

Lesson 3

- Jesus Christ taught about His Father and also what it meant to follow after Him as Savior. The apostles' writing continued with this teaching and they also wrote about the church; writing about how the church was to worship and how it was to function. Long before the coming of Christ, God had established a system for the Hebrew people to worship Him and function as a community of believers. The elders who lead the tribes of Israel were well known among the people. Look at the different roles taken by the elders mentioned in the Old Testament. Please briefly note what God had entrusted to these men and who was involved.
 - a. Exodus 3:16,18
 - b. Exodus 24:9-11
 - c. Deuteronomy 21:18-21
 - d. 1 Samuel 8:4,5
 - e. 2 Samuel 5:3
 - f. 1 Kings 8:1-3
2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used in this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
4245 presbuteros presbuteros Titus 1:5	Elders , older, a senior. <i>Can be used either in the masculine or feminine form.</i>	1 Peter 5:1,5
410 anegkletos anegkletos Titus 1:6	Blameless , above reproach, <i>(to be)</i> unaccused, irreproachable	Colossians 1:21,22
435 aner aner Titus 1:6	Husband , man, fellow, sir. <i>Could have been translated "a one woman man," meaning not a ladies man.</i>	1 Timothy 3:2
810 asotia asotias Titus 1:6	Wild life-styles <i>ISV</i> , riot <i>KJV</i> , dissipation <i>NASB</i> , also excess.	Ephesians 5:18
506 anupotaktos anupotakta Titus 1:6 anupotaktoi Titus 1:10	Rebellious <i>ISV</i> , rebellion, unruly, unsubdued, disobedient, insubordinate (in fact or temper), <i>one that will not be "put under" another</i>	Hebrews 2:8 (not subject to, <i>NASB</i>)

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
1985 episkopos episkopon Titus 1:7	Overseer <i>ISV</i> , bishop <i>KJV</i> , superintendent, officer of the church	Acts 20:28
3623 oikonomos oikonomon Titus 1:7	Administrator , steward, a house manager, overseer, preacher of the gospel	1 Corinthians 4:1,2
829 authades authade Titus 1:7	Arrogant <i>ISV</i> , self-willed <i>KJV</i> , self-pleasing	Used two times in the New Testament. 2 Peter 2:10
3711 orgilos orgilon Titus 1:7	Irritable <i>ISV</i> , soon angry <i>KJV</i> , quick-tempered, irascible	Ephesians 4:26
3943 paroinos paroinon Titus 1:7	Drink too much <i>ISV</i> , given to wine <i>KJV</i> , addicted to wine, staying near wine	Used twice in the New Testament. 1 Timothy 3:3
4131 plektes plekten Titus 1:7	Violent person <i>ISV</i> , striker <i>KJV</i> , pugnacious. <i>The word comes from pug, short for pugilist, or boxer.</i>	Used twice in the New Testament. 1 Timothy 3:3
146 aischrokerdes aischrokerde Titus 1:7	Use shameful ways to make money , sordid gain, given to (greedy of) filthy lucre	Used three times in the New Testament. 1 Timothy 3:3,8
5382 philoxenos philoxenon Titus 1:8	Lover of strangers , hospitable, fond of guests	1 Peter 4:9
5358 philagathos philagathon Titus 1:8	Lover of goodness , fond of good, promoter of virtue, love of good	2 Timothy 3:3
4998 sophron sophrona Titus 1:8	Sensible , safe (sound) in mind, self-controlled, discreet, sober, temperate	2 Timothy 1:7
1342 dikaios dikaion Titus 1:8	Honest , just, equitable, innocent, holy, right (eous)	Hebrews 11:4 (righteous)
3741 hosios hosion Titus 1:8	Moral , devout, right, holy, mercy	1 Thessalonians 2:10
1468 egkrates egkrate Titus 1:8	Self-controlled , strong in a thing, temperate	1 Corinthians 9:25

3. The New Testament contains other teaching concerning elders. Please read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 5:1-5 for a fuller understanding of the character and role of an elder in the body of Christ. Compare the information you gathered from Titus 1:5-9 on page 25 and mark the similarities these two passages have with Paul's teaching to Titus.

Lesson 3

How is the <i>character</i> of the elder described? (What are they to be?)	How is the <i>behavior</i> of an elder described? (What are they to do?)	What is the <i>spiritual role</i> of the elder?
1 Timothy 3:1-7		
1 Peter 5:1-5		

4. These passages are not identical, so please look again to see how the qualifications given to Titus can give you insight into the situation on the island of Crete. Please make note of this here.

5. In Acts 20 Luke recorded a meeting that the apostle Paul had with the elders of the church in Ephesus. Paul's words to the elders of the church of Ephesus are recorded in Acts 20:28-31. These verses must be read in the context of their passage, so please read Acts 20:17-38. First briefly summarize Paul's situation and his attitude toward these elders from Ephesus and then record his concern for them and their role in the church.

Paul's situation and attitude:	Paul's instructions for the Ephesian elders:

6. What does James 5:14 say about the role of an elder in the body of Christ? Have you ever followed this command? Was there perhaps a time that you should have been obedient to this command and yet you did not? A friend of mine said that there was a time when she should have gone to the elders of our church for prayer, but the pride within her heart prohibited her from asking for prayer. From what you have read about the role of the elder in the church, why was the command of James 5:14 given to the body of Christ? Before you think about this question, please read the verse in its context. Read James 5:13-18 and then meditate on this command.

7. You've looked at some very significant Scripture today. You might not see a personal application of the truths taught concerning eldership in the church, but no one in the body of Christ should ignore these truths. What would God want you to do with these verses you have looked at today? Do you know an elder that you could encourage with his role in the church? Is there someone that you could go to for advice concerning a struggle in your life? Who do you turn to when you need help?

What is your responsibility toward the elders in your church? How can you pray for these elders? Can you thank God for the leaders in your church and pray for them regarding these Scriptures that you just studied?

Days 3 and 4 – Titus 1:10-16

1. Look at the word that opens Titus 1:10. This is a word that brings you to a conclusion concerning the preceding paragraph. Whenever you read a **term of conclusion**, you must go to the paragraph that came before, to read in its context the paragraph introduced with the **term of conclusion**. So please open by reading Titus 1:5-9 as these are not to be separated from Titus 1:10-16. **Pray** before beginning that the Lord would reveal to you what He would want you to learn in these next two days. Open with these **observation questions**.

- In Titus 1:10-16, Paul directed Titus concerning a certain group of people in the church. How were these people described in Titus 1:10 and what did Paul say that they were doing?
- According to Titus 1:11,13, what did Paul ask Titus to do concerning these people and why?

Lesson 3

- Paul’s quotation in Titus 1:12 is a poem from the honored Cretan philosopher and poet Epimenides, who was born in 659 B.C. The people of Crete even offered sacrifices to Epimenides as they considered him to be a god.¹ What was declared about the Cretan people in this poem?
- There were two Greek words developed because of the character of the people of Crete. The Greek verb *kretizo* means “to speak like a Cretan,” meaning to lie. The Greek noun *kretismos* represented the behavior of a Cretan as someone who lies. Look back at the attribute Paul gave to describe God in Titus 1:2. Learning about God and His attributes would minister to the needs of the Cretan people. How did Paul describe the character of the Cretan people that he was concerned about in Titus 1:15,16?

2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used in this passage.

Strong’s # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong’s Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
3151 mataiologos mataiologoi Titus 1:10	Speak utter nonsense <i>ISV</i> , an idle (i.e. senseless or mischievous) talker, i.e. a wrangler, vain talker. <i>Devoid of force, truth, success, or result.</i> ²	Hapax legomen, meaning the only place this word was used in the New Testament.
5423 phrenapates phrenapatai Titus 1:10	Deceive people <i>ISV</i> , a mind misleader, i.e. seducer	Hapax legomen.
4061 peritome peritomes Titus 1:10	Converts from Judaism <i>ISV</i> , those of the circumcision <i>NASB</i> , (the rite, the condition of the people, literally or figuratively), circumcised	Romans 2:25
5198 hugiaino hugiainosin Titus 1:13,9 Titus 2:2 (sound)	Healthy <i>ISV</i> , to have sound health, i.e. be well (in body), to be uncorrupt (true in doctrine)	1 Timothy 6:3,4 (sound)
3453 mueo muthois Titus 1:14	Myths <i>ISV</i> , fables <i>KJV</i> , a tale, fiction	2 Timothy 4:3,4
2513 katharos kathara Titus 1:15	Clean <i>ISV</i> , pure, literally or figuratively, clear	Matthew 5:8
3392 miaino memiammenois Titus 1:15	Corrupt <i>ISV</i> , to sully or taint, i.e. contaminate, defiled	Hebrews 12:15

¹ Henry Alford, *The New Testament for English Readers*, Chicago, Moody Press, 1958, p. 1422.

² Kenneth Wuest, *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*, Grand Rapids, Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1973, p. 186.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
571 apistos apistois Titus 1:15	Unbelieving <i>ISV</i> , disbelieving, without Christian faith, faithless	2 Corinthians 4:4

3. What did Paul mean when he used the expression “those of the circumcision” in Titus 1:10? The first reference in the Bible to circumcision is found in Genesis 17 where God Himself was talking with Abraham about his future. Please look at the following three portions of Scripture answering the “5 Ws and an H” questions as you read.

a. Genesis 17:1-14

b. Jeremiah 31:31-33

c. Hebrews 13:20

4. Now please look further at New Testament teaching on circumcision to see how this issue was brought before the Jerusalem Council for the early church in Acts 15:1-35. What did these leaders say concerning circumcision for those who believe in Jesus Christ?

5. Now please read Paul's teaching on circumcision to the early church in Galatia. What did Paul teach about circumcision in Galatians 5:6-13?

Lesson 3

6. Based on what you have studied from both the Old and the New Testaments, please briefly explain circumcision and its impact on “those who are converts from Judaism.”

7. Please turn your attention to the last four verses of Titus 1. Paul wrote an **instruction** in Titus 1:13 and he also gave the reason for his instruction. What was to be a goal for Titus’ ministry according to this verse?

8. What was a Jewish myth? What is a myth? Did you ever study the genre of the “myth” in a literature class? One definition says that a myth is “traditional story, presented as historical, often purporting to explain some natural phenomenon, as the creation of life, and expressive of the character of people, their gods, culture, heroes, religious beliefs, etc.”³ Where would you find a myth today that should be rejected?

9. The issue of the words spoken by the rebellious people in Crete was addressed in Titus 1:10-12. Look at what Paul stated about the people in Titus 1:15. What had become corrupted? What was the contrast that Paul made here?

Jesus spoke truth that relates to this in Matthew 15:18,19. Read also Jeremiah 17:9 and summarize what is taught about the heart in these two Scriptures. How would these Scriptures support Paul’s teaching as he expressed his concern to Titus?

10. Stop to think about the problem Paul expressed to Titus in Titus 1:10-16. How would you summarize this situation that Titus faced?

³ Sidney I. Landau, ed., *The Doubleday Dictionary*, Garden City, Doubleday & Co. Inc., 1975, p. 480.

11. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.” In John 16:13 Jesus explained the role of the Holy Spirit to His disciples, “Yet when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own accord, but will speak whatever He hears and will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Many who deny the sovereignty of God and struggle with His control over the world have joined with those who follow the philosophy of “relativism,” embracing the belief that there is no absolute truth, that *everything* is relative. These individuals would hold to the idea that what one person considers to be truth, is fine for them, but since there is no absolute truth, they themselves seek a foundation for their world from a different source than the Almighty God.

When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment He quoted Deuteronomy 6:5, that those who believe in Him were to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and mind. Would you quiet your heart before the Lord God and ask Him if there is a part of your heart or your soul or your mind that does not love Him. How would you describe what it means to love the Lord in this way? Please meditate on this question for a period of time. You might take a walk outside while thinking about this, or you might sit in your favorite spot and quietly meditate.

Jesus had a conversation with a man who shared his response to Jesus by saying, “I believe, help my unbelief.” Could you pray, “Father God, I love you Lord, help me to love you more. Show me any area of my life where I do not completely love you. Show me Lord where I have not completely surrendered to you. I want to love you Lord and be faithful to you above all else. I can pray this because of the sacrifice of Your dear Son who died for my sins that I might be in relationship with you, and it is in the precious and holy name of Jesus I pray this, Amen.”

Please end by quieting your heart before the Lord and worshipping Him. Ask that you might know His grace and mercy today. You might close by singing the following hymn as part of your worship time.

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean dept of happy rest! Thou the Father, Christ our Brother – All who live in love are Thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

By Henry Van Dyke and Ludwig Van Beethoven.

Lesson 3

Day 5 – Discipleship Lesson

1. Today's lesson will focus on a responsibility of a disciple of Christ revealed through a theme from the book of Titus. Please open in **prayer**, thanking God that the Holy Spirit will guide you into the *truth* as Jesus promised in John 16:13. Begin with these **observation questions**.

- How are the words *truth* or *true* used by Paul in Titus 1? Please read through Titus 1 looking for references for the words *truth* or *true*, or any word/s that would represent these words in the context of Paul's letter. Briefly state what Paul said about *truth* or what is *true*.
- What difference does *truth* make in the life of a disciple of Christ?

2. Please examine these word studies for **key words** used in the Old Testament.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
543 Hebrew amen	Amen , sure, <i>in the</i> abstract faithfulness, <i>as an</i> adverb truly, so be it, truth	The word usually used to end prayers. Psalm 41:13
1697 Hebrew dabar	Words , a matter as spoken of, or thing... <i>This word had the meaning of something concrete, something that was definite. The word of the Lord was absolute, what He said would always come to pass.</i>	Exodus 20:1

3. What was recorded about God's word in Isaiah 55:11? Are there any exceptions to this?

4. What God said would always come to pass, as His word would never fail. The words spoken by God's prophets would always come true as well. Many of the Old Testament prophets were introduced by the simple statement, "the word of the Lord came to the prophet..." Please read Hebrews 1:1,2 to see the reminder that was given to the people about God's truth.

5. Now please read what was taught in Proverbs 6:16-19. How does this relate to Paul's concern relating to truthfulness?

6. Do you adhere to God's truth as a disciple of Christ? John 8:31,32 records Jesus' words spoken to those Jews who had believed in Him, "If you continue in my word, you are really my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," *ISV*. How can you know what is truth and what is not truth? Teachers in our school system provide for students many "true and false" tests in a variety of subjects. Sometimes these tests were easy, sometimes there is one word or phrase that could be overlooked and perhaps "trick" the student. Do you sometimes have trouble recognizing the truth, and discerning what is error? Please look at these verses to see how you can make God's truth the standard of your life.

a. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

b. 1 John 4:1-6

You might need to be reminded of this. Is there someone in your life that could help you with this? I have two friends who have the spiritual gift of faith and they freely speak God's truth to me in the midst of disappointment and sorrow, always pointing to God's power, His love, and His mercy, no matter the circumstances. What an encouragement these two dear ladies are to me. It is always appropriate to point others to the truth of God's word. We are not to rely on our feelings in the midst of disappointment, but we must rely on the Lord God Almighty, trusting in His sovereignty and in His word. One does not have to have the gift of faith to encourage others in their time of troubles.

Continued on the next page.

Lesson 3

As we come to the end of today's time together, spend some time worshipping the Lord because of who He is. Can you thank Him for making Himself known to you? Can you thank Him for His word, a precious gift that has been given to you? How can you express your praise and adoration to the Lord in the next twenty-four hours?

Will you make the words of this song the intent of your heart?

“Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated”

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee; take my moments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love; take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my will, and make it Thine – it shall be no longer mine; take my heart – it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

By Frances Ridley Havergal and John B. Dykes

