

Titus (Week 4)

Continuing, Titus, along with the letters to Timothy, are a package for instruction on church leadership and teaching, as well as the high standard of church conduct, so each member can reflect Christ.

Chapter 1 (Church Leadership)	
Verses 1-4	Greeting and Declaration
Verses 5-16	Titus' Charge, the qualifications for elders and warnings/comparison of rebellious men.
Chapter 2 (Sound Teaching)	
Verses 1-15	What Titus (and elders) are to teach to the believing congregation
Chapter 3 (Godly Living, Sanctified lives)	
Verses 1-11	The call for, and importance of good deeds, and a reminder of who they are
Verses 12-15	Ending instructions and final greeting

Now, as we go over these things, always remember the grace of God. This is all based on His grace, a truth that Paul constantly drove home in all his epistles.

Let's start by reading Chapter 1: 1-4.

Spiritual leadership is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. This "gospel-grounded leadership" is three things:

- 1. Exemplified in the apostle Paul.**
- 2. Embodied in the gospel.**
- 3. Entrusted to Titus.**

Let's look at three Gospel Summaries Paul is trying to convey:

1. God promised salvation before the world began. The gospel work of redemption is a plan of **God the Father (Ch 1)**. His promise was that He was going to redeem the human race.

2. It was the work of **the Son (Ch 2)**. The Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world.
3. It is a result of the power of **the Holy Spirit (Ch 3)**.

Church Leadership

Paul instructed Titus to ensure each city had the leadership structure for the church to survive. This is where we see the importance of elders.

What is an “elder” or “overseer”?

The New Testament elder is not the same as the Old Testament elders, who were primarily rulers and judges. An elder is a biblical office appointed and held by a mature member of the believing assembly. It is not a spiritual gift. Paul didn't instruct Titus to appoint spiritually gifted men to this office. We saw that prospective elders have to be tested, proven. There are strict qualifications required to be an elder as stated here in this epistle.

Qualification for elders

- Above reproach (as God's steward)
- Husband of one wife
- Having children who believe, and not rightly accused of dissipation or rebellion
- Not self-willed
- Not quick tempered
- Not addicted to wine
- Not pugnacious
- Not fond of sordid gain
- Hospitable
- Loving what is Good
- Sensible
- Just
- Devout
- Self-Controlled
- Holding fast the faithful word in accordance with the teaching. Able to exhort in sound doctrine. Able to refute those who contradict.

Humility is required of the prospective leader. The ability to know you will fail repeatedly, but accept corrections and keep moving forward.