students summarize the information from their notes. It is also helpful to ask questions from the lesson in order to determine that students have grasped the concepts. Asking questions in this manner serves as an assessment to ensure that objectives have been met.

Challenge the class with a call to apply this information to their lives which will help them grow spiritually and help others to do so as well. This can be accomplished by asking how this information relates to their spiritual development at this time and moving forward.

For more information on teaching adults, please visit:
<https://bibletalk.tv/101/teaching>

Lesson #1 - Introduction to Titus

(Titus 1:1-4)

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the basics of Paul's letter to Titus noting its history, author, recipient, and context.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the purpose and principles contained in the book of Titus.
- **Feel:** Value Paul's instructions to Titus.
- **Do:** Apply Paul's teachings to increase our faithfulness to God.

Support

- Series – Lesson Title; Mike Mazzalongo, Titus for Beginners, 2019
- Video/Text – Lesson 1 – Introduction to Titus
- Student Notebook for Lesson 1

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 - Introduction
 - 1.1 - Relationship of Titus and Timothy to Paul
 - 1.2 - Region of Titus
- 2.0 - Background
 - 2.1 - False teaching
 - 2.2 - Gnosticism
- 3.0 - Outline

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Summarize the following elements about Paul's letter to Titus.

Note: Consider assigning this question to the class prior to beginning this unit. This enables them to come to class as prepared to study deeper elements of the letter.

What is the relationship of this letter to Paul's pastoral letters?

It is the third of three: I & II Timothy, Titus.

What is the purpose of these letters?

To teach, guide, and encourage (pastor/shepherd) these two young ministers.

Where did Timothy and Titus carry out their respective ministries?

Timothy in Ephesus and Titus in Crete.

What were the primary purposes of Timothy and Titus' work?

To guard and teach the church in their regions against false teachers, to "set in order" the functioning of these congregations and to appoint congregational leaders (elders and deacons) for each group.

When was Titus written?

Between 62 – 64 AD. Paul was in a brief period of freedom from prison.

What information do we have concerning Titus?

- He was a Gentile converted to Christianity (Galatians 2:1-3).
- He was sent to Corinth to see if the issues there had been resolved (II Corinthians 7:13-16).
- Paul left Titus in Crete to organize the church there and to appoint leaders (Titus 1:5)
- Paul's final mention of Titus is in II Timothy 4:10.

2. Summarize the false teaching of Gnosticism. Explain what their response to this destructive doctrine should be.

Gnosticism is a combination of Jewish and Greek philosophies. Generally, it taught that man's spirit was good and the material world, including man's flesh was evil. To resolve this conflict between man's good spirit and the evil material world, two ideologies emerged:

- Asceticism – renouncing the flesh in order to liberate the soul. Some even taught to not marry and produce children so as to not create more materialism (See Colossians 2:8-33; I Timothy 4:1-4).
- Antinomianism – This means no law. Once the soul was released from the body through enlightenment, it was no longer morally responsible for what the flesh did.

Jewish Gnosticism also favored mysticism, the study of genealogy, and debate with an emphasis on salvation through works. This teaching also produced a lack of concern for sin and moral responsibility.

In any case, Gnosticism undermined the pure gospel message of salvation through God's grace and our obedient faith.

3. What are the three major components of Titus?

- Salutation – 1:1-4 – Paul presents his mission to preserve and pass on sound doctrine.
- Body – 1:5-3:11 – Titus' mission was to appoint elders and provide sound doctrine.
- Conclusion – 3:12-15 – Personal greetings and instructions.

4. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

God clearly and consistently lays out His will for us throughout scripture, including Paul's teachings in his letter to Titus. God's will is that we first become saved by obeying the gospel message: We acknowledge that Jesus is the Divine Son of God, turn away from willful sin (repentance), submit to baptism by immersion (Acts 2:38), and remain faithful to Christ until death (Matthew 24:13-14).

Sadly, Satan will attack us, even as we seek to discover God's will. He will use every tool he has against us, including arguments based on man's philosophies rather than God's pure word.

Our responsibility is to discover God's will and follow it in our lives. When we do so, we begin a journey to spiritual maturity that increases as we become more like Jesus.

Lesson #2 - Titus' Mission

(Titus 1:5-16)

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is on the mission Paul communicates to Titus. Of special note is how this mission translates to Christians today.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the purpose and principles from the book of Titus.
- **Feel:** Value Paul's instructions to Titus.
- **Do:** Apply Paul's teachings to increase our faithfulness to God.

Support

- Series – Lesson Title; Mike Mazzalongo, Titus for Beginners, 2019
- Video/Text – Lesson 2 – Titus' Mission
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 2

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 - Review of lesson 1
- 2.0 - Outline of Titus
- 3.0 - Titus' mission
- 3.1 - Appoint elders (1:5-9)
- 3.2 - The need for sound elders (1:10-16)
- 4.0 - Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as "right or wrong" responses.

1. Review the following points from lesson 1.

- I&II Timothy and Titus form 3 pastoral epistles (letters). The primary focus is to teach and encourage.
- Churches were dealing with 2 false doctrines: Gnosticism and the Judaizers.
- Gnosticism taught that man's spirit was good, but the body was evil. It emphasized restrictions on the body to free the spirit from the flesh.
- Judaizers taught that gentiles must first convert to Judaism and emphasized circumcision.
- Both teachings emphasized a works type of salvation.
- Salvation is offered by God's grace and received based on obedient faith in Jesus Christ. Faith is expressed by one's confession, repentance, and baptism. Note: One does not earn salvation.
- Paul teaches (1) preserve and pass on sound doctrine (2) train and appoint sound leaders (specifically elders and deacons).

2. Discuss Paul's instructions to Titus from Titus 1:5.

Titus' mission in Crete – Set in order various church matters and appoint elders in every city.

- To set in order includes organizing the structure and proper functioning of the local church and ensuring that sound doctrine is taught.
- Appoint elders – Set into place those who qualify to lead the church. Note: This is directly related to setting in order. No man is made an elder to have authority over several churches or cities. It is incorrect biblically to produce an organization where one man heads up a hierarchical structure that in turn oversees a number of congregations as commonly seen in the denominational world today.

Titus, through teaching and training, qualified men who were then appointed as elders. There was usually only one congregation of the church in each city, so he appointed several elders to serve in each of these congregations.

3. Summarize the qualifications for elders as outlined in Titus (Titus 1:6-9).

- Above reproach – A man is known to be of good moral character in and out of the church.
- Husband of one wife (vs. 6) – A “one woman man” with no other improper relations with other women. Faithfulness to his wife.
- Having children who believe and behave (vs. 6) – Children who are faithful to the Lord and are not rebellious.
- A good steward over the church (vs. 7) – Places the interest of the church over self interests. Is not forceful, quick tempered, influenced by substances (I.e. alcohol), argumentative, and not materialistic. Is by contrast (vs. 8) hospitable, loves goodness, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled and faithful to god’s word.

4. How does Paul describe the need for elders (1:10-16)?

- To combat those rebellious to God's word and those who teach error.
- To overcome those who's basic motivations are greed, love of money, and power.
- To prevent damage to the faith of others.

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

As the church grew and time passed, the apostles and Paul especially recognized through the Holy Spirit's inspiration that there was a need for leaders dedicated to the truth of God's word and the spiritual growth of Christians. Paul puts into place a system to ensure this. (Note: This is in line with the Apostolic Authority given by Jesus in Matthew 16:19 and 18:18).

When we deviate from God's plan, we disobey God and ensure the eventual failure of our efforts. On an individual basis, we must also follow God's plan by becoming a child of God as He requires and live faithfully according to His word. When we do this, God is faithful to save and preserve us for eternal life.

Lesson #3 - A Pattern for Sound Teaching

(Titus 2:1-3:11)

Teaching Strategy

The focus of this lesson is how Paul gives Titus a plan for sound doctrine. Of special note is how we can use this to measure the soundness of our teaching or the teaching of others.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Know:** Understand the purpose and principles found in the book of Titus.
- **Feel:** Value Paul's instructions to Titus.
- **Do:** Apply Paul's teachings to increase our faithfulness to God.

Support

- Series – Lesson Title; Mike Mazzalongo, Titus for Beginners, 2019
- Video/Text – Lesson 3 – A Pattern for Sound Teaching
- Student Note Guide for Lesson 3

Body of the Lesson

- 1.0 - Examples of sound doctrine 2:1-10
- 2.0 - A pattern for sound doctrine – 2:11-15
 - 2.1 - The appearance of God's grace
 - 2.2 - The instruction of God's grace
 - 2.3 - The expectation of grace
 - 2.4 - The purpose of God's grace
 - 2.5 - The authority of God's grace
- 3.0 - The fruit of sound doctrine
 - 3.1 - Christians as model citizens
 - 3.2 - Motivation for Christians to live righteously
 - 3.2 - Christians reject unsound teaching
- 4.0 - Personal concerns and final greeting – 3:12-15
- 5.0 - Application

Discussion Questions

Below are suggested questions to use during the guided discussion portion of the lesson. There are also suggested responses to questions to help students grasp the various concepts. These are provided to assist the discussion and are not considered as “right or wrong” responses.

1. Discuss examples of sound doctrine.

Answers will vary but look for responses that confirm the truthfulness of Scripture and the need to be faithful to the entire content of God’s word, the Bible. Be aware that sometimes what we consider “sound” may be based on our preferences, likes and dislikes, or how we were taught. Any teaching that weakens the saving power of God’s grace, doubts the Deity of Jesus Christ, and deviates from God’s plan for our salvation are common examples of unsound teaching.

2. What specific examples of sound doctrine does Paul give in Titus 2:1-10?

To Titus – Speak things fitting for sound doctrine. As an evangelist, Titus must begin by ensuring that his teachings comply with God’s truth. (See also verses 7-8).

Older men – Their influence continues by the growth of their Christian character and faithful teaching God’s word.

Older women – Their influence also continues through the growth of their character in Christ and is seen in their devotion to family and the training of younger women.

Married women – Devotion to their family and role as a wife. They exemplify purity, humility, and industry.

Young men – Sensible and not ruled by emotions.

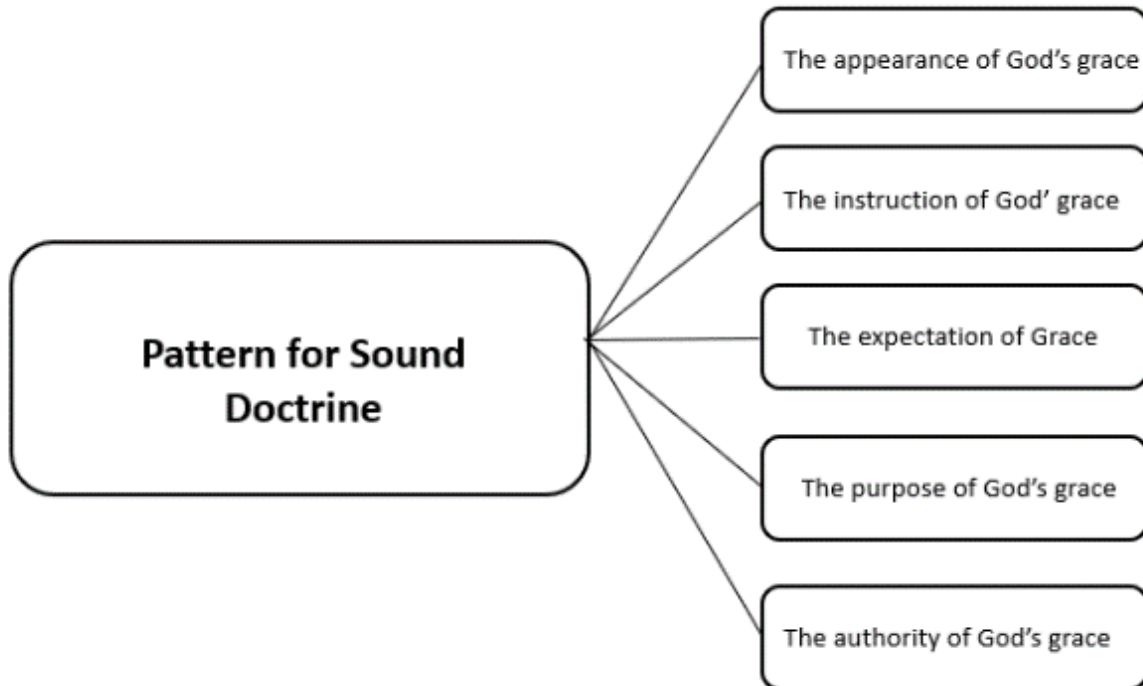
Slaves – Remember that much of the culture of Paul’s time included a large population of slaves and indentured servants. Although we do not have a slave culture today, we must still be aware of our example in our work environment. We work honestly regardless of our position, and in doing so, bring glory to God.

Note: These are not necessarily doctrinal issues, however, they support the “setting in order” element of Paul’s instruction to Titus. This provides a foundation and opportunity for the further teaching sound doctrine.

3. What is the value of following a pattern in our faithfulness to God.

Many of us are visual learners preferring to see an illustration or physical example of a concept. Patterns help us understand complex concepts. By observing these examples of spiritual maturity, we can better understand God's will and thus map out a pathway for ourselves to follow.

4. Explain each of the five elements of the pattern for sound doctrine Paul outlines in Titus 2:11-15.



- **The appearance of God's grace** (Titus 2:11; Romans 16:25) – This is the appearance of the gospel as prophesied and proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles. It includes the truth about life, sin, death, salvation, man, creation and God's rule over it all. Scripture reveals all of this to us today.
- **The instruction of God's grace** (Titus 2:12) – Grace reveals the person and nature of God and instructs us concerning our lives as Christians (citizens in God's Kingdom). Our teaching must reflect what we learn about and the result of grace (Philippians 3:14-15).
- **The expectation of grace** (Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:14) – We teach the truth of hope to a world without hope. The gospel offers us hope through God's grace (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-11; Ephesians 2:8-9).

- **The purpose of God's grace** (Titus 2:14) – The realization that God, because of His grace, saves us from being destroyed in hell. He restores us as His holy people with whom He can have a relationship. We further bless others with His kindness by revealing to them the gospel of salvation. This is God's way of blessing the world through salvation by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **The authority of God's grace** (Titus 2:15) – Paul provides Titus with the pattern of God's grace which is superior to every other religion or philosophy invented by man. We are commissioned to preach the "Good News" of salvation through God's grace. We must teach this without fear or apology.

4. Discuss the following fruit of sound doctrine based on grace (Titus 3:1-11).

- Sound Christians are model citizens (Titus 3:1-2) – We are to be subject to the rulers and laws of our land. In doing so we bring glory to God. (See also Romans 13; 1 Peter 2:13).
- Sound Christians are highly motivated to live righteously (Titus 3:3-8) – We do not repeat the sins of our past, we draw strength through our salvation, we gain positive reinforcement and encourage others through our actions.
- Sound Christians reject unsound teaching (Titus 3:9-11) – We are not afraid to point out and reject those who teach unsound doctrine. We must identify the real issue being taught (man’s sinfulness and God’s gracious offer of forgiveness) and not be confused by various theological issues or the religious teachings of men.

5. What is the value of Paul's personal concerns and final greetings to us as seen in Titus 3:12-15.

This shows the personal nature of Paul's relationship with his fellow believers, especially Titus. It also gives us insight into the challenges he and other early Christians faced. In doing so, we realize the unchanging nature of these issues and how to overcome them, and grow spiritually as we strive to remain faithful.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

- Sound teaching and doctrine produce sound churches. Many problems faced by congregations of our Lord's church today flow from weak or nonexistent leadership, an unhealthy inward focus rather than the teaching of God's grace, and allowing the teaching of unsound doctrine. We must learn and follow God's word and encourage our leadership and teachers to hold true to God's word.
- Sound doctrine is measured by God's grace. We must not contradict God's word by our words or deeds. We must focus on knowing and experiencing God's grace in our interactions with one another, and remain committed to obedient faithfulness to Jesus Christ, His teachings, and the teachings of the apostles.

We give God the glory for His love and grace that give us the hope of an eternity in His presence.

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