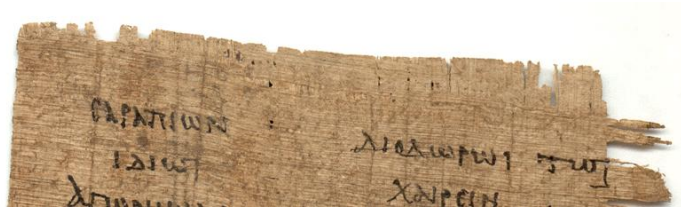


The Epistle to

# Titus

New Testament Letters Series



## Lesson 3-Living a Life of Good Works in Christ Jesus!

Focus: Ch. 3 v.1-15

### 1. Righteous Living and Understanding of others (v.1-3)

- a. (v.1) *The Christian's duty to respect government authorities and powers is often repeated as a reminder to us. We must set an example of good works that will bring glory and honor to the name of God. Being a faithful person and a good citizen is an important rule of practice for every Christian to follow! (See Romans 13:1-8; Daniel 6:1-5). The only time in which we should render a certain obedience or respect to the governing powers is when they enact laws that would conflict with the very laws of God. In that case, we should obey God Himself above and beyond all! (See Acts 5:29).*
- b. (v.2, 3) *We were once in a bad way and with a bad character, but the Lord has done a work to change our souls by His grace and Spirit! Do not be quick to point a condemning finger or to speak evil words of others. Instead, "...speak evil of no one."*

### 2. Saving Grace and Power from the Holy Spirit and our Choice (v.4-8)

- a. (v.4) *It is the "kindness and love of God" that appears and truly transforms our heart, mind, and soul to know Him more and to follow Him! **It is God's kindness and love that breaks down the stony coldness of our hearts and fills us with the blessed warmth of heaven.** "...I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness..." (Jeremiah 31:3). "...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us..." (1 John 4:10). **It is love that awakens love.** God shows us His love first so that we can learn to know and love Him too. Though our hearts have been cold and stony, yet God reaches out with His eternal love to melt our hard hearts and to connect us with Him. **The Holy Spirit sheds God's love within our hearts (Romans 5:5).***
- b. (v.5) *By God's mercy alone we are saved. Freely He saves us and renews our hearts by the Holy Spirit, as is promised (For further study see **Ezekiel 36:25-27**; Romans 8:8-16; **John 3:5-8**; 2 Corinthians 5:17). He does this work, "Washing us through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit" (look at the further study texts to grasp this concept more deeply).*
- c. *We as believers should be "**careful to maintain good works**" (v.8). This saying is worthy to repeat always, the apostle tells us. See Jesus' words on this in John 15:5-8 and Matthew 5:14-16. Such a course brings glory and honor to the name of God. All believers should live such a life-style for the honor of God's name!*

### 3. Avoiding disputes and combative argumentation (v.9-11)

- a. *We are to avoid time wasting controversies and useless things. The Spirit of God does not teach us to go around arguing with each other, even over the Laws of God. In fact, the Holy Spirit, in Scripture teaches us the opposite from that. (See also 2 Timothy 2:15-18, 23-26). To sit around arguing about holy things is not in the Spirit of Christ at all. It*

*does not produce any type of righteousness at all. It does not show any love, but rather pride and conflict. With meekness, love, humility, and consideration for one another, even for our supposed "enemies," we should talk about things. Those who persist in an argumentative way about things should be avoided Paul says (v.10,11).*

#### **4. Final words of Instruction (v.12-15)**

- a. (v.12) Paul spoke of sending relief to Titus at **some time before or during the winter of that year**. He would send a replacement to Titus and then Titus was to come and see Paul at Nicopolis. **Smith's Bible Dictionary** makes a comment on the "Nicopolis" mentioned in this verse, saying, *"Nothing is to be found in the epistle itself to determine which Nicopolis is here intended. One Nicopolis was in Thrace, near the borders of Macedonia. The subscription (which, however, is of no authority) fixes on this place, calling it the Macedonian Nicopolis. But there is little doubt that Jerome's view is correct, and that the Pauline Nicopolis was the celebrated city of Epirus. This city (the "city of victory") was built by Augustus in memory the battle of Actium. It was on a peninsula, to the west of the bay of Actium."* **This place can be found along the left side of the Greek Peninsula**, near the sea, and just above the region of Achaia. It was located geographically higher up than was Corinth.
- b. (v.13-15) (a) Paul then points out the need to send these letter bearing messengers quickly along on their way, also (b) to teach the people **to follow earnestly a life of good works towards others so that glory would be brought to the name of Jesus Christ**. (This, the Apostle reminds of as a final summarizing thought coming to us again for at least the fifth time in his letter—truly a very important point—See 2:7,8, 14; 3:1, 8, 14.) (c) Greetings of love are expressed from Paul's side to those from within Crete who are lovers of God, His apostles, and His work.

#### **Questions for the Heart:**

**Would you like to invite the Holy Spirit of Christ to dwell in your heart today, and to help you live a life of good works for the glory of God? \_\_\_\_\_**