

The Church of the Three Epiphanies

Chapter 15

Audio Lesson: New Testament #69



Objective: To understand the last part of Paul’s instructions in 1 Timothy and to introduce Titus.



But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

– 1 Timothy 6:6-8

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

– Titus 2:11-14

Many of the first believers were slaves, and Paul gives instruction to slaves and to employees to not be lazy, but to be good workers. We should work and serve as if we are serving Jesus Christ Himself. We are to be rich in good works and always give happily to those who are in need.

In 1 Timothy and in Titus, Paul’s primary concern was the character of the men who lead the church. He also gave a warning against materialism. Some people base their worth on achievements, but achievements do not bring peace, happiness, or contentment. But godliness with contentment is great gain, Paul wrote. Paul told Timothy to pursue what lasts: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. He urged Timothy to guard the truth which had been entrusted to him.

Paul’s letter to Titus was also a pastoral epistle. Titus was an older, more mature, stable man who could be trusted with difficult assignments, including being pastor to the people on the island of Crete. Titus was probably the best pastor that Paul knew. Paul’s letter to him is not as personal as 1 Timothy is, but it contains similar instructions about godly overseers in the church. The theme of Titus is to adorn doctrine with a godly witness.

Paul wrote to Titus that we are to say no to ungodliness and to live godly lives while we wait for Jesus to appear again. The Greek word for appearance is “epiphany.” When Jesus came to earth as the incarnation of God, that event was the first epiphany. When He comes back, that will be the second epiphany. The Church exists as a “peculiar” or special or unique people between the two epiphanies, or the two appearances of Jesus. A third epiphany comes through believers, because Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit. In this key passage of Titus, Paul wrote about how the church is to behave between the epiphanies.



1. True or False? Being rich is a sin.
2. True or False? Paul was concerned that Timothy was drinking too much wine.
3. True or False? The letter to Titus is very different from 1 Timothy.
4. True or False? Paul taught that godly supervision leads to godly overseers.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What does Paul mean when he talks about godliness and gain? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Godliness with contentment is better than all the wealth in the world.
 - b. Whatever wealth or achievements we have in this life will not last in eternity.
 - c. We can be content with basic necessities.
 - d. Money is the root of all evil.
6. What is the main difference between Paul's letters to Titus and to Timothy?
 - a. Titus does not include standards for elders.
 - b. Titus focuses on wealthy people.
 - c. First Timothy is much more personal.
 - d. Titus does not mention godliness at all.
7. Paul had Titus travel to Corinth twice to deliver each of his two letters to the church there. Why was that a difficult assignment? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Titus did not want to go to Corinth.
 - b. The letters contained bold instruction to the Corinthians to turn away from sin.
 - c. The city of Corinth was not hospitable.
 - d. Titus did not like to travel.

8. Why would being the pastor of the church on the island of Crete be difficult for Titus or for any other pastor? (Choose all that apply)

- a. The island had a desolate landscape.
- b. The climate was extreme.
- c. The Cretans were known to be fierce, lazy, and dishonest.
- d. The Cretans did not pay their pastors well.

9. What is the church supposed to be doing? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Resisting ungodliness and worldly passions.
- b. Getting more people to come to church.
- c. Living holy, godly lives.
- d. Not talking about or telling others about the return of Jesus Christ.

10. What did Paul mean by a “peculiar” people?

- a. Followers of Christ are strange.
- b. There are no other people on earth like followers of Christ.
- c. Followers of Christ belong to God.
- d. Followers of Christ are to be different from the world.



Paul instructed in both I Timothy and Titus that those who claim to follow Christ are not to be lazy, but to be honest hard workers, working as if we were working for Jesus Christ Himself. How is your work? Would others say you are an honest and good worker? If not, what can you do to be a better testimony of a follower of Christ?

Do you think that the non-Christians you know consider you peculiar? Do they know by the way you live that you belong to God? If not, what do you need to do for them to see Christ in you?



Thank God for the practical, detailed instruction that Paul gives in these letters to Timothy and Titus. Ask God to help you to be content whatever your circumstances. Thank God for His grace that brings salvation, and for the godly leaders He has given the Church. Ask Him to help you to live a godly life that will be a good testimony to all.



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply the solemn exhortation of Paul (in Titus 2: 11-14) to your own life and ministry as a devout follower of Jesus Christ? _____

2. According to this passage, why did Jesus Christ redeem us? _____

3. How do you relate and apply this same passage to the emphasis of Paul throughout his letter to Titus on the importance of our adorning what we believe with good works? _____

4. Why is this principle so critically important when planting a church in such a difficult place as Crete? _____

5. How do you personally apply the teaching of Paul in Titus 2, that we are to be a unique one-of-a-kind (some translations say *peculiar*) people, through whom God can appear to this world between the appearances of God at the birth and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? _____

6. How do you personally apply the two things we are told we must deny and the three ways we are to live in this world if we're going to be that third appearance of God to this world? _____

7. How do you personally apply the emphasis in this letter to Titus that godly oversight must mean godly overseers? _____
