

The Letter to Titus

8

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we begin reading Paul's letter to **Titus**. But before we read the letter itself, let's first acquaint ourselves with the man Titus and the place where he was ministering – Crete.

Titus was one of Paul's early converts (**1:4**), a Gentile believer who had accompanied Paul on his historic mission to Jerusalem to discuss with the leaders of the Jerusalem church the issue of Gentile circumcision (read **Acts 15:1-29; Galatians 2:1-5**).

Paul held Titus close to his heart (**2 Corinthians 2:13**) and Titus himself ministered many times to Paul (**2 Corinthians 7:6**). Paul called Titus his "partner and fellow worker" (**2 Corinthians 8:23**) and his "true son in our common faith" (**Titus 1:4**).

Titus had previously been dispatched to the church at Corinth (**2 Corinthians 7:13-14; 8:6,16-17**) and would later be sent to Dalmatia, a province in the region now known as Yugoslavia (**2 Timothy 4:10**).

After Paul's release from house arrest in Rome (**Acts 28**), he and Titus worked in Crete (**Titus 1:5**), after which Paul commissioned Titus to remain in Crete to continue ministry there (**Titus 2:15; 3:12-13**). As evidenced by the trust Paul had in him, Titus was obviously a capable and effective leader.

As we read Paul's letter to Titus, we find him residing in Crete, a large island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, just south of Greece. By the time Titus had begun ministry there, the Cretans were already renowned throughout the Roman world for their dishonesty, gluttony and laziness (see **3:12**).

With this in mind, let's now begin our exploration of Paul's letter to Titus. Pull up a comfortable chair, open your Bible to **Titus**, and read the letter from beginning to end in one sitting, taking note of Paul's continual emphasis on the practical expression of godliness in an immoral world.

Memory Verse

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-5

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!