

## MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

### Truth that Leads to Godliness

**Overview:** The island of Crete was a notoriously wicked place in the ancient world. Cretans were known for their lying, underhanded ways, and their cities were marked by unbridled pagan culture. This was not an easy place to be a Christian. To make matters worse, a group of Jewish teachers had been twisting the gospel by burdening the people with additional commands. In order to protect the Cretan churches, Paul sent Titus to establish godly elders who would teach the gospel faithfully and live according to the truth they proclaimed.

**Video:** Bible Project | Titus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUEYCVXJM3k>

**Segment Questions:** (References are on back)

- Read Titus 1:1. This seems to be Paul's thesis statement for the letter.
  - "Godliness" is a word we may encounter often, but what is it? When you think of a godly man, what comes to mind?
  - Paul says there is a link between knowledge of truth and godliness. Share about a time when you learned something about who God is that changed how you live.
- Read Titus 2:1-6 and 2:9-10.
  - Paul says our behavior either causes the Word of God to be reviled or be adorned. How often do you consider that you are either blaspheming or beautifying Jesus in all you do?
  - How might considering this more often change how you live?
  - Paul gives slightly different instructions to each of the groups he addresses in 2:1-6, but he urges them all to be self-controlled. Why do you think that's the one he chooses to repeat?
- Read Titus 2:11-14.
  - The grace of God has already appeared in Jesus, shown most prominently in his death on the cross. How does remembering what Jesus has **already** done for you train you for godliness?
  - We are still hopefully awaiting Christ's promised return. How does meditating on what Jesus **will do** train you for godliness?

**Action Questions:**

- What is something specific you can do this week (at work, in your home, where you shop, etc.) that will adorn the gospel?
- Choose an aspect of godliness to cultivate this week (the fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5 provides a good list). Prayerfully, in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of his empowering Spirit, seek to grow in that this week.

**Closing Personal Prayer:**

Father, thank you for opening our eyes to the life-changing truth of your Son. We believe that he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy. We pray that the knowledge of this truth will empower us to turn from sin and to live godly and upright lives that reflect your beauty and love to those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Introduction

There was a problem in Crete. On an island known for its lies and liars, false gospels were beginning to creep into the church. These corrupt teachings directly affected the Cretan Christian's behavior: they were confused regarding moral purity, quarrelsome over petty issues, and disrupting the tranquility of Christian households. To address this problem, Paul sent his missionary friend Titus to establish elders in the Cretan churches.

Paul's solution to this problem is interesting. Rather than simply addressing the symptoms, Paul treats the issue at the source. For him, there is a clear link between what we believe and how we live. In order to live godly lives, we must have godly teachers who proclaim God's word faithfully and model godly living.

While Paul is certainly concerned about individual Christians growing in godliness, he also recognizes the implications for those outside the church. The world is watching Christians. They may not see Jesus himself, but they see the church which is his body on earth. Through our actions, we will either slander the gospel or adorn it. Thus, the book of Titus shows us that we need to believe rightly about Jesus so that we may live more like Jesus and help others to love Jesus.

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**Titus 1:1** | Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness

**Titus 2:1-6** | But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be reviled**. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

**Titus 2:9-10** | Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, **so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior**.

**Titus 2:11-14** | For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.