

## Titus

### Lesson #17, Chapter 2:15, 3:1-2

1. Titus is to instruct the people in his church in 3 ways from verse 15. What are they? Define each word.
2. What prepositional phrase describes how he is to do these things (in what manner is he to address the people) in verse 15?
3. What kind of authority does a preacher of God's word have to urge people to obey the Lord? See 2 Cor. 13:10; 1 Thess. 4:2; 1 Tim. 6:13-16; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Titus 1:9.
4. In verse 15 Titus is also told *let no one disregard you*. Why aren't people within the church allowed to disregard a pastor's teaching (for clues see your answers to #3)? How might people *disregard* a pastor's teaching?
5. What needs to happen if someone does not heed God's word? See Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Thess. 3:14, 15; Titus 3:9-11.
6. Carefully now, examine your heart to see if there are areas in your life in which you are disregarding God's word. When God's word is preached from the pulpit are you accepting it *for what it really is, the word of God*, or do you discount it as man's opinion?

- a. Are you obeying God to the best of your ability and to the level of knowledge that you have? If so, then continue in faithfulness! However, if you regard certain portions of God's word as picky, prudish, disagreeable or out of your ability to obey and you consistently rebel against those commands of God, be careful. Do not test the Lord further with an evil, unbelieving heart as Israel did in the wilderness. Begin by repenting of your sin and then come up with a plan for obedience.

“The preacher must put himself out of the way and let God's Word speak through him unhindered. No matter what his training, experience, or personal abilities, he has spiritual authority only to the extent that what he says conforms to God's Word. But as with Jesus' own teaching, when a minister of God does faithfully proclaim that Word, those who reject his teaching reject God's truth and are as much accountable for their rejection as if the Lord had spoken the truth with His own lips. It is in that way, and only in that way, that a pastor is able to speak with spiritual authority. It is also in that way that he is commanded to speak with spiritual authority.” ~John MacArthur

7. A simple outline for the book of Titus could be Chapter 1—instructions about church leaders; Chapter 2—instructions about behavior for those within the church; and Chapter 3—instructions about behavior toward those outside the church. Titus 3:1-2 reminds us of our responsibilities toward an unbelieving world in a concise manner. As believers, what are our responsibilities as detailed in verses 1-2?
8. By way of reminder, what does it mean to be *subject* or *submissive*?
9. The text says *to be subject to rulers, to authorities*. Who or what are we to be submissive to *today*?

10. Next we are to be *obedient*. The context tells us to whom our obedience is due (Who is it?). Look up the following verses to examine our role in and toward society. See Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:13-17.
  
11. When are we “allowed” to disobey the governing authorities? See Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-29, 40-41 (note the consequences!).
  
12. According to 3:1 to whom are we to show good deeds? (Also see Gal. 6:10).
  
13. For you eager beavers, check out Matt. 5:13-16. What do you observe about good deeds in this passage? Does that change your thoughts about what good deeds are to be?
  
14. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Finish this sentence: *Jesus began telling this parable in answer to the question about \_\_\_\_\_.* *When the parable is finished it provides a picture of a person who \_\_\_\_\_.*
  
15. Verse 2 records 4 ways to act toward *all men*. What are they?
  
16. Define *malign* (*slander*); *uncontentious* (*not a brawler*).
  
17. What do the Scriptures teach about *maligning* others (Acts 23:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:21-24; 4:14-16; Jude 8-9)?

18. What example from the verses above do you see about how you are to respond in tense situations? What if you've already said something you shouldn't have?
  
19. How can you be *uncontentious* in a perverse world? See Rom. 12:18-19; 1 Cor. 2:14; Phil. 2:14-16; Titus 3:3-5.
  
20. List 5 words that describe or are the opposite of *gentle*.
  
21. Why is it necessary to be gentle in our witness before an unbelieving world?
  
22. Next we are to *show every consideration for all men*. *Consideration* has also been translated meekness or humility. How is consideration toward others lived out (See Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:25-26; 1 Pet. 3:15-16)?
  
23. John MacArthur writes in his commentary on Titus, "Genuine, heartfelt consideration for all men is one of the most foundational spiritual virtues. As followers and imitators of Jesus Christ, our calling is not to fight for our rights or privileges against the ungodly. Rather, as we live in this corrupt world in subjection and obedience to human authority, doing good deeds, maligning no one, and being uncontentious, gentle, and meek, we will thereby demonstrate the gracious power of God to transform sinners and make them like Himself."

Consider your witness in and to the world. Are you subject to the laws, no matter how inconvenient or disagreeable they may seem? Are you abrasive or abusive in your speech toward unbelievers (especially if they don't know you're a Christian)? Are you humble toward others? Are you ready for every good deed? What are some specific ways you can improve in these areas?

24. Of the list of godly actions here in 3:1-2 which areas are hardest for you to implement? Think of one or more ways you can work on your “tough area” today, this week.