

Titus to 2 Peter

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TITUS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	Pauline Epistles				
62 - 64 AD	Titus 3 Chapters	Sound doctrine	Leadership qualifications are given along with guidelines for ministry responsibilities to various groups.	Keep the faith. Do good works	Jesus is the foundation of truth.

OUTLINE OF TITUS

- 1. Opening Greetings 1: 1-4**
- 2. Elders in the Church 1: 5-9**
 - a. Their Attitude 1: 5
 - b. Their Qualifications 1: 6-9
- 3. Offenders in the Church 1: 10-16**

OUTLINE OF TITUS

4. Operation of the Church 2: 1-3: 11

- a. Duties of a Teacher 2: 1-10
- b. Living in Response to God's Grace 2: 11-15
- c. Demonstration of Good Works 3: 1-11
 - i. In relation to governments 3: 1
 - ii. In relation to all people 3: 2-8
 - iii. In relation to false teachers 3: 9-11

5. Personal Messages and Greetings 3: 12-15

TITUS

Chapter 1 – Paul instructs Titus about choosing leaders for the church.

Chapter 2-3 – Paul encourages believers to be examples to other Christians and live a godly life.

This epistle was written by the apostle Paul to encourage his brother in the faith, Titus, whom he had left in Crete to lead the church which Paul had established on one of his missionary journeys (Titus 1:5). This letter advises Titus regarding what qualifications to look for in leaders for the church. He also warns Titus of the reputations of those living on the island of Crete (Titus 1:12).

In addition to instructing Titus in what to look for in a leader of the church, Paul also encourages Titus to return to Nicopolis for a visit. Paul continues to lead Titus and others as they grow in the grace of the Lord (Titus 3:13).

TITUS

The island of Crete where Titus was left by Paul to lead the church was inhabited by natives of the island and Jews who did not know the truth of Jesus Christ (Titus 1: 12-14). Paul felt it to be his responsibility to follow through with Titus to instruct and encourage him in developing leaders within the church at Crete.

As the apostle Paul directed Titus in his search for leaders, Paul also suggested how Titus would instruct the leaders so that they could grow in their faith in Christ. His instructions included those for both men and women of all ages (Titus 2: 1-8).

To help Titus continue in his faith in Christ, Paul suggested Titus come to Nicopolis and bring with him two other members of the church (Titus 3: 12-13).

TITUS

The Book of Titus deserves our attention as we look to the Bible for instruction on how to live a life pleasing to our Lord. We can learn what we should avoid as well as that which we are to strive to imitate. Paul suggests we seek to be pure as we avoid the things which will defile our minds and consciences. Paul makes a statement which should never be forgotten: “They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good” (Titus 1: 16). As Christians, we must examine ourselves to be sure our lives line up with our profession of faith in Christ (2 Corinthians 13 :5).

Paul also tells us how to avoid denying God: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3: 5-6). By seeking a daily renewal of our minds by the Holy Spirit we can develop into Christians that honor God by the way we live.

TITUS

The book of Titus reminds us that our beliefs about God impact every decision we make.

Paul made clear that a church that teaches and preaches sound doctrine will see results in the lives of its people. Not only will people be saved from their sins, but God's grace will also motivate them to live out that saving faith with renewed and purified lives.

TITUS

Salvation is based on God's mercy and grace.

Paul makes it clear in his letter to Titus that although believers should be concerned about developing godly character, this is not what saves them.

Titus 3: 4-7

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,
5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

TITUS

The grace of God empowers believers for godly living.

Because of the loving grace of God, believers are renewed by the indwelling Holy Spirit. It becomes possible for them to engage in good deeds fueled by love, not fear.

The Holy Spirit dwells in believers and desires to grow the fruit of the Spirit in them.

Titus 3: 8

8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds.

TITUS

False teachers are selfish and quarrelsome.

One of the major obstacles Titus was dealing with as he served the church on the island of Crete was the presence of false teachers.

Titus 1: 11

11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain.

Titus 1: 16

16 They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

TITUS

Good teachers are God-centered disciples.

All Christians, likewise, are not to be people known for stirring up a quarrel or pursuing selfish gain.

Titus 3: 1-2

1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

TITUS

The Christian faith is passed on family-style.

The way that Christian beliefs and practices are passed on is in the context of the church as a family.

Titus 2: 2

2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

Titus 2: 11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

PHILEMON

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	Paul's Epistles				
60 - 62 AD	Philemon 1 Chapter	Love forgives.	A slave is encouraged to return to his master and serve him as he would Jesus Christ.	Forgiveness enriches by removing wrongs and gaining brothers.	Jesus is our Mediator.

OUTLINE OF PHILEMON

- 1. Greetings 1-3**
- 2. Praise of Philemon 4-7**
- 3. Plea to Philemon 8-17**
- 4. Pledge to Philemon 18-21**
- 5. Personal Matters 22-25**

PHILEMON

The letter suggests that Paul was in prison at the time of the writing. Philemon was a slave owner who also hosted a church in his home.

During the time of Paul's ministry in Ephesus, Philemon had likely journeyed to the city, heard Paul's preaching and became a Christian.

The slave Onesimus robbed his master, Philemon, and ran away, making his way to Rome and to Paul.

Onesimus was still the property of Philemon, and Paul wrote to smooth the way for his return to his master.

Through Paul's witnessing to him, Onesimus had become a Christian (Philemon 10) and Paul wanted Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother in Christ and not merely as a slave.

PHILEMON

Philemon 15-16

15 For perhaps he was for this reason separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever,

16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

PHILEMON

Paul warned slave owners that they had a responsibility towards their slaves and showed slaves as responsible moral beings who were to fear God.

In Philemon, Paul did not condemn slavery, but he presented Onesimus as a Christian brother instead of a slave. When an owner can refer to a slave as a brother, the relationship changes. The early church did not attack slavery directly, but it laid the foundation for a new relationship between owner and slave.

Paul attempted to unite both Philemon and Onesimus by means of Christian love.

PHILEMON

Both Roman law and the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament gave Philemon the right to punish a runaway slave who was considered property.

But the covenant of grace through the Lord Jesus allowed both master and slave to fellowship in love on an equal basis in the body of Christ.

PHILEMON

Employers, political leaders, corporation executives and parents can follow the spirit of Paul's teaching by treating Christian employees, co-workers and family members as members of Christ's Body.

All Christian leaders must recognize that God holds them accountable for the treatment of those who work for them, whether the helpers are Christians or not. They must eventually answer to God for their actions.

HEBREWS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	General Epistles				
67 - 69 AD	Hebrews 13 Chapters	Superiority of Jesus	This epistle presents Jesus as our eternal, holy, Perfect High Priest. The Old and New Covenant are discussed.	Follow the example of Jesus.	Jesus is our High Priest, Prophet and King.

HEBREWS

1. Jesus, the Superior Person

(Heb. 1: 1 – 4: 13)

a. Jesus - Superior to the Prophets

(Heb. 1: 1 – 3)

b. Jesus – Superior to the Angels

(Heb. 1: 3 – 2: 18)

c. Jesus – Superior to Moses and Joshua

(Heb. 3: 1 – 4: 13)

HEBREWS

2. Jesus, the Superior Priest

(Heb. 4: 14 – 10: 18)

a. Jesus' High Priesthood is Superior to Aaron's (Heb. 4: 14 – 7: 28)

b. Jesus' Ministry is Superior to Aaron's (Heb. 8)

c. Jesus' Offering is Superior to the Old Testament's (Heb. 9: 1 – 10: 18)

HEBREWS

3. Warning and Exhortations (Heb. 10: 19 – 13: 17)

a. Do not despise Jesus (Heb. 10: 19 – 39)

b. Follow the Faithful of the Old Testament
(Heb. 11)

c. Hope in Jesus (Heb. 12)

d. Exhortations and Christian Behaviors
(Heb. 13: 1 – 17)

4. Closing Prayer and Blessings (Heb. 13: 18 – 25)

HEBREWS

The Book of Hebrews explains how God replaced the old covenant with the New Covenant.

The new agreement has Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for man.

Christians have the Word of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that teach the difference between right and wrong, instead of laws written on scrolls.

HEBREWS

Heb. 1: 1-4

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Heb. 10: 11-13

11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

HEBREWS

Heb. 11: 1

1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb. 12: 1-2

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS

The Book of Hebrews was written to Hebrews telling the Hebrews to stop acting like Hebrews.

Many of the early Jewish believers were slipping back into the rites and rituals of Judaism in order to escape the mounting persecution.

This letter is an exhortation for those persecuted believers to continue in the grace of Jesus Christ.

HEBREWS

The writer of Hebrews continually makes mention of the superiority of Christ in both His personage and in His ministering work.

In the writings of the Old Testament, we understand the rituals and ceremonies of Judaism symbolically pointed to the coming of The Messiah. The rites of Judaism were but shadows of things to come.

Hebrews tells us that Christ Jesus is better than anything other religions claim to offer.

It is the superiority of our Lord Jesus that remains the theme of this letter.

HEBREWS

Hebrews also gives us encouraging examples of God's "faith heroes" who persevered in spite of great difficulties and adverse circumstances (Hebrews 11).

These members of God's Hall of Faith provide overwhelming evidence as to the unconditional surety and absolute reliability of God.

Christians can maintain perfect confidence in God's rich promises, regardless of our circumstances, by meditating upon the rock-solid faithfulness of God's workings in the lives of His Old Testament saints.

HEBREWS

There are five warnings Christians must heed:

1. There is the danger of neglect (Hebrews 2: 1 – 4)
2. The danger of unbelief (Hebrews 3: 7– 4: 13)
3. The danger of spiritual immaturity (Hebrews 5: 11– 6: 20)
4. The danger of failing to endure (Hebrews 10: 26 – 39)
5. The inherent danger of refusing God (Hebrews 12: 25 – 29)

Hebrews is a source of encouragement, a source of sound, practical warnings against slothfulness in our Christian walk.

The Hebrew writer portrays our Lord Jesus Christ as the Author and Finisher of our great salvation (Hebrews 12: 2).

JAMES

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	General Epistles				
44 - 49 AD	James 5 Chapters	Practical living	Tests of true faith are presented. One who has true faith continues in the faith and produces good works. A variety of topics are discussed.	Practice the Word.	Jesus matures our faith

JAMES

James gives practical advice to Christians. The book is overflowing with wisdom.

The Book of James is directed to Jewish Christians scattered among all the nations (James 1:1).

The Book of James describes the relationship between faith and works.

So ingrained in the Mosaic Law and its system of works were the Jewish Christians to whom James wrote that he spent considerable time explaining the difficult truth that no one is justified by the works of the law (Galatians 2:16).

He declares to them that even if they try their very best to keep all the various laws and rituals, doing so is impossible, and transgressing the tiniest part of the law made them guilty of all of it (James 2:10) because the law is one entity and breaking one part of it is breaking all of it.

JAMES

James 1: 5

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 1: 19-20

19 *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;
20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

James 2: 17

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

JAMES

The Book of James challenges faithful followers of Jesus Christ to not just “talk the talk,” but to “walk the walk.” While our faith walk, to be certain, requires a growth of knowledge about the Word, James exhorts us to not stop there. James focuses on the truths of Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount and motivates Christians to act upon what Jesus taught.

One can become a Christian and yet continue living in sin, exhibiting no fruit of righteousness. Such a “faith,” James declares, is shared by the demons who “believe and tremble” (James 2:19).

A “faith” cannot save because it is not verified by the works that always accompany true saving faith (Ephesians 2:10).

Good works are not the cause of salvation, but they are the result of it.

1 PETER

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	General Epistles				
64 - 65 AD	1 Peter 5 Chapters	The righteous will suffer	The challenge to be holy even as God is holy is given. Submission to government, husbands, and parents and of employees to employers is taught. The role of elders is presented. Christ is our example.	Live your position.	Jesus is our hope in times of suffering

1 PETER

1 Peter addresses the trials and tribulations Christians facing due to their faith.

Jesus is the source of example and strength during these trials and tribulations. By allowing God to help you in your perseverance and work of Christ, Christians can always have hope during sufferings.

Peter urges Christians to hold on to their faith, keep living holy lives and obey their political leaders

1 PETER

1 Peter 5: 6-8

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 PETER

Though this time of persecution was desperate, Peter reveals that it was actually a time to rejoice.

He says to count it a privilege to suffer for the sake of Christ, as their Savior suffered for them.

This letter makes reference to Peter's personal experiences with Jesus and his sermons from the book of Acts.

Peter confirms Satan as the great enemy of every Christian but the assurance of Christ's future return gives the incentive of hope.

1 PETER

The assurance of eternal life is given to all Christians. One way to identify with Christ is to share in His suffering.

Christ suffered for us on the Cross.

Stand up for what you know and believe is right and rejoice when the world and Satan aim to hurt you.

2 PETER

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	New Testament				
	General Epistles				
67 - 68 AD	2 Peter 3 Chapters	False teachers are condemned	Warnings about false teachers and advice about the end times is provided.	Get to know Jesus Christ.	Jesus guards us from false teachers

2 PETER

2 Peter deals with:

- a. Peter encourages Christians not to listen false teachers who will infiltrate the church.
- b. He encourages Christians to continue in the faith, no matter what persecution they are up against.
- c. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief.

2 PETER

2 Peter 1: 5-7

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, **6** and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, **7** and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

2 Peter 3: 9-10

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2 PETER

Peter's time was short (2 Peter 1:13-15) and these churches faced immediate danger (2 Peter 2:1-3).

Peter called upon the readers to refresh their memories (2 Peter 1:13) and stimulate their thinking (2 Peter 3:1-2) so that they would remember his teaching (2 Peter 1:15).

He challenged the believers to become more mature in their faith by adding to it specific Christians virtues, thereby becoming effective and productive in their knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-9).