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The 2 TIMOTHY, TITUS, & PHILEMON CHALLENGE

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOKS OF
2 TIMOTHY, TITUS, & PHILEMON



LESSON ONE

2 Timothy 1:1–7



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

What will be the legacy you leave? What can you pass down that will enable others to resist the spirit of fear and operate in the spirit of power, love, and soundness of mind?

Paul, knowing that his execution was imminent, wrote Timothy a very personal letter. This second epistle to Timothy was Paul's last will and testament to his beloved son in the faith. In this last letter, Paul sought to leave Timothy with a strong reminder of what he had already been given: the power of faith, the Spirit of God, and the Word of God. These divine elements would sustain Timothy through the terrible ordeal of Paul's execution and equip him with all he would need to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Paul began this final letter by reminding Timothy of:

- The power and purpose of God's call upon his own life
- The gifts of God through Jesus
- His personal love, concern, and faith in Timothy
- The gift of God latent in Timothy

Paul reminded Timothy of the great faith passed down to him from his mother and grandmother, the same faith that Paul had received from his forefathers. Furthermore, Paul encouraged Timothy that God had given him spiritual gifts, as well as power, love, and soundness of mind.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have access to the same gifts, Spirit, and Word. They sustain us, equip us, and empower us through the disillusionments, hardships, and sorrows of life. Greater still, this same legacy of faith (held by the forefathers, Timothy's grandmother and mother, Paul, and Timothy) is ours to hold and pass on to others that they may receive the same sustenance, perseverance, and power to be ministers of Jesus Christ in a dark and dying world.

Pray that God would give you a legacy of faith to give to others.

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:3–4

1. Use 2 Timothy 1:3–4 to describe Paul's:
 - a. Thanksgiving

 - b. Conscience

 - c. Activity

 - d. Desire

 - e. Memory of Timothy

2. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:3–4?

FOURTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:5–6

1. Describe the origins of Timothy's *genuine faith*. 2 Timothy 1:5
 - a. Take a moment to share about the origins of your faith.

2. In light of Timothy's faith, what did Paul *remind* Timothy to do? 2 Timothy 1:6
 - a. In light of your faith, what is something that you need to be reminded to do?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:5–6?

LESSON TWO

2 Timothy 1:8–18



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Human nature tends to recoil from suffering and pain. We do everything in our power to avoid, alleviate, and disassociate ourselves from any form of suffering. It is natural to want to find a flaw or reason why suffering happens in order to avoid that same pain in the future. The bad news is that suffering is inevitable in our broken world. However, there is good news! God will minister to us in our suffering, use our suffering for His glory, and more than compensate us in the life to come for all we have endured.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul mentioned that because of his imprisonment, many in Asia had disassociated from him. Paul counseled his young protégé against such a reaction. Paul wrote, *So don't be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me His prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God* (2 Timothy 1:8 CSB). Rather than disassociating from Paul, Timothy was to continue his association with Paul and to persevere in ministry by remembering God's great grace through the gospel. It is through the gospel that God's salvation, plans, power, and eternal purposes have been revealed. This great gospel is so wondrous, it is worth suffering for. Paul reminded Timothy that he had been called by God to be a minister of this great gospel, and that God would be with Timothy to give him the grace to bear up under whatever suffering might arise. When suffering arises in your life, as it inevitably will, immerse your heart and mind again in the powerful and glorious gospel that has come to us through Jesus Christ. Take solace in the fact that God's grace is with you, will sustain you, will make suffering count for His glory, and will more than compensate with heavenly rewards!

Ask God to remind you of the great worth and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

SECOND DAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:8–10

1. According to 2 Timothy 1:8, what two things did Paul ask Timothy not to be *ashamed* of?
 - a. Why do you think Timothy would have been tempted to be *ashamed*?
 - b. By contrast, what did Paul invite Timothy to do?
2. Paul used the calling of Jesus Christ to dispel any traces of shame. Use 2 Timothy 1:9–10 to observe and remark on the calling and work of Christ toward us.
 - a. How does the calling and work of Jesus Christ for you dispel your shame?
3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:8–10?

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:11–12

1. According to 2 Timothy 1:11, what was Paul *appointed* by Christ to do?

2. Use 2 Timothy 1:11–12 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What was the *reason* Paul suffered *these things*?

 - b. What was his confidence and security?

 - c. How do you think Paul's confidence and security influenced his attitude toward suffering?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:11–12?

FOURTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:13–14

1. Answer the following from 2 Timothy 1:13:
 - a. What was Timothy to *hold fast*?

 - b. By what means was Timothy to do this?

 - c. How does this speak to you about your need to *hold fast*?

2. Use 2 Timothy 1:14 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What was Timothy to *keep*?

 - b. By what means was Timothy to *keep* it?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:13–14?

FIFTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:15–18

1. Use 2 Timothy 1:15 to describe the circumstances in Paul's life when he wrote to Timothy.

2. According to Paul, in the midst of his circumstances, Onesiphorus ministered to him. Use the following verses to note and comment on the ministry of Onesiphorus:
 - a. Verse 16

 - b. Verse 17

 - c. Verse 18

3. What stands out to you about Paul's prayer for Onesiphorus?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:15–18?

SIXTH DAY

REVIEW

1. From this week's lesson, write a short comment on the following:
 - a. Shame

 - b. The call of Jesus

 - c. The believer's confidence

 - d. Hold fast

 - e. Keep

2. What Scripture ministered to you the most this week?

LESSON THREE

2 Timothy 2:1–13



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 4:16 exhorts us, as believers, to *come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*. God's great grace is the strength and ample supply of everything and anything we need in life! Paul endured and persevered through upheavals, persecutions, and imprisonments—all by the grace of God. He testified, *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me* (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Paul, knowing the great responsibilities and perilous times that lay ahead for Timothy, instructed the young pastor to *be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. Paul commended Timothy to the same grace that had sustained, compelled, and worked through the older apostle. Timothy was to pass down this same grace to the next generation of faithful men, who in turn would pass it down to the following generation.

Divine grace is so tremendously powerful that it would enable Timothy to endure hardship, obey God, and be authentic and patient in ministry. God's grace would supply Timothy with understanding; empower him to continue in the Word of God; and ultimately, to reign with Christ. This same grace that is in Christ Jesus is availed to you! At God's throne, by way of prayer, you can receive all the grace you need. Whatever crisis, problem, deficit, or need that arises, there is an ample supply of divine grace waiting in the presence of God for you.

Ask God to make you strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

SECOND DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:1–2

1. Take a moment to describe what you've come to know about *the grace that is in Christ Jesus*. 2 Timothy 2:1
 - a. Why do you think it was essential for Timothy to be *strong* in this grace?

2. According to 2 Timothy 2:2, what was Timothy to *commit* to others?
 - a. What do the following phrases suggest to you about Timothy's assignment:
 - i. Commit

 - ii. Faithful men

 - iii. Able to teach others

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:1–2?

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:3–7

1. Clarify Paul's lesson to Timothy using these illustrations:
 - a. The soldier (verses 3–4)
 - b. The athlete (verse 5)
 - c. The farmer (verse 6)
2. Why do you think Paul stressed that Timothy needed to *consider* these things?
2 Timothy 2:7
 - a. Why do you think Timothy would need to seek the Lord for understanding?
3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:3–7?

FOURTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:8–10

1. Use 2 Timothy 2:8–10 to answer and remark on the following questions:
 - a. What was Timothy to *remember*?

 - b. Why did Paul *suffer*?

 - c. What is not *chained*?

 - d. What was Paul's ultimate purpose in enduring *all things*?

2. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:8–10?

LESSON FOUR

2 Timothy 2:14–26



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

As believers, God's grace distinguishes us from others. It strengthens us to endure hardship, obey God's Word, and to patiently labor until the harvest. Divine grace is essential to any and every ministry endeavor. When we choose to minister for Jesus, we will always encounter distractions, opposition, and temptations. It is only the strength found in *the grace that is in Christ Jesus* that navigates us through these provocations. This grace enables us to present ourselves to the Lord as workmen who have no cause for shame and who rightly apply the Word of truth.

Having instructed Timothy on the application of Christ's grace in hardship, obedience, and patience, Paul then addressed the more personal nature of Timothy's ministry. Timothy would need to draw on the divine strength of grace in order to:

- Remind the congregants not to strive over words
- Be diligent to present himself to God
- Shun profane and vain babblings
- Flee youthful lusts
- Pursue the fruit of righteousness
- Resist quarreling
- Gently and patiently correct those who are ensnared by the devil

Such a tall order would require constant grace. This grace would distinguish Timothy in attitude, activity, and pursuit from those in opposition.

Today there are still many provocations that can drive us off course from the ministry God has ordained for each of us. Therefore, divine grace will always be essential for anyone desiring to be a vessel used by God.

Thank God for His abundant supply of divine grace, which enables you to be a vessel of honor useful to Him.

SECOND DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:14–15

1. According to 2 Timothy 2:14, what was Timothy to:
 - a. *Remind* the believers of

 - b. Charge them *not* to do

2. In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul directs Timothy to present himself to God. Use the following phrases or words from Paul's directive to remark on what it means to *present* ourselves to God:
 - a. *Diligent*

 - b. *Worker*

 - c. *Does not need to be ashamed*

 - d. *Rightly dividing*

 - e. *The word of truth*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:14–15?

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:16–19

1. From 2 Timothy 2:16–18, expound on what you think Paul meant by *profane and idle babblings*.
 - a. What is the danger of *profane and idle babblings* according to:
 - i. Verse 16

 - ii. Verse 17

 - iii. Verse 18
 - b. How does this help explain why these things should be shunned?
2. Contrast profane and *idle babblings* with *the solid foundation of God* in 2 Timothy 2:19. What do you see?
3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:16–19?

FOURTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:20–23

1. What different types of *vessels* are in a *great house*? 2 Timothy 2:20

2. Use the following verses to highlight what is necessary to be a vessel of *honor*:
 - a. Verse 21

 - b. Verse 22

 - c. Verse 23

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:20–23?

FIFTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 2:24–26

1. Use 2 Timothy 2:24–25 to describe *the servant* of the Lord's:
 - a. Attitude (verse 24)

 - b. Action/Ability (verse 25a)

2. What is Paul's desire and hope for those in *opposition*? 2 Timothy 2:25b–26
 - a. According to 2 Timothy 2:26, what is the true spiritual condition of the *opposition*?

 - b. What does this suggest to you about the influence behind the opposition?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 2:24–26?

LESSON FIVE

2 Timothy 3



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Want the bad news first? We live *in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation*. But don't despair, there is good news—in the midst of this darkness, *we shine as lights in the world* (Philippians 2:15). It is in darkness that light becomes a hope, a draw, and a guide to salvation. As believers, we will always stand in contrast to the ungodly culture around us as we shine with the light of Jesus.

Darkness is inevitable in the times in which we live. Too often, however, rather than shining brighter, we become aggressive against the culture. The Lord wants us to understand the dark times we are living in and simply shine brighter by the power of His Word living in us!

Paul alluded to this very contrast between darkness and light, culture and Christianity, in the third chapter of his second letter to Timothy. In detail, Paul listed the pervading attitudes in the culture that would characterize the last days. Timothy was not to be overcome, overwrought, or overwhelmed by the darkness. Instead, Paul instructed Timothy to know the reality of ungodliness, the inevitability of persecution, and the power of the Holy Scriptures to thoroughly equip him for every good work.

The darkness that characterized Timothy's culture is still with us today. The way to deal with this present darkness is not by acquiescing to it or being aggressive against it. Rather, we need to shine brightly by continuing in the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise and thoroughly equipped for every good work!

*Ask God to thoroughly equip you in His Holy Scriptures
that you might shine even brighter!*

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 3:6–9

1. Use 2 Timothy 3:6–7 to remark on:
 - a. The activity of *this sort*

 - b. The victims of *this sort*

 - c. What *this sort* is *never able* to do

2. What did Jannes and Jambres have in common with *this sort*? 2 Timothy 3:8

3. What is the future of *this sort* according to 2 Timothy 3:9?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 3:6–9?

LESSON SIX

2 Timothy 4:1–8



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

It is God's Word alone that is God-breathed! It is God's Word that is able to lead us to salvation through Jesus Christ. It is God's Word that is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. It is God's Word that is able to thoroughly equip us for every good work. There are forces all around us trying to deter us, distract us, and detour us from God's Word in order to keep us from its power and strength working in us. Therefore, it is essential that we keep God's Word as the central focus and authority of our lives!

As Paul neared the inevitable day of his execution by Emperor Nero, he gave Timothy a strong charge to keep the Word of God first and foremost in his life and ministry. Paul warned Timothy that this would require constant maintenance, and at times, it would directly conflict with those in opposition to the authority of God's Word.

The atmosphere surrounding the Word of God has not changed in the centuries since Paul's charge to Timothy. There are still many who want to lure believers away from the authority of the Bible by putting an emphasis on feelings, stories, and entertainment. Therefore, Paul's charge to Timothy is extremely applicable to us today! We also need to be vigilant to keep the Bible as the ultimate authority over our lives.

Ask God to show you any area where God's Word is not the authority in your life.

SECOND DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:1–2

1. Note and comment on the authority of Paul's *charge* to Timothy. 2 Timothy 4:1

2. Use 2 Timothy 4:2a to print the *charge* Paul gave to Timothy:
_____ — — _____

3. In order to grasp the implications of this essential charge, explore the following phrases and words from 2 Timothy 4:2:
 - a. *Be ready in season and out of season*

 - b. *Convince*

 - c. *Rebuke*

 - d. *Exhort*

 - e. *With all longsuffering*

 - f. *Teaching*

4. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:1–2?

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:3–5

1. Use 2 Timothy 4:3–4 to describe *the time* that will come:
 - a. Verse 3

 - b. Verse 4

2. Timothy's behavior is to be in stark contrast with such behavior. Use the following phrases from 2 Timothy 4:5 to denote the behavior of Timothy:
 - a. *Watchful in all things*

 - b. *Endure afflictions*

 - c. *Do the work of an evangelist*

 - d. *Fulfill your ministry*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:3–5?

FOURTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:6–7

1. Use 2 Timothy 4:6 to describe Paul's present plight.

2. Use the following phrases from 2 Timothy 4:7 to comment on Paul's testimony:
 - a. *Fought the good fight*

 - b. *Finished the race*

 - c. *Kept the faith*

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:6–7?

FIFTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:8

1. Highlight Paul's confidence by answering the following questions from 2 Timothy 4:8:
 - a. What was *laid up* for Paul?

 - b. Who would give it to him?

 - c. Who else could hold the same confidence?

2. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:8?

LESSON SEVEN

2 Timothy 4:9–22



THE 2 TIMOTHY CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LEAD BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Friendship and fellowship are an integral part of the Christian life. The author of Hebrews exhorts believers, *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching* (Hebrews 10:24–25). We cannot grow, minister, or develop spiritually in a vacuum—we need other believers! Perhaps the effectiveness of Paul’s ministry throughout the world was due in part to his many close friendships with like-minded believers. Paul often listed or mentioned those he was praying for, thankful for, or working alongside. In his epistles to the Romans, Corinthians, and Philippians, Paul stressed the importance of all the members of the body of Christ. Like Paul, we need to appreciate, invest in, work with, and be in fellowship with other believers.

As Paul closed his final epistle to Timothy, he mentioned those who were closest to him in ministry. Paul was so intimately acquainted with these believers that he knew where they were, as well as their spiritual condition. Though lingering in prison and awaiting a violent execution, Paul’s mind and heart were still thinking about his friends.

In this busy world we live in, it is easy to retreat, lose intimacy, and become isolated and lonely. This is not the way God intended His people to live! Proverbs 18:24 says, *A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* This means that in order to be more effective in our Christian witness, we will need to invest in, appreciate, love on, and gather with other believers.

Ask God to give you a greater appreciation and love for the members of your church.

SECOND DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:9–15

1. Use 2 Timothy 4:9–14 to remark on Paul's instruction for, or commentary on, the following people:
 - a. Timothy
 - b. Demas
 - c. Crescens
 - d. Titus
 - e. Luke
 - f. Mark
 - g. Tychicus
 - h. Carpus
 - i. Alexander
2. According to Paul, why was Alexander so dangerous? 2 Timothy 4:15
3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:9–15?

THIRD DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:16–17

1. Use 2 Timothy 4:16 to remark on Paul's *first defense* (his first trial before the Emperor Nero).
 - a. What do you find remarkable about Paul's prayer for those who *forsook* him?

2. According to 2 Timothy 4:17:
 - a. Who stood with Paul?

 - b. What did He do?

 - c. How did Paul describe his deliverance?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:16–17?

FOURTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:18

1. Using 2 Timothy 4:18, comment on:
 - a. Paul's confidence

 - b. Paul's praise

2. Using Paul's example, write your own declaration of praise concerning God's work in your life.

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:18?

FIFTH DAY

2 TIMOTHY 4:19–22

1. Comment briefly on any insights you find in the following verses concerning Paul's relationship with his friends:
 - a. Verse 19

 - b. Verse 20

 - c. Verse 21

2. What do find most heartening about Paul's closing words to Timothy? 2 Timothy 4:22

3. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Timothy 4:19–22?

SIXTH DAY

REVIEW

1. From your lesson this week, write a brief comment on:
 - a. Paul's friends

 - b. Paul's trial

 - c. Paul's confidence

2. What Scriptures ministered to you the most in your present circumstances?

LESSON EIGHT

Titus 1



THE TITUS CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LIVE BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

For a moment, imagine yourself being part of an evangelistic campaign on the most corrupt, immoral, and tumultuous island in the known world. Now imagine that, after the campaign has finished, you are the one who is left to raise up godly leadership and establish churches. That would be a formidable task indeed—yet, that is exactly what the apostle Paul tasked Titus with doing! Crete is an island in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece; it is 156 miles long and only thirty miles wide. It was the ancient home of the Philistines. However, by Paul's time, five fiercely independent factions inhabited the island, with pirates and sailors as the main visitors. According to Greek mythology, the god Zeus was born and died on the island of Crete and came back to life as the greatest of all the Greek gods.

It is unknown when the first church was established on Crete. Some believe that the gospel was taken to the island by men who were present during the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1–11). Others believe that Paul, after he was released from prison, went with Titus on the first evangelistic mission to Crete. Whatever the case, there was a true work of God on the notorious island of Crete, and Paul left Titus to establish churches there by raising up and training godly leadership.

Titus was a beloved companion of Paul. Although he is not mentioned in the book of Acts, Paul mentioned him over thirteen times in his epistles. In his letters, Paul referred to Titus as his *brother*, *partner*, *fellow worker*, and *son*. To the Corinthians, Paul spoke highly of Titus's character and ministry (2 Corinthians 7:13–16; 8:16–23). Paul took Titus, a Greek, with him to Jerusalem to introduce him to the church council as a valid representative of the great work of God in and among the Gentiles (Galatians 2:1–4). Paul also sent Titus to Corinth to represent the apostle and quell some of the problems and divisions that had surfaced in the Corinthian church. According to

FIRST DAY CONT.

INTRODUCTION

Paul's commendation in 2 Corinthians, Titus's mission was a success. This could be why Paul entrusted Titus with the mission on the island of Crete.

In this epistle, Paul reminded Titus to exercise his God-given authority in bringing order to the churches in Crete by:

- Establishing godly leadership for both men and women
- Refuting false teachers
- Exemplifying and encouraging good works among the believers

By doing so, Titus would establish the churches there.

The epistle to Titus is relevant for believers today because it contains: great lessons about how truth affects behavior; important doctrinal statements concerning the deity of Jesus; requirements for church leadership; and astounding exhortations, as well as fascinating contrasts between the believer and the culture. This short epistle is rich with edification, instruction, and encouragement.

Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate your heart and mind to all the wonders contained in the epistle to Titus.

SECOND DAY

TITUS 1:1–3

1. Explore Paul's introduction by commenting on the following phrases from Titus 1:1–2:
 - a. *A bondservant of God*
 - b. *An apostle of Jesus Christ*
 - c. *According to the faith of God's elect*
 - d. *The acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness*
 - e. *In hope of eternal life*
 - f. *God, who cannot lie*
 - g. *Promised before time began*
 - i. What does Paul's introduction convey to you about Paul's mission in life?

FOURTH DAY

TITUS 1:6–9

1. Use Titus 1:6 to comment on the essential qualities of an elder:
 - a. *Blameless*

 - b. *Husband of one wife*

 - c. *Faithful children*
 - i. Why do you think these qualities are essential for elders in the church?

2. From Titus 1:7, comment on why you think the following qualities are essential for a bishop as a steward of God:
 - a. *Blameless*

 - b. *Not self-willed*

 - c. *Not quick-tempered*

 - d. *Not given to wine*

 - e. *Not violent*

FOURTH DAY CONT.

TITUS 1:6-9

- f. *Not greedy for money*
- g. *Hospitable*
- h. *Lover of what is good*
- i. *Sober-minded*
- j. *Just*
- k. *Holy*
- l. *Self-controlled*
- m. *Holding fast the faithful word*
- n. *Taught*
- o. *Able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict*

FOURTH DAY CONT.

TITUS 1:6–9

- i. What stands out to you most about a bishop's prohibitions?

- ii. What stands out to you most about a bishop's character?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 1:6–9?

FIFTH DAY

TITUS 1:10–16

1. Comment on the following phrases from Titus 1:10–12, and 14b–16 to grasp the nature of the opposition in Crete:
 - a. *Many*
 - b. *Insubordinate*
 - c. *Idle talkers*
 - d. *Deceivers*
 - e. *Subvert whole households*
 - f. *Teaching things which they ought not*
 - g. *For the sake of dishonest gain*
 - h. *Always liars*
 - i. *Evil beasts*
 - j. *Lazy gluttons*
 - k. *Turn from the truth*

FIFTH DAY CONT.

TITUS 1:10–16

l. *Defiled*

m. *Unbelieving*

n. *Mind and conscience are defiled*

o. *Profess to know God, but in works they deny Him*

p. *Abominable*

q. *Disobedient*

i. Why do you think such characteristics make these Cretans *disqualified for every good work*?

2. From Titus 1:11 and 13, write and comment on Paul's instructions concerning the opposition:

a. Verse 11

b. Verse 13

SIXTH DAY

REVIEW

1. From your study this week, share something that stood out to you concerning:
 - a. Paul

 - b. Titus

 - c. Crete

 - d. Elders and bishops

 - e. The insubordinate

 - f. The faithful Word of God

2. From your study of Titus 1, what exhortation(s) did you find to **live by**?

LESSON NINE

Titus 2



THE TITUS CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LIVE BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Oh, what a difference the grace of God makes in our lives! Our lifestyle and behavior, as Christians, should testify to the great grace of God that we have received through Christ Jesus. Grace is not simply our acceptance and forgiveness by God. Grace is God's power given to us through Christ to become more and more like Jesus in all we say, do, and think. Grace teaches us how to live godly lives in this present age!

Having tasked Titus with the ministry of raising up believers to be leaders and examples in the church, Paul instructed him to utilize the grace that is in Christ Jesus. In the second chapter of Titus, Paul demarcated what godly behavior is to look like in the older men, older women, young women, young men, and bondservants. This behavior was markedly different from the comportment of the Cretans. Whereas the Cretans were known for lying, beastly behavior, and laziness, the grace of God teaches us that, *denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age*. It was God's grace that would make the transforming difference and set these believers apart from the rest of their culture!

Today, the grace of God is still what sets believers apart from the ungodly culture that surrounds us. The appeal of grace is the person of Christ Himself, living in our hearts and taking authority over every area of our lives. The more we allow the grace of God to teach us how to live godly, the more we will be a witness to others of the power of God's grace.

Ask God to give you a renewed appreciation for His great grace!

SECOND DAY

TITUS 2:1–5

1. According to Titus 2:1, what was Titus to do that would have an effect on the people in the church?

2. Use the following phrases from Titus 2:2 to comment on the effect of *sound doctrine* on the *older men*:
 - a. *Sober*

 - b. *Reverent*

 - c. *Temperate*

 - d. *Sound in faith*

 - e. *Sound in love*

 - f. *Sound in patience*

3. As with the *older men*, *sound doctrine* would also transform and inspire the *older women* in the church. From Titus 2:3–4, comment on the transformation and inspiration that would take place in the older women through *sound doctrine*:
 - a. *Reverent in behavior*

SECOND DAY CONT.

TITUS 2:1–5

- b. *Not slanderers*
 - c. *Not given to much wine*
 - d. *Teachers of good things*
 - e. *Admonish the young women*
4. According to Titus 2:4–5, what effect was the admonishment of the *older women* to have on the *young women* in regard to:
- a. Their husbands
 - b. Their children
 - c. Their behavior
 - d. Their homes
 - e. Their witness
5. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 2:1–5?

THIRD DAY

TITUS 2:6–8

1. What do the following words and phrases from Titus 2:6–8 convey to you about how Timothy was to influence the lives of the *young men*?
 - a. *Exhort*
 - b. *Showing yourself to be a pattern*
2. Why do you think it was essential that Timothy set an example to the *young men* in the following areas?
 - a. *Good works*
 - b. *Doctrine (showing integrity)*
 - c. *Reverence*
 - d. *Incorruptibility*
 - e. *Sound speech that cannot be condemned*
3. According to Titus 2:8, how would Titus's exemplary behavior affect anyone who was an *opponent*?
4. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 2:6–8?

FOURTH DAY

TITUS 2:9–10

1. Use the following phrases from Titus 2:9–10 to explain how Titus was to *exhort* those with the occupation of *bondservants* (modern-day employees):
 - a. *Obedient to their own masters*

 - b. *Well pleasing in all things*

 - c. *Not answering back*

 - d. *Not pilfering*

 - e. *Showing all good fidelity*

2. From Titus 2:10, cite the purpose of such outstanding behavior from the Christian servants.

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 2:9–10?

FIFTH DAY

TITUS 2:11–15

1. From Titus 2:11–12, note and comment on the attributes of God's *grace*:
 - a. *Brings salvation*

 - b. *Appeared to all men*

 - c. *Teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts*
 - i. How do these attributes enhance your perspective of God's grace?

2. God's grace also prepares us for the coming of Jesus. Use Titus 2:13–14 to answer the following questions:
 - a. How does Paul depict our *blessed hope*?
 - i. Why is this a *blessed hope* to you?

 - b. Who will appear?

FIFTH DAY CONT.

TITUS 2:11–15

- c. What has Christ done for us?
 - d. What has Christ redeemed us from?
 - e. Why has Christ purified us?
3. Why do you think Paul instructed Titus to *spe*ak, *exhort*, and *rebuke* these things *with all authority*?
4. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 2:11–15?

SIXTH DAY

REVIEW

1. In response to your study this week, share a brief takeaway from Paul's instructions concerning:
 - a. Older men

 - b. Older women

 - c. Young women

 - d. Young men

 - e. Bondservants

 - f. Titus

2. How does Titus 2 offer you counsel to **live by**?

LESSON TEN

Titus 3



THE TITUS CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LIVE BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

It is always good to be reminded of who we are in Christ, what His love has done for us, and how we can practically reflect the kindness and love that we have been shown. Too easily we lose patience with government authorities and nonbelievers. We forget that we once thought and acted like they do before the kindness of God appeared to us. This is why we need to be constantly reminded of the difference that God has made in our lives. As we reflect on the great work of God toward us through Christ Jesus, we become beacons of the love and kindness of God to others. In this way, our attitudes and actions are distinguishable from the attitudes and actions of those without Christ. We shine as lights, offering the hope and salvation of Jesus to a dark and dying world!

In Titus 3, Paul instructed Titus to *remind* the believers in Crete of how their lives should reflect the transforming work of Jesus. Unlike the rest of the culture, the believers there were to be subject to authorities, looking for opportunities to be of service to others and showing kindness to everyone. Paul based this distinct behavior on the great transforming work of God's mercy for them and in them. In other words, the believers in Crete were to look and act like Jesus, who now resided in them. The indwelling of Jesus was to be evidenced in all their attitudes, actions, and interactions. Like these ancient believers, we also need to be reminded of all that God has done for us in order that we might reflect the kindness and mercy of God that has been abundantly poured out on us!

Take a moment to reflect on God's transforming work in you and for you.

SECOND DAY

TITUS 3:1–3

1. Use the following phrases from Titus 3:1–2 to remark on Titus’s reminders to the believers to:
 - a. *Be subject to rulers and authorities*
 - b. *Obey*
 - c. *Be ready for every good work*
 - d. *Speak evil of no one*
 - e. *Be peaceable*
 - f. *Be gentle*
 - g. *Be showing all humility to all men*
 - i. Why do you think such behavior is befitting for all Christians?
2. Paul cites the former behavior of the Christians in Crete in Titus 3:3. Use the following phrases to remember your own life before you met Jesus:
 - a. *Foolish*
 - b. *Disobedient*

SECOND DAY CONT.

TITUS 3:1–3

- c. *Deceived*
- d. *Serving various lusts and pleasures*
- e. *Living in malice and envy*
- f. *Hateful and hating one another*
 - i. How does remembering your life without Jesus motivate you to:
 - a. Have grace for non-believers?
 - b. Be more like Jesus?

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 3:1–3?

THIRD DAY

TITUS 3:4–8

1. According to Titus 3:4, what has made a huge difference between our former lifestyle and our current way of life?
2. Use Titus 3:5 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What are we *not* saved by?
 - b. Why did Jesus save us?
 - c. How were we saved (what did the cross of Christ do for us)?
3. In what manner was the Holy Spirit given to us? Titus 3:6
4. Use Titus 3:7 to highlight the results of our salvation.
5. Considering the results of our salvation through Christ, what is a *faithful* saying and to be affirmed *constantly*? Titus 3:8
6. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 3:4–8?

FOURTH DAY

TITUS 3:9–11

1. Use the following phrases from Titus 3:9a to explain what Titus was to *avoid*:
 - a. *Foolish disputes*

 - b. *Genealogies*

 - c. *Contentions*

 - d. *Strivings about the law*

2. What reason did Paul give for Titus to avoid these things? Titus 3:9b

FOURTH DAY CONT.

TITUS 3:9–11

3. According to Titus 3:10–11:
 - a. Who was Titus to *reject*?

 - b. When was Titus to do this?

 - c. Why was Titus to *reject* such a person?

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 3:9–11?

FIFTH DAY

TITUS 3:12–15

1. Use Titus 3:12–13 to answer the following questions:
 - a. Why would Paul send Artemas or Tychicus to Titus in Crete?

 - b. Why was Titus to *send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste*?

2. What were *our people* (believers) to *learn*? Titus 3:14

3. From Titus 3:15, comment on Paul's closing remarks concerning:
 - a. Greetings

 - b. Grace

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Titus 3:12–15?

SIXTH DAY

REVIEW

1. From your study this week, share something that you need to be reminded of concerning:
 - a. Godly behavior

 - b. Your salvation

 - c. Good works

 - d. Things to avoid

2. Paul desired all the Cretan believers to live by the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What have you received from the epistle to Titus that you desire to **live by**?

LESSON ELEVEN

Philemon



THE PHILEMON CHALLENGE
LETTERS TO LOVE BY

FIRST DAY

INTRODUCTION

Love is the greatest distinguishing quality in the life of the believer. Jesus said, *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another* (John 13:35). The love of Jesus is not only manifested in the way we speak to one another, but also in the way we behave in the various situations of life. Sometimes, it is only in the most difficult and extreme situations that the distinguishing love of Christ can be seen. In each of our lives, God will allow difficulties, dilemmas, and distresses so that we may have opportunity to demonstrate the divine love of Jesus!

Paul's letter to Philemon is one of the greatest examples of the difficulties, dilemmas, and distresses that the command of Jesus *to love one another* can present. This letter, as well as the one to the church in Colosse, was written from prison and sent with Tychicus and Onesimus. Perhaps Tychicus accompanied Onesimus, a runaway slave, in order to safeguard him from bounty hunters. According to Roman law, Onesimus could have been punished, prosecuted, or even put to death by Philemon. However, Paul's letter appealed to Philemon to forgive Onesimus *for love's sake* and receive him as a *beloved brother*. For Philemon, forgiveness would have been an extraordinary act of love and Christian grace. Such a thing was extremely rare in Roman society. By forgiving Onesimus, Philemon would exemplify the extraordinary love that is in Christ.

Onesimus was guilty of a great trespass, and as such, represents each of us in our offenses against God. As Martin Luther stated, *All of us are Onesimus*. He, like us, was condemned by the law, but saved by grace. Paul, like Jesus, interceded when he offered to pay any debt that this slave had incurred against his master.

As you study Philemon, take special note of the humble way in which Paul appealed for Onesimus, as well as his references to love.

Ask God to work a deeper dimension of Christ's love into your heart.

SECOND DAY CONT.

PHILEMON 1–6

3. Note Paul's affection toward Philemon by commenting on the following:
 - a. Paul's action toward Philemon (verse 4)

 - b. Paul's affirmation of Philemon (verse 5)

 - c. Paul's assurance to Philemon (verse 6)

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Philemon 1–6?

THIRD DAY

PHILEMON 7-11

1. According to Philemon 7, what had Philemon done for others?
 - a. What effect did Philemon's actions have on Paul?
 - b. How does this minister to you about your actions?
2. Explore Paul's proposal to Philemon by commenting on the following:
 - a. Paul's humility (verse 8)
 - b. Paul's appeal (verse 9a)
 - c. Paul's condition (verse 9b)

THIRD DAY CONT.

PHILEMON 7–11

3. Use Philemon 10–11 to comment on Onesimus's:
 - a. Relationship to Paul

 - b. Former character

 - c. Changed character

4. What is your greatest takeaway from Philemon 7–11?

FOURTH DAY

PHILEMON 12–16

1. Use Philemon 12–16 to note and comment on the following:
 - a. Paul's plans for Onesimus (verse 12)

 - b. Paul's desire for Onesimus (verse 13)

 - c. Paul's consideration of Philemon (verse 14)

 - d. Paul's hope for Philemon (verses 15–16)

2. What do these verses minister to you about:
 - a. Love

 - b. Consideration

 - c. Reconciliation

3. What is your greatest takeaway from Philemon 12–16?

SIXTH DAY

REVIEW

1. Write any insights, comments, or thoughts that you gleaned concerning:
 - a. Paul
 - b. Love
 - c. Intercession
 - d. Appeals
 - e. Onesimus
 - f. Philemon
 - g. Epaphras
 - h. Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke
 - i. Grace
2. What is your greatest takeaway from studying Philemon?

The 2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon Challenge
A Study through the Books of 2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon

by Cheryl Brodersen

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