

Titus 3:12-15 — “4 Final & Crucial Exhortations to Local Churches!”*Outlines of Titus:*

- Church leadership (1) Christian pastors (1) Protecting sound doctrine (1)
- Christian living (2-3) Christian practice (2-3) Practicing sound doctrine (2-3)

Background to Titus 3:12ff

- Paul has penned this remarkable **Pastoral Letter** to Titus to oversee churches on Crete & “*Set things in Order*” -- key verse is 1.5 & 3.8. All that Paul says is undergirded & standing upon *Gospel Truth* (1.1-3; 2.11-14; 3.4-8!).

THESIS — *These closing verses will give us 4 final, crucial exhortations* (=some helpful applications) *for me and you!*

I. STRATEGIZE! Think intentionally about gospel advancement! (12)

Paul is strategically, intentionally, carefully & prayerfully thinking gospel advancement!

CRETE is located in the middle of the Mediterranean sea. During the days of Titus, there were about a million residents occupying the bustling cities along the coastline. The citizens were aggressive, materialistic, hedonistic, worldly, and idolatrous. They earned quite an extensive reputation for deception and vice.

II. HELP! Diligently provide for GOD’s people! (13)

- In the Ancient world, Christian travelers (=missionaries and Christian teachers) depended on ***Fellow Christians*** to provide for their needs.
- So that nothing is lacking: food, travel, lodging, safety, refreshment, assistance, provisions.

III. WORK! Intentionally engage in good deeds (14)

Why intentionally work? Engage in good deeds?

- A. for God's glory (Eph 2.10)
- B. for Saints' refreshment (Titus 3; Heb 10.24)
- C. for your joy (John 15.8-11)
- D. for gospel witness (Matt 5.16)

IV. GREET! Greet each other with love & grace (15)

- A. Greet with affection (1 Thess 5.26)
- B. Greet with specificity (Rom 16; 3 John 15)
- C. Greet with intentionality (Rom 16)
- D. Greet with impartiality (=all the saints) (Phil 4.21)
- E. Greet with grace (Titus 3.15)

We end our study where we began when we started the exposition. In the Book of Titus, Paul will deal with:

- spiritual maturity
- true leadership
- godliness
- priority of the home
- the high calling of biblical womanhood & motherhood
- wholesome, sacrificial relationships
- sexual purity
- credibility and public testimony
- church discipline
- false teachers
- preaching & application
- the importance of your local church
- the gospel
- the zeal for good deeds
 - ➔ Praise be to the Lord who gives clarity on such issues from His Word -- and in the Book of Titus!

Titus 3:12-15 – Applied & Implemented**STRATEGIZE!**

1. Keep your eyes peeled for faithful & godly servants of Christ to invest in for discipleship, mentoring, and regular meetings together.
2. When you don't know exactly what decision to make, don't fret, commit to prayer, make a decision, trust God's sovereignty.
3. Think intentionally about evangelism and gospel-proclaiming work.
4. Consider this mind-shift: I'm going to the store to evangelize: and while I'm at it, I'll do grocery shopping. I'm going to the game and I'll evangelize, and while I'm at it, I'll watch the match.
5. Put yourself in strategic areas where crowds of people are and seek to prayerfully engage in gospel conversations.
6. Go where the people are so you can share the gospel with them – as a fisherman, you go TO the fish, you let down the net FOR a catch, and you earnestly EXPECT/DESIRE that you will catch. You don't expect fish to swim to you or to come in your boat, you must *Go To Them!*
7. Think big picture, big plan, long-term gospel advancement – how can God give you a big goal for His glory through your faithful service?
8. Is there anything real big - I mean, real big – that you can pray strategically for? Your neighborhood? Your city block? Your city? Your law-enforcement? Your government officials? Your school-teachers?

HELP!

1. We are to come alongside of fellow believers and help them along in their travels, missionary work, and gospel advancement ministry.
2. We are to diligently – zealously, thoughtfully, carefully, intentionally, proactively – help others and assist others.
3. The believers are to help Zenas and Apollos – who are TWO missionaries that you can specifically help and care for – through prayer and support?
4. The goal is to come alongside of fellow believers so that nothing is lacking for them. Are there needs that you can help provide? Some may need lodging, traveling aid, encouragement, refreshment, food, financial support, and intercessory prayer. What can you do?
5. Is there someone that you can diligently and earnestly come to help in your local church? How can you serve a missionary, a family, a couple, a family with children in a way to help supply some of their needs?
6. Is there someone that you can help supply food or groceries for a family in need?
7. Is there someone in your church that you can diligently encourage and lift up? Is there anyone going through a trying time that you can diligently help, edify, strengthen, and encourage?

WORK!

1. This ministry of living out good works is for ALL believers. Are you intentionally, regularly, daily seeking to live out good works for God's glory and not for worldly comfort or selfish gain?
2. We must learn to engage in good deeds. This is a process of learning. It doesn't all happen at once. It is a lifestyle of learning. We are in the school of Christ in learning to live out a life of good deeds.
3. What is an area in your life where you are tempted to let your light be as "dim as possible" while in the world? – is it at work? with family? with neighbors? with teammates? with the work associates? at the party?
4. Creatively look for and find pressing needs in your church and think about how you can strive to assist or meet that need?
5. Consider praying early in the morning that God would help you to be full of fruit and noticeable, ripe, obvious, full fruit for God's glory.
6. Ask the Lord to cause you to bear fruit for your joy – and indeed that Christ's joy may be in you!
7. When you are able to meet a pressing need, seek to encourage someone else by sharing some of the ways that you have helped others. This is not in a prideful, self-congratulatory spirit but in a generalized way of discipling others to think creatively about how to work in such a way to meet needs in the flock by their good works.

Titus 3:12-15 — "4 Final & Crucial Exhortations to Local Churches!"**GREET!**

1. Who are the people that usually sit around you when you gather for worship with your church family and think about the people you usually chat with before & after service. Do you look back and upon reflecting think you talk to many of the same people each week?
2. Is there someone that you can intentionally ask to sit with you so they don't have to sit by themselves during service? Then, engage them in thoughtful and meaningful conversation afterwards.
3. Who is one or two people that are most different than you? Try to intentionally go up to them and encourage them and reflect on the sermon together and then end with a brief prayer.
4. Is there a teenager that you can approach this Sunday and give thanks to the Lord that they are there and ask one good, thoughtful, well-prepared heart-probing question?
5. Take a Sunday and make it your goal to seek out one or two children and encourage them in the following ways: express your joy that they are sitting in church, encourage them to thank the Lord that they have a godly father and mother, ask them if they heard anything in the sermon that day (a key word, concept), ask if there's a way you can pray for them this upcoming week.
6. Keep your eyes peeled for church members who seem a bit discouraged and look a bit heavy-laden. Intentionally approach them, greet them warmly and affectionately and with brotherly love.
7. Consider reaching out to a visitor or a couple who seems new and ask if they want to sit with you and give them a heartfelt greeting in the Lord and after the service, ask them to share how the Lord saved them in a very brief testimony (1-3 mins).

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
 let earth receive her King;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
 let men their songs employ;
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.
 -- Isaac Watts

How divinely full of glory and pleasure shall that hour be when all the millions of mankind that have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God shall meet together and stand around Him, with every tongue and every heart full of joy and praise! How astonishing will be the glory and the joy of that day when all the saints shall join together in one common song of gratitude and love, and of everlasting thankfulness to this Redeemer! With that unknown delight, and inexpressible satisfaction, shall all that are saved from the ruins of sin and hell address the Lamb that was slain, and rejoice in His presence! — **Isaac Watts**