

## Titus 1:1-9

Memory Verse: Titus 1:9 ...holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

*Begin your Bible study with prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your study.*

*Background information: Paul's third pastoral epistle, addressed to Titus was written around A.D. 62-64 between Paul's first and second Roman imprisonments. Like Timothy, Titus was a beloved disciple and fellow worker for the gospel alongside Paul. After ministering to the largely gentile converts with Paul on the island of Crete, Titus was left behind to pastor the church there. Like Timothy, Titus was a young preacher and had to deal with many of the same issues as Timothy: teaching sound doctrine and appointing godly leaders to assist in the ministry to the Cretian church while contending with opposition from ungodly men and false teachers within the body. (adapted from John MacArthur)*

Read Titus 1:1-9

1. Read verses 1-4. Make a list of how Paul describes himself and how he describes Titus. What do you think he is trying to communicate by these descriptions?

2. Who is Titus? Look up the following verses and write down what you learn about Titus.

- Gal. 2:1-3
  
- 2 Cor 8:6, 16-17, 23-24

3. In verse 1, the NASB speaks of "truth according to godliness". The NIV translates it as "the truth that leads to godliness". What is this truth and how does it lead to godliness. Use the following verses to help you answer: John 14:15-17; John 17:17; 2Tim 3:16,17

4. What do you learn about eternal life in verse 2? See also: 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13

5. For what two purposes did Paul send Titus to Crete? What is the role of elders in the church? See also 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1,2 and Acts 20:28-31.

6. List out the qualifications of an elder from verses 5-9. Using the references you have available, briefly define the meaning of each qualification. (See also 1 Timothy 3:2-7). Do these qualifications seem to focus more on character or on gifts? Why do you think that is?

7. In verse 3, Paul speaks of the “proclamation” that had been entrusted to him. The Greek word used here, *kerugma* can also be translated as “message preached.” Read the following verses and write down what you learn about the message Paul proclaimed: Romans 1:5; Galatians 1:11-16a; 2 Timothy 4:17. How do you think Paul’s entrusted proclamation relate to Titus personally and to the church in Crete?

Application: Looking back at verses 6-9, Paul describes the qualifications of elders and overseers. While they are to be clearly marked by these qualities, they are qualities to which every godly Christian should aspire. Looking at the list, where do you specifically need to grow? What practical steps will you take to mature in those areas?

*End your study by thanking the Lord for what you have learned this week, ask Him to help you apply the truths you have learned.*

For further study: The nature and character of God. In verse 2, Paul writes, “God, who cannot lie” Look up the following verses and write down some other things you learn about the nature and character of God. John 4:24; 1 Tim 1:17; Eph 2:4-5; Ps 147: 5; Ps 130: 4; Malachi 3:6; 2 Sam 7:22