

Titus (Week 37)

Chapter 3: *Tit 3:9-11, 2Ti 2:14*

Remember, **Subverting** is the action of undermining, overturning, or destroying an established system, authority, or moral order. It involves **weakening** or rendering something **ineffective**, often by attacking it from **beneath** or **inside**. In other words, **a sneak attack**.

The instruction in this passage was to help the congregation members to identify possible infiltrators amongst their numbers. The use of this subversion, or sneak attack, always involved an instigator... *Tit 3:10-11*

There will be someone who comes in and creates a clique, concentrating on a few people who seem drawn to their agenda or ideas. They latch on, like a remora. Then they slowly work on turning those few against the congregation. It boils down to these infiltrators are simply **unbelievers** trying to cause division.

Pro 6:16-19, Pro 16:27-30, Act 20:28-30, Mat 7:15-20

Another way of identifying these people is they will have some character traits related to being a deceiving, divisive person: They are characterized by severe **arrogance**, **greed**, and a **lack of fear of God**. *2Pe 2:1-3, 10, Jud 1:8-10, 16*

Paul always advocated for unity among the brethren, the opposite of what factious people do. *1Co 1:10, Rom 16:17-20*

Tit 3:12-15: This is Paul's final instruction and closing statement in the letter.

Paul had a **unified network of associates**. These **apostolic** delegates were responsible for carrying out Paul's plan for a wide range of duties.

Closing Overview:

Where was Paul at the time he wrote to Titus?

It's most likely he was in **Macedonia** (northern Greece). Some say he was in **Nicopolis** (western Greece), but he was likely **on his way** to Nicopolis.

Paul intends to send either Artemus or Tychicus to Crete, so that Titus can join Paul in Nicopolis at a later time. Tit 3:12

As for **Artemus**, this is his only appearance in the New Testament. **Tychicus**, however, is mentioned in four other places. *Act 20:1-4, Eph 6:21-24, Col 4:7-18, 2Ti 4:9-13*

Side Note: **John Mark**, the highly possible writer of the gospel of Mark. He had an interesting story as well... He was mentioned in acts during Paul's beginnings as an apostle. At some point he would have a falling out with Paul, but also a redemption.

- He was the son of Mary, a believer who had a house church of sorts: *Act 12:12*
- He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on missions: *Act 12:25, Act 13:4-5*
- The Conflict that ultimately split up Paul and Barnabas for a time: *Act 15:36-41*
- And they reconciled at one point, as Paul will mention him in later epistles: *Col 4:10-18, Phm 1:23-25*

Tit 3:12: Paul asks Titus to join him at **Nicopolis**, a city on the west side of Greece. Paul had decided to spend the winter there. *2Ti 4:19-22*

Tit 3:13: Zenas and Apollos were both part of Paul's missionary network. **Zenas** is labeled "the lawyer" here, suggesting he was likely skilled in Jewish law or possibly Roman law. **Apollos** was known for his **eloquence and knowledge** of the Scriptures, and his zeal for the gospel and ministry work.

This reveals that they [Zenas and Apollos] were both in Crete with Titus, and that Titus was to plan and provision their journey. Although it's not directly stated the destination of their journey, they were most likely making their way around to the surrounding churches in service. Paul made sure they were to have **no lack** in these provisions, and suggested that they were very important to the ministry plan.

Tit 3:14: Here is the final mention of **good deeds** in the epistle, and there were many, driving home what was important to Paul; The unrelenting support of the **saints**, and the **surrounding people**, so that the word of God and the pillar of the church is **held in high regard, glorifying God**.

Paul finally closes with greeting statements and requests, and of course, grace. *Tit 3:15*

Examples of how Paul closes out some of his other letters:

2Co 13:11-14 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you. 14 The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Eph 6:23-24 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 **Grace** be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

Php 4:21-23 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Col 4:14-18 Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house. 16 When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea. 17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." 18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. **Grace** be with you.

1Th 5:25-28 Brethren, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. 28 The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2Th 3:16-18 Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all! 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write. 18 The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

2Ti 4:19-22 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. 21 Make every effort to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren. 22 The Lord be with your spirit. **Grace** be with you.