

**Subject: *Know Your Bible – Part 27***

**Scripture: *Titus 1:1-9***

**Time, Place, and Purpose of Titus**

1. This is one of Paul's three pastoral epistles (along with 1 and 2 Timothy) and also one of his four personal letters (along with 1 Tim., 2 Tim., and Philemon).
2. This letter is similar to 1 Timothy in its date, circumstances, and purposes.
3. This letter to Titus was written around 63 A.D., shortly after 1 Timothy.
4. Titus was one of Paul's closest and most trusted companions. He is not mentioned in the Book of Acts, but his name appears 13 times in Paul's letters. He was converted under Paul's ministry (Tit. 1:4) and was probably a native of Antioch in Syria.
5. Titus was a young pastor on the island of Crete, a place known for its lying and immorality. In ancient times, the common phrase "to act like a Cretan" meant "to be a liar."
6. Due to the Cretans' immorality, Paul stressed the need for godly living.
7. Paul also stressed the godly character required in church leaders.
8. This letter reveals the proper relationship of grace and works in salvation. All people are saved by God's grace in Christ alone (Tit. 2:11-14; 3:4-7), but the ongoing evidence and fruit of good works are expected of all true believers. The need for good works as a result of salvation is mentioned six times (Tit. 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14). Good works come after saving faith, and they continue as a visible sign of genuine salvation.
9. In this short letter we find several major doctrines of the Christian faith:
  - A. God's sovereign election of believers (Tit. 1:1-2)
  - B. The hope of eternal life (1:2; 3:7)
  - C. Christ as Savior and God (1:3-4; 2:13)
  - D. Inspiration of Scripture (2:5)
  - E. God's saving grace (2:11)
  - F. Universal provision of salvation (2:11)
  - G. The blessed hope of Christ's return (2:13)
  - H. Christ's death as our Substitute and Redeemer (2:14)
  - I. Human depravity (3:3)
  - J. God's love and mercy (3:4-5)
  - K. Regeneration and cleansing by the Holy Spirit (3:5)
  - L. Justification by grace (3:7)
  - M. Believers as heirs (3:7)

**Outline of Titus**

- I. Greeting / Introduction (Tit. 1:1-4)
- II. Qualifications for Pastors / Elders (1:5-9)
- III. Instructions about False Teachers (1:10-16)

- IV. Instructions for Various Groups (2:1-10)
  - A. Instructions for older men (2:1-2)
  - B. Instructions for older women (2:3)
  - C. Instructions for younger women (2:4-5)
  - D. Instructions for younger men (2:6)
  - E. Instructions for Titus (2:7-8)
  - F. Instructions for servants (2:9-10)
- V. God's Saving Grace (2:11-15)
  - A. Description of God's grace (2:11-14)
  - B. Declaration of God's grace (2:15)
- VI. Good Works of Believers (3:1-8)
  - A. Present responsibilities as saints (3:1-2)
  - B. Past conduct as sinners (3:3)
  - C. Conversion and conduct of believers (3:4-8)
- VII. Further Instructions about False Teachers (3:9-11)
- VIII. Conclusion (3:12-15)

### **Time, Place, and Purpose of Philemon**

1. This is one of Paul's shortest and most personal letters (only 25 verses). It is the only one of the prison epistles (along with Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians) written to an individual. There are many references to Paul's imprisonment (vs. 1, 9, 10, 13, 23).
2. This letter was written by Paul to Philemon around 60-61 A.D.
3. Paul wrote on behalf of Onesimus ("useful"), a runaway slave who belonged to Philemon. Onesimus was converted and returned with this letter, urging Philemon to receive and forgive him, not as a slave but as a brother in Christ.
4. This short letter is a beautiful picture of salvation and the Christian life:
  - A. Like Onesimus, we have strayed and need to be reconciled to God.
  - B. Like Paul, Christ intercedes for us and pays our debt.
  - C. This letter pictures regeneration (new birth, Philem. 1:10).
  - D. This letter pictures repentance (1:11). By nature we are not useful, but by God's grace, we are changed and become useful for our Master.
  - E. This letter pictures reconciliation (1: 12, 17). Christ receives us as Philemon received Onesimus.
  - F. This letter pictures imputation (1:18-19) – Imputation is the principle by which we are justified before God. Christ's goodness is put on our account and our sin is charged to His account. J. Vernon McGee said: "We have the standing of Christ before God or we have none at all."
  - G. This letter pictures how believers receive and forgive one another.  
***Romans 15:7** Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*

# Know Your Bible – Part 27

## Titus and Philemon

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