CHURCH IN CHRIST
BIBLE STUDY



THE
BOOK OF TITUS

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To be honest, there is not a great deal of information regarding Titus. However, we do not need to have any depth of knowledge regarding this man's past. All we need to know is this Epistle is sealed by approval of the Holy Spirit.
This we do know: Titus was an early Christian missionary and church leader. He was a close companion and disciple of the Apostle Paul.
He is described by Paul as "a son in the faith that we share" (Titus 1:4). I noticed Paul did not call Titus 'my son' as he readily did Timothy. Titus, as Timothy was a young man who came under the guidance of the Apostle Paul.
Titus served as Paul's messenger and travelling companion and he went on to lead churches carrying forward the work of spreading the gospel.

Background and Circumstances:
While we don't have extensive details about Titus's background, we know he was a Gentile. Unlike Timothy, Titus was never circumcised (Galatians 2:4).
Paul's stance on circumcision was clear: under the new covenant, it wasn't necessary. However, he circumcised Timothy in certain situations to honour Jewish customs (Acts 16:1-5). Paul didn't require circumcision but would adapt with any given situation.
Titus ministered in Gentile areas, including Crete around AD 61, and in Corinth, and Dalmatia.
This Epistle emphasises the problems associated with Judaisers, those who believed and taught Christians were to live according to Jewish laws. Paul clearly noted in the introduction that he and Titus shared a common faith. They were a spiritual family, regardless of the divisions historically seen between Jews and Gentiles.

Themes from the Book of Titus:
The **Book of Titus** provides valuable insights of the early church and our faith today. Here are some major themes:
Titus received this letter from Paul 4 to 6 years after they had first arrived on the island. Paul arrived on the Island of Crete in AD 61, this Epistle/letter to Titus was written between AD 64-68
Appointing Elders: Paul left Titus in Crete with the task of appointing elders for the local church. These elders were to meet specific character requirements, this would have been quite some task for a young man. (Titus 1:1-9).
Conduct for Church believers: Paul also instructs Titus to keep the churches in a Godly state of holiness. Older men were encouraged to live lives worthy of respect, while older women were exhorted to avoid slander and excessive drinking. Younger women were to be good wives and mothers (Titus 2:1-10, 3:1-11).

In summary, Titus played a crucial role in the early Christian community, faithfully serving alongside Paul. His story reminds us that even those who don't occupy the spotlight can have a profound impact on God's kingdom. This needs to be taken into serious consideration in our modern churches. Everyone has something to add to the development of the church, no one should be seen as inferior or unimportant.

P2 **The**
Chapter 1:1-4 **BOOK OF TITUS**

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an Apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,
The Holy Spirit opens this short Epistle with a lengthy acknowledgment of Paul's calling and official office, only in the Epistle of Romans is the acknowledgment longer. The emphasis here on the writer and his authoritative message indicating the purpose of the letter. There were problems in the Churches in Crete, and the Holy Spirit wanted Titus to understand Paul's authority, and to pay full spiritual attention to the words. Christian faith must be linked with the 'knowledge of the truth' and Christian truth is bound up in Christ: and even so much more so according to what His Sacrifice offers, and how his Sacrificial act works. Such Christian knowledge leads to true Godliness.

1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God This proclaims the actions of true surrender remaining in a position of faithful humility. The reason why the Holy Spirit has Paul write this as the starting statement is simple, Paul could not be an Apostle unless he was a true servant of the Lord's! We cannot hold any office unto the Lord unless we are subject to His authority! To be a true bond servant of the Lord's one must build everything from the work of Jesus at the cross up.

Meaning, the death of Christ is the foundation to everlasting life which is in Christ Jesus. Life can only come through His death! 2 Corinthians 5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer.
The wonderful life Jesus lived on earth was indeed glorious, but it was His perfect Sacrifice that gained Salvation for man, we must take hold of Him as the Divine master who suffered the cruel death of crucifixion to Save whomsoever will believe from their sins.

1:1...and an Apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul now presents his rightful place proved through his servant-hood. The Apostle could only be effective if his servant-hood was of God! We can only be effective if our servant-hood is of God! Paul never wrote with the wrong attitude, he never came across as 'I'm an Apostle you must do as I say" rather he always begged, beseeched, prayed ye will obey God, he did not hold a self important 'I'm the boss attitude'.

1:1...according to the faith One needs a level of Godly faith to step out from one's comfy zone! But this is speaking of a faith that goes beyond the faith of the flesh, or even the faith that tells you God is with you. This faith is what everything is based on, what everything that Lives comes from, what everything will be judged on! Without this faith in fact death reigns. Every believer is saved by and through this faith which: 1 Corinthians 2:1:4...explains When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.
Paul taught that the true faith of the Gospel was not due to man's art, skill, or ability to teach but came from and by the Spirit of power, who works through the power of Christ, which speaks of that which came from the crucifixion! As I wrote above "every believer is saved by and through this faith" but now I add "but not every believer continues to learn, live and walk in this faith" rather they turn to issues that we shall soon study in this Epistle.

1:1...of God's elect Titus is a gentile who has been placed into the leadership of the Church. The Jews under the OT law were the elect, but Paul in this verse calls the Church the elect of God!

1:1... and the acknowledgment of the truth What do we have to acknowledge? The truth! What is the truth? We have been set free, saved by the Son of God's Sacrifice, that the truth is the base from where the Holy Spirit builds anyone that believes. None of this comes from the wisdom,

will power or might of man, we can do nothing but surrender our hearts and lives unto Christ who declared at the cross "It is finished' folks, that is the truth!

1:1... which accords with godliness, The truth does produce Godliness, the heart of the believer must be holy before the Lord.
Which means Christ must be the believers only salvation power!
Which means the believer is in Christ.
Which means the Holy Spirit is working in the believer.
Which means such a believer understands that this is all of God and nothing of man.
Which means "it is no longer I that lives but Christ who lives in me."
Which means the truth has set the believer free.
Which means the power of truth is Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. Amen and amen.

Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,
We have eternal life already but the full realisation of such awaits the returning of the Lord.

1:2 in hope of eternal life As stated, all believers in Christ receive the gift of eternal life, however the old cliche "till death do us part" plays a part: what I mean is until death a believer could walk away from the Lord, hence the hope of eternal Life. Not that He can fail, He will keep us fellowship and encourage us regarding the truth in all that He did for us Amen?

1:2...who cannot lie And here is the big players! God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit said "I will never leave you or forsake", the Lord cannot lie, they will do all they have to keep us walking in the truth.

1:2...promised before time began, For all that would so believe, God the Father demands that man recognises the Sacrifice of the Son, and that man recognises that the Father and Son were separated for the first time ever...EVER! This goes beyond man's ability to understand or measure that time...this happened whilst Jesus was on the cross.
God's promise is easy, they would pay the price for ours sins, and all we have to do is believe in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Titus 1:3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the Commandment of God our Saviour;
The Promise of God is trustworthy.

1:3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, The words His word is not speaking of Logos but rather the written word. 'Manifested' in the Greek is 'phaneroo' and means 'to make visible that which has been hidden' So His word is the whole revelation of the gospel message which is entirely centred on the person of Jesus Christ and His Sacrifice. The words due time refers to particular ages and times in which certain things are to be revealed. These times are not directed by events, but rather God dictates the events, which brings about the times! Equally the words due time speaks of an orderly procession. As an example: I believe that the Church over the past few years have received in the correct due time understanding of the Book of Revelation! How is His word manifested? Through preaching! There is very little difference between preaching and teaching, preaching is geared toward life-change while teaching is the a transferring of knowledge, which of course should be a life changing moment. We read in 1 Corinthians 1:8 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. This tells me we need to have our Faith in Christ and Him crucified. And that tells me we need to be preaching, teaching, telling, and encouraging one another, and all that will hear the blessed story of Salvation. The Bible is of course the word of God which this verse is looking at. The first two chapters of Genesis tells us about creation, and the third chapter tell us about the fall of mankind. From Genesis ch 4 onto Revelations ch 22:21 we are presented with the truth about the redemption of man, meaning the rescue and salvation of whosoever will believe! Luke 24:44 And He said unto them, "These are the words which I Spoke unto you while I was yet with you, that all things must

be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me." The first prophecy given was by the Lord God Himself Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike His Heel." This points to the promise of Jesus' birth and even more so His victory over the world, sin and satan. The seed of woman speaks of Jesus, being born of a virgin woman, the perfect Son of man, the perfect representative for mankind. The words your seed speaks of the devils own, evil men and demonic forces who like a snake laid in wait for the Saviour to strike Him. Their hatred and toxic plan was to condemn Jesus to be Crucified, which they succeeded in doing. But the serpent's strike did not bring about the end of the Prophetised Son of God, as on the third day He rose from the dead, breaking the power of death and winning the ultimate victory. With the cross, Jesus "CRUSHED" the devil's head, defeating him forever Hallelujah.

1:3...which was committed to me according What an awesome statement; the Lord trusted Paul with the task of taking the gospel message to the world, and we all have read the hardship he experienced, and yet failed he not!

1:3...to the Commandment of God our Saviour This is not a command from the first Apostles, or from a Church organisation but from the almighty living God! Folks this is not "if you would please do this or that" this is not an appeal, request or a pleading but a Command from the highest living power in the universe.

Titus 1:4 To Titus, a true son in our common faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

As Timothy, Titus had a close relationship with Paul.

1:4 To Titus, a true son in our common faith: The words common faith presents the picture of both men embracing 'one faith'. There are not two, three, four or more faiths regarding Salvation, however there are different developmental measures, or levels of maturity involved in faiths growth within a believer, of this the Church must be aware

1/ Titus was a true son in the spirit to Paul,

2/ Even though one was a Jew and the other a gentile they had both received, and lived within the common faith.

Remember, there were those who taught strongly that believers must live according to Jewish laws: Paul is pointing out that a part obedience is in fact total disobedience, hence a denial of the truth! We have all been bought by the one Sacrifice, there is no longer Jew or Gentile rather we are all one In Christ Ephesians 4:4-5 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were Called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Amen?

1:4...grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. What allows the Fathers grace, mercy, and peace to reach us in all fullness? The last word of this sentence is the answer Saviour. Jesus gave us His all at Calvary.

Grace: He came to us, He showed His Love through His Son Jesus Christ when we were His enemies!

Mercy: No human mercy shown has ever come close to that which the Bible records regarding that day at Calvary. Mankind could not reach God, in fact, we were all doomed to eternal hell due to the horror of our sin which separated us from the Father. Mercy shown: the Sons death!

Peace: When Paul blesses Titus with peace, he is speaking of the peace that flows from Christ's saving work. Scripture uses the word peace in more than one sense, and this helps clarify Paul's meaning.

1/ Justifying peace is the peace granted at salvation. Through Christ's death and resurrection, the believer is declared righteous and the hostility caused by humanity's rebellion is removed. This peace is complete and immediate.

2/ Sanctifying peace, which Paul has in view here, is the ongoing peace produced by the Holy Spirit as the believer continues in the Gospel. It steadies the heart, shapes obedience, and grows as faith remains buried in Christ and His finished work.

Many believers experience justifying peace yet fail to walk in sanctifying peace because their faith shifts from the Cross to personal effort, religious activity, or admiration of Jesus' earthly ministry. They rightly praise His miracles, His teachings, and His perfect life, yet overlook the true power of Calvary. Christ is our Saviour not because of how He lived, but because of how He suffered and died to pay a debt that was not His.

His perfect life was necessary, but it did not save; salvation required His death. At the cross He bore the full fury of God's judgment, separated from the Father in a way no human or angel has ever known. Death could not claim Him, for He was sinless; He laid down His life by His own authority.

Understanding these two kinds of peace is essential. If a believer is not walking in sanctifying peace, they are walking in the flesh. They are forgiven, but not growing. This is why the Church must teach what Jesus did at the Cross is the power house that allows the Holy Spirit to remain within us. Only then can believers experience the ongoing peace Paul pronounces here.

Study scripture in red...Other scriptures used in blue...side comments in pink

Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I appointed you—

Paul had confidence the young man could and would do the job. Paul landed at Fair Havens shipping Port near the southernmost point of Crete in AD 61 as seen in The Book of Acts, on that occasion Titus was not with him. Paul only had a short few weeks there as they waited for the winds to lessen. It is thought Paul revisited Crete after he was released from his first imprisonment, which was not long after writing 1 Timothy which time frame is not recorded in The Book of Acts.

1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, They had started Churches and they needed strong guidance. Titus was to carry out the task of Church growth. That is the only reason he was left there.

1:5...that you should set in order the things that are lacking Right from the offset problematic issues were obvious to Paul, of which I am sure both he and Titus would have discussed. Paul reminds the young man he is to set these things which are lacking into order. So what was lacking? This letter points out there was a lack of organisation, plus there were unchecked false teachers who need to be corrected or removed from the Church (we shall see this in 1:10-11, 3:10-11), and a great need for correct Doctrine and conduct to be shown and taught (we shall see this in 2:1-10, 3:1-2).

1:5... and appoint elders in every city as appointed you—Paul reawakens the appointment, the assignment that Titus was trusted to complete, these tasks I am sure would have been spoken of between the two men in earlier times. The work of grace that had come into the Church must not be forsaken. Titus was to preach and teach the truth of Jesus Christ and what He did that day at Calvary, such would put into place the correct and active power of Christ's Government, the Church! This means the closing down of man's religious and idealistic foolishness.

Titus 1:6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly .

As he wrote to Timothy, so he does here!

1:6 if a man is blameless, the word if sets a required condition: a man must meet these standards before he can serve. However, we must be careful not to place any man or woman beyond what is reasonable, for we are all fallen beings; only Christ was and is perfect. This qualification speaks of a man's present state of righteousness, a righteousness made possible only through the blood of Christ. Such a man lives for the Lord. Such a person is being taught deeper truths by the Holy Spirit, and though he is still human and will at times fail, he earnestly desires to grow and to live unto Christ.

1:6...the husband of one wife, What he did before he was Saved has no hold on his life in Christ, even if he has been divorced, he is a new creation, born into Christ, all his past has been washed away, he may remarry. However if he was married when he was Saved he must remain true to her. This equally goes for the ladies also! This passage concerns the office of a deacon, and in this case a married one, meaning he has a partner in the work. The words husband of one wife does not elevate the man above the woman; it highlights the covenant unity they share. Scripture sees husband and wife as equals before God, one in spirit, one in purpose, labouring side by side in the grace of Christ.

1:6...having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. These children need to be taught from the earliest possible time the truth of Christ. Once these children grow past the age of parental consent they can and shall make their own minds up as to what they believe! Such, if taught correctly may for a short time put their feelers out into the world, but I have no doubt, that all they have experienced in Christ shall draw them back into His loving embrace. I equally believe, when believers children (leaders or not)act out with riotous behaviour or are unruly towards others regularly then questions need to be asked and answered regarding the level of truth that is acted out within the walls of their home!

Titus 1:7 For a Bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

One that holds such an office within the Church must strive to attain all these just qualities.

1:7 For a Bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, As stated above no man is perfect but Christ being blameless means the bishop (Pastor) is striving as a good steward of God to obey the Lords will as best as he can. He will be preaching and living through and by the power of the Holy Spirit as he learns the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

1:7...not self-willed, Not out to enjoy the desires of the flesh, willing to sacrifice whatever is needed to achieve the Lords purpose in his life.

1:7...not quick-tempered, In the Greek this means 'not prone to anger' one who will be thoughtful, willing to consider ever situation that arises before making a judgment call.

1:7...not given to wine, One who does not allow alcohol to rule his life, who is never intoxicated. In my opinion it is wise to say no to any alcoholic beverage.

1:7...not violent, This covers the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual areas. 1:7... not greedy for money, The Lord provides well above all we need. The pastor should not take advantage of the kindness and generosity of other believers, but must rely on the Lord. However if he is giving full time work to the Church then he should be paid a fare wage for the hours put in. Paul writes in Timothy 1 Chapter 5:18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “the labourer deserves his wages.”

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

The level required to meet all these aptitudes come from the Spirit

1:8 but hospitable: This does not mean his private home is open 24/7 to whoever wants to be there. Rather this man loves to mix with people, to speak the truth with people, be it in the Church, street, or even his home, he will greet and serve all in the name of the Lord.

1:8...a lover of what is good: He loves seeing the life of Christ being worked out from others about him, right-minded people, who are doing their best to live, speak, think, and act out as a believer in Christ must.

1:8...sober-minded: This means the man has learnt a level of self-restraint and understands from where his strength comes from. This allows him the ability to self-command wisely, deciding his pleasures and passions.

1:8...just, Speaks of being rightful, a high level of righteousness, his pastoral office demands both integrity and justice to be seen and known.

1:8...holy, Holiness comes from God and from no other source. No one can make themselves holy. The very best a person can produce apart from knowing the Lord is a form of human justice or moral decency, but not true holiness. Biblical holiness is God’s own character shared with His people. It is imparted, not manufactured. The man described here is one who walks with God, set apart by the Spirit, learning to live in the righteousness that Christ alone provides.

1:8...self-controlled, If one wants to work in Church leadership then they must desire that the Lord bless them with self-control. He must not speak, look, touch, or think inappropriately. He must not see himself as anything but one blessed to work as one under the Masters guidance, he must not be vain and pride filled! To do his Master’s work efficiently, he must be able to at all times aid others and his own zeal with correct biblical judgment.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound Doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

The message of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified must be understood.

1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, So many people will come into the Church or believers homes with misguided or false doctrines. A person that teaches or lives the truth shall become a target from those that walk in falsehood. The words holding fast means not to budge from the truth, as what you are holding is eternal life, a true believer will not let go, as such knows

it was the Holy Spirit and not man that has brought the words of power to which he/she must hold fast to! The word taught actually goes far beyond the understanding of the mind, the deeper and more powerful meaning is a spiritual life changing event which comes from deep within the believer which can only happen if the Holy Spirit brings it about, one taught by the Spirit becomes inwardly more like Christ! So hold fast to the truth.

1:9...that he may be able, by sound Doctrine, We read in the verse above that he must be hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled. All these are stages in his growth taught and given by the Holy Spirit so that he is able by sound Doctrine to remain calm and collected to better aid anyone that is astray from the Doctrine of truth.

1:9... both to exhort and convict those who contradict. This is what sound Doctrine allows, obviously due to it being 'sound' the believer who lives by it has God's Spirit living within them, which presents the greatest ability of being taught the truth. It also allows the believer to stand fast in the Holy Spirit rejecting false teaching as each case demands. To stand firm requires both a solid offence and defence in the delivery of the Lord's word, meaning such a person daily seeks the Lord desiring to understand His will and desire so as to be changed into His likeness, which makes one a teachable teacher!

Titus 1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

People which use impressive words but accomplish nothing.

1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, These people make their false doctrine sound right. They use the name of the Lord to be the beacon of conversation but turn from the word of truth into, or onto some other subject matter. Yes, they may preach or teach that everyone must be born again, that Jesus died on a cross and rose again, which is fantastic indeed but: then they leave such a wonderful truth and teach on other ways or methods regarding how believers are to keep their Salvation. These people have a lot to say, and cannot contain themselves, they destroy many lives through their folly, such are in fact attackers and curses of the Kingdom of God.

1:10...especially those of the circumcision, This highlights the Jews sect, who mixed the law with the Gospel claiming believers must keep their ceremonies. They are mentioned as unruly, vain, talkers and deceivers above. Such are trouble makers due to their earthly religious faith.

Titus 1:11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Stop their garbage talk, gag them quickly.

1:11 whose mouths must be stopped, These people speak with from a portion of the truth: which is in fact a complete lie. They tell others they understand what is needed, how Christianity should develop and grow, how the truth can solve the world issues, what agenda needs to be followed, that believers should drive a politically system etc.

1:11...who subvert whole households, This means they overturn, overthrow complete households, today it would equally mean Churches!

1:11...teaching things which they ought not, satan allows the light of truth to be used as a lie, and once the deception has been bought he then brings down the hammer of religion, the removing of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.

1:11...for the sake of dishonest gain. Their dishonest gain can seen in many ways, such as:

1: Their voice must be heard
2: To gain followers.
3: To puff up their self esteem.
4: To be seen as the correct and wise one.
5: For money, sex, ownership of others lives, unto their pride and self satifaction.
6: To have others worship them by their words of honour and so forth...on and on we could go!

Titus 1:12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, the “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

Carrying on the point of pagan beliefs and sayings.

1:12 One of them, a prophet of their own, Paul quotes Epimenides, he lived 600 years before the Lord Jesus. The Cretans held him up as ‘some kind of prophet’, even Plato spoke of him as being a divine man. There are many historic writings that agree with Paul, regarding Cretans such as Plato, Polybius, Ovid, and many more.

1:12...said, the “Cretans are always liars, We are told be wise in our approach and speech regarding other believers: Paul could not have been more direct, he has certainly not held back. The truth shall set one free, if the truth is set free to work within one. Most of these people were close to being, if they were not already pathological liars, such deliberate deceit and love for fables completely disagrees with the teachings of Christ, this is why Paul tells Titus to "rebuke (speaking solely of the Cretans) sharply, so that they may enter into the safety of sound Doctrine.

1:12...evil beasts, So caught up in their own deception they have become fierce by nature, their ferocity, and love of their own voices presents a spiritual cruelty which makes reasoning with them a near impossible task, but all things are possible for our God

1:12...slow bellies. Gluttons, their only care was the sitting around feeding their bellies and lies. Paul is not saying to Titus... "like Cretans are the worst ever, man...ditch them and find an easier group to deal with" Instead his directive is, "I know how bad they are. Go out and change them with the power of Jesus through His glory." seems a big ask! So how does Titus achieve such?

Titus 1:13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

Paul agrees with the so called pagan prophet.

1:13...Therefore rebuke them sharply, This is how Titus and the modern church are to achieve such results. Once a Church leader finds areas of concern regarding false doctrine he must act as if it is a cancer spot and remove it quickly from the body. This can only be done by applying the truth by the way of a sharply and unyielding reprimand. This of course would not be aimed only at the agitators but at all members within the Church that are listening to such deadly soul destroying foolishness.

Titus 1:13...that they may be sound in the faith, The word may is important. It shows that the purpose of the rebuke is restoration, that they may become sound in the faith. The outcome is not forced; it is hoped for. If the correction is ignored, then for the sake of the church and in the hope that they might eventually return to the truth, further action may be needed. But the heart of the passage is for the preservation of the truth within the Church.

Titus 1:14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

If it does not glorify Christ Jesus and what He has done then it is a mere story.

1:14 not giving heed to Jewish fables It’s essential to discern between what aligns with God’s word and what might be mere human speculation or cultural want, at times they seem so related that one may follow such words or error. If it does not empower the glory of Christ in you then it will not change you, and if it does not offer change unto holiness then question such prayerfully, seek others in your fellowship.

1:14...and commandments of men who turn from the truth. Paul also warns against following human-made rules or regulations that are not consistent with God’s truth. Be careful in following man! Throughout history man has changed the meanings of the Lord’s word over and over. These men have turned from the truth, they are flesh driven and satan obeying pupils, what they say and teach satisfies the human mind but not the spirit.

Titus 1:15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

P10

One can only become pure by being filled with the Holy Spirit, it is He who will fill a believer due to faith in Jesus Christ. But the believer must maintain their faith in Jesus Christ whilst learning what it is that Jesus has done for them. The Holy Spirit came to teach us about Jesus! John 16:13-14 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into **all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. Such people that give commandments of men are not operating from the Spirit of truth! They have moved from the truth and become unbelieving and impure. Who's minds and consciences are defiled? Those who **refuse** to seek Christ through His Sacrifice, who profess holiness without the Sacrifice.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

These are enemies of the faith.

1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, Such shall be seen as men or woman of God, they will come across as a dear friend, praising Jesus Christ, but their way of life reveals another truth! After a while (and yes some have come into our Church), they will start to deny the truth by adding man's wisdom into the meaning of God's word. The very things they once so careful affirmed with their lips they have withdraw, they deny God by bringing into the Church their fables, religious commandments, and world views.

1:16...being abominable, The word abominable means 'worthy of or causing disgust or hatred, detestable'. This is indeed a strong and pointed word, and it needs to be, for these men and woman claim to be servants of the Lord but willingly kill the spirit of any that will listen to them. Make no mistake, this means such a person is abominable in the sight of God!

1:16...disobedient, Simply means rebellious, such shall not believe that the victory over satan, sin, and the world was achieved by what Jesus Christ did for mankind on that great day at Calvary. They will not except the ease in which one is saved, that it was, and is all done by the Lord, they will always try to add their strength, intelligence, spiritual insight, they will always oppose the idea that they are wrong and cannot do it their way.

1:16... and disqualified for every good work. As a consequence of their insincere, self driven egos, these men and woman cannot aid in even the simplest of things regarding the truth. They are useless, teachers of demons, not able to give, correct Holy Spirit inspired Christian guidance and instruction unto pure and eternal Doctrinal living.

May The Lord keep you and all your family in His truth. Amen.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:
Paul reminds us of what should be coming out from our mouths.

2:1 But as for you, Of course this is not only for Titus! The word you separates Titus, and I hope you the reader of this study, from those that teach false doctrine.

2:1...speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: Does this mean believers cannot speak or be involved in every day events and interests? The answer is 'of course we can speak and be involved with such things', but from what we say the moral and correct results should always be Christ pointed. If we live by the correct Doctrinal truth then we can be 100% sure that we are being directed by the Holy Spirit, which always bring the given topic onto the truth.

Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
This is what the truth produces!

2:2 that the older men This is not speaking about ones spiritual age, but rather their human age, hence act your age!

2:2...be sober, This comes from the Greek word 'nephalios' it means 'be of a sound mind', it condemns self-indulgence in all forms which would include one avoiding drunkenness.

2:2...reverent, The showing of deep and sincere respect, this covers all aspects such as how they cloth themselves, act, and speak etc.

2:2...temperate, means, to direct correctly ones desires and impulses.

2:2..sound in faith, This speaks of what they should have faith in, Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.

2:2...in love, This can only come through the Holy Spirit, which demands that we have our faith in Christ and what He has done!

2:2...in patience; Buckle up, as this comes from the Greek word 'hupomeno' and means to 'remain under' which refers to facing all of life's trials in a way that honours The Lord!

Titus 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—
Male or female, the same rules apply.

2:3 the older women likewise, Just as the elderly men, so are the elderly woman expected to act their age,

2:3...that they be reverent in behaviour, As the men above so it is with the woman. Their everyday lives (as ours) can help or hinder others, they as we, should be becoming daily more holy, which the younger and more thoughtless believers will see and respect.

2:3...not slanderers, meaning not to be overly strict, or critical, being a busybody, gossip peddler, they (as we) had days of careless living: rather the aged must use their voice and lives to show Christ's life to all.

2:3...not given to much wine, As the men, self-indulgence is a no no.

2:3...teachers of good things—As stated above, living unto the Lord so that their lives continue to produce holiness, which teaches and gives others the ability to copy their behaviour.

Titus 2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
What an awesome task.

2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands No greater and rewarding task in my opinion could be given to anyone, these elderly women were to faithfully live out their lives, seen as living images of the Lords glory. You cannot fake love for long! What is being spoken of here I believe, is a love that can only be seen and lived in if one is surrendered to the Lord, for such a powerful love again, in my opinion: can only be through and by the Holy Spirit, such love allows one to secure homely peace, harmony, and union.

2:4..to love their children, Most believers would say this is an easy task! But this is not achieved by giving the children all they want, such as toys, TVs and computers to baby sit them, rewarding them for doing what should be expected of them, and so on, but rather to teach them in the love and discipline of the Lord.

Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, home-makers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
I write again, this is no easy task.

2:5 to be discreet, A lesson in obedience to the Holy Spirit, this means to be sensible, self-controlled.

2:5...chaste, This means to be pure.

2:5...home-makers, This of course does not mean they must be stay at home mothers or wives, rather it puts the spotlight on the importance of having a peaceful home, the raising of the children correctly.

2:5...good, This one word speaks of the believers nature, which of course should be changing into that of Christ likeness.

2:5...obedient to their own husbands, This does not mean living as 'the second in control' within the home. Rather, it means honouring the husband, which is made easier as the husband must love his wife as Christ loves the Church, and folks He died for it!

2:5...that the word of God may not be blasphemed. These words are meant to encourage the elderly ladies to inspire and urge the young women to become more and more godly in their approach to life: that other unsaved family members, friends and so on would see and desire to have such a life!

Titus 2:6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,
Titus was in his early forties, which is young for a Church leader.

2:6 Likewise, As just directed towards the woman.

2:6...exhort the young men to be sober-minded, This also is a mighty task, young men can at times become a little hotheaded, impulsive and self driven, hence Titus himself being a young man is instructed to teach them to be sober-minded self-controlled, not to think more highly of themselves, to control their passions, as stated a mighty task.

Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in Doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,
Paul turns the finger towards Titus, towards you and I.

2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; As we grow in the Lord we are <u>all</u> expected to attain holiness, to achieve the fundamental principles of Christian-hood. We can only show ourselves to be a pattern of good works if in fact the Spirit works within us, for this to be the case we must exhibit faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done and such a faith shall produce growing levels of integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, within the believer, which of course commands others believers to follow Christ even more so!

Titus 2:8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
Remember this is about how we live! The Holy Spirit continues to exhort us through Paul.

2:8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, In all things bring the conversation back to the t truth, promote Jesus as often as one can, for no word spoken in truth shall fall to the ground.

2:8...that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, They are ashamed because they have stood against that which once Saved them! They may not show it, they may not confess it, but the truth will cut them like a hot knife going through butter, remember we are talking about people that have

a knowledge of God, who are in the Church! This is not speaking about those who have not heard the truth.

2:8...having nothing evil to say of you. I believe this means: if one brings everything back to the truth then the mouths of integumental people within the Church will be silenced, have nothing evil to say of you as the truth has effected their hearts and sealed their mouths.

Titus 2:9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

So far the Holy Spirit has given directions regarding to the 'peoples age and sex'

2:9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, He now turns His attention to bondservants which speaks of both servants and slaves.

2:9...to be well pleasing in all things, Today in New Zealand slavery is not legal. Rather these people are employees (many would say they are but a slave). Regardless, believers who work for someone should always do their best to please them, as long as it does not violate the law or is wayward regarding Gods word, meaning they must not except abuse in the work place.

2:9...not answering back, This means don't complain or grumble as such only provokes, we shall see more clearly why those employed must act with a just and righteous behaviour in the coming verse.

Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the Doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

This is why we must behave correctly before all peoples!

2:10 not pilfering The word pilfering means 'stealing, theft' typically something of small value, like taking a roll of toilet paper out from the work place etc.

2:10...but showing all good fidelity, In short, be faithful, be known as trust worthy in all things so:

2:10...that they may adorn the Doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. The stakes are high, ones Salvation can easily come through the honest deeds of a bondservant! All that believers do should be in effect to draw others away from eternal death unto His eternal glory. The word adorn means to enhance the appearance of, especially with beautiful objects, so instead of minor pilfering workers should be seen as beautiful, standout people, filled with the power of God. This is made possible due to the Doctrine of God which was and is all about our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the word Saviour speaks of what He did for us, His Sacrifice! This brings us back to adorn for such a powerful act of love by God should cause us to shine His beauty everywhere, such cannot be hidden, believers should hold fast to Doctrine of God, and walk worthy in their Calling.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings Salvation has appeared to all men,

How good is God?

2:11 For the grace of God For starters, grace does not mean, once a person is Saved they can go on sinning! If one is aware of sin in their life then they must press into the Lord seeking to have the desire removed. The more time spent with the Lord the more holy they will become, hence, the believer will see they cannot become holy in or by their own strength. The more one allows the Holy Spirit to work in them, the less desire they will have for sin, in fact for the things of this world. Folks, sin is an act of treason against a Holy God who suffered greatly to help us to stop sinning! Sin and death always work together which makes it a powerful act, but the Lords act of mercy at Calvary is far more powerful, but this demands repentance, which comes by pressing into His truth, His mercy, His grace For the grace of God is seen and found only by having faith in Christ Jesus and what He has done!

2:11...that brings Salvation Jesus came to free man from the power of darkness, He came to rescue and Save us from our own stupidity and fellowship with evil. Jesus who alone gives grace through His sufferings and death.

2:11...has appeared to all men, simply means He has become visible, to become clearly known, who He is, and what He has done is world wide knowledge.

Titus 2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

What teaches us to deny ungodliness and lusts?

2:12 teaching us speaks of what we have just read/studied. Grace teaches us, we have the Holy Spirit due to Jesus' Sacrifice, and He teaches us of Christ's work.

2:12...that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, The Greek meaning of the word denying is 'to disavow, reject, refuse' we are not to let the flesh rule us, and the Lord has given us the way to achieve this need: some may ask how? The first word used here is teaching that is the how! Grace, being what Jesus did at Calvary allows the Holy Spirit to teach us, which gives us faith Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." This word can come from a preacher, friend, Bible, the Holy Spirit uses them all.

2:12...we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Denying sins power, sin is not dead but we should be dead to sin! To achieve such we need the Holy Spirit, we need faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done, we must realise that we are unable to attain to the standard required through or by our own sinful strength of will power etc. Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; we need to let the Lord have open heart surgery within us, telling Him what He already knows, what He has in fact been telling the Church from the start "we are weak, unable to break sins power and hold, even though we want to be" So to try and live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, without His grace, His power by our willingness...We will fail.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,

This is what it's all about!

2:13 looking for the blessed hope The word hope used here refers to an act of looking forward to appearing, and the sharing, and living in the Lords glory, hence, being with God the Father.

2:13...and glorious appearing The blessed hope, and glorious appearing speaks of the same wanted outcome, the end, where sin no longer is known, where Jesus takes the Church away, oh, what a glorious day.

2:13...of our Great God Paul places himself along side us all, calling The Lord our great God for that is what He is!

2:13...and Saviour Jesus Christ, His great plan, His great willingness to pay for our sins, His great mercy and grace, our great God. Amen!

Titus 2:14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

We should want to understand the importance of what He did on the cross! Amen?

2:14 Who gave Himself for us, This was the act that makes Him the Saviour! He had to become a man, to die as the Sacrificial Lamb. He gave Himself 100% to the task that stood before Him, He was willing to suffer all that man, and the powers of darkness could throw at Him, and He did all this in the name of love!

2:14...that He might redeem us from every lawless deed The word redeem used here comes from the Greek word 'lutroo' and means 'to set free by the payment of a ransom' and ransom simply means 'a demanded payment, be it a sum of money or some other payment' He paid by His holy, pure blood the ransom demanded. And this mighty, of mightiest payments has freed all that have have faith.

2:14...and purify for Himself His own special people, Here we see the Holy spirit at work, for it is He that purifies the hearts of mankind through the blood of Jesus Christ. We are called special

people and that is because we have given ourselves to Him as His possession, children of God, family members of the King of kings.

2:14...zealous for good works. As we understand how one is truly set free, no longer fighting an already beaten devil and world but by giving oneself to Christ, for His good pleasure, zealous to see His good works coming through us, such shall happen...such cannot be stopped.

Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.
Paul tells Titus, and us to talk of such things!

2:15 Speak these things, What do we speak? That which we are to speak of is the message that brings redemption, that Jesus Christ gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us. If we speak such words as a matter of daily speech then we will be able to powerfully work within the next three things correctly.

2:15...exhort, and rebuke with all authority. For the truth offers nothing but righteousness which produces the power to lift up, encourage greatly, correct wisly, and to express when needed sharp disapproval unto correction.

2:15...Let no one despise you. This does not mean Titus or you and I could or can stop people from having wrong attitudes. It means conduct oneself in Christ, teach, and lead in such a way that no one has a legitimate reason to look down on you or dismiss this message of hope.

Amen! meaning...let it be!

Chapter one deals with the conduct of Church leaders, whilst chapter two deals with the conduct of all believers in the community. We see in this chapter our role regarding civil government.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,
We see in this chapter our role regarding civil government.

3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, Not everything is within the Church, not everything is spiritual. Romans 13:1 tells us: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" This means the authority the government has, even though they are mostly unbelievers has been set in place by the Lord. Believers should be model citizens! Not law breakers, we should not have any negative instances with the law, and yes this means even speeding tickets, we should have nothing to hide from the police etc.

3:1...to be ready for every good work, As the Lord said "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" that means we are to be law keepers, this is something that wicked people are unable to do, they break tax laws, road laws, human rights laws, common laws etc...Such disqualifies them from being model citizens, this should not be an issue for a believer! Pay what is due...!

Titus 3:2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.
We do not have the licence we once had to uphold our prideful opinions.

3:2 to speak evil of no one, The words no one mean just that, no matter how they treat you or others a believers mouth should not speak evil, we are not to trade evil for evil! Before we speak we should be thinking will my words bring the reward of Salvation, if not, stay silent.

3:2...to be peaceable, We are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (Colossians 3:15). Jesus said that peacemakers shall be called the sons of God. This means we are not to quarrel, even when we believe we are right. State your point, speak the truth in love, and then leave it there. A spirit that insists on winning every argument is prideful, and pride always invites a fall.
At the same time, there is room for believers to sit together and discuss Scripture, even when they hold different opinions. Honest, humble conversation between family and friends can sharpen understanding. The Holy Spirit Himself leads such discussions. When the heart stays humble, disagreement does not become division but a learning opportunity. The Holy Spirit corrects wrong thinking, sharpens understanding, and leads both believers into a clearer grasp of God’s Word. The Spirit works through peace, not quarrelling; through humility, not pride.

3:2..gentle, This of course comes from the same place the power of being a peace maker comes from, this speaks of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).

3:2...showing all humility to all men. At all times believers should be living a life that witnesses to unbelievers, as well as showing other believers the same humble spirit, in short we are to be meek and gentle to all. This is again a fruit of the Spirit.

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.
This of course speaks of the days before we were saved but folks, it also loans a truth to our earlier days as Children of God! We did not just become instantly people that speak no evil, living peaceable, gentle lives and showing all humility to all men.

3:3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". We were once foolish, we once did not understand how the truth worked, but the Lord saved us, and caused us to become as little children, teaching us the way of 'the faith'. Paul uses the word we which shows us he needed

to become as a child to grow into the man he was.

3:3...disobedient, We lived a life of total sin, many believers today still live in such a state as they try to please the Lord through self-works!

3:3...deceived, The sugar coated power of the world of sin. The devil is the master of deception, and sadly even after having the eyes opened some believers go back to the very thing they have been delivered from, howbeit in a different form called religion.

3:3...serving various lusts and pleasures, Our sin nature once drove us. We were polluted, sick, and enslaved, addicted to desires and experiences that brought spiritual death. This was the power that owned us before Christ.

But when we became children of God, we began a journey of freedom. I use the word 'began' deliberately, because **sanctification** is a long road. The heart is deceitful, and God, in His mercy, gently reveals and delivers us from this issue, then that habit, then another attitude. It takes time. Growth is progressive, not instant.

(Please revisit chapter 1:4 for the distinction between justification, which is immediate, and sanctification, which unfolds throughout the believer's life.)

3:3...living in malice The world lives in this state and shall not get better until Christ Jesus returns. The word living used here means, 'to lead through, to pass the time' in malice! Think about that! They live to be in malice, being a state of depravity, wickedness etc.

3:3...and envy, This is attached to the word living, so we once lived as the world in a state of depravity and envy, meaning the displeasure of the happiness and prosperity of others.

3:3...hateful and hating one another. Think of how much of this there is in the world, the racism, nationality pride and separation, and ethnic divide and so on. We once held wrong but strong opinions in some of these places. In this verse we are reminded that once upon a time we were all non-believers, on our way to hell as unbelieving sinners. Seven sins are noted in this verse 1/ foolishness, 2/ disobedience, 3/ deception, 4/ addiction, 5/ malice, 6/ envy, 7/ hatred.

In contrast we read in verses 1 and 2 seven virtues regarding how we must behave.

1/submissive 2/ obedient 3/ ready for good 4/ careful speech, 5/ peaceable, 6/ gentle,7/ humble.

Seven marks of the old life versus seven marks of the new life, all in all we need to reject the first lot and attain to the second.

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and the Love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

We see here Paul calling the Father the Saviour!

3:4 But when the kindness and the Love of God our Saviour For the father allowed the Son to be born into the image of man with the death penalty being placed over Him, a death that no other has felt as Jesus would hang on the cross by Himself, without the life force of God, this is why Jesus cried out "My God, My God why have you forsaken me"!

3:4...toward man appeared, This know speaks of Jesus: Paul teaches the difference between a godly and ungodly life is Jesus Christ. People, Paul is writing about an historical moment. All that Jesus Christ did on this earth was, is, and always will be of the greatest importance, but that day at Calvary goes beyond anything, and everything else. Until that day He was not the Saviour, that title of unequalled greatness towards man appeared on that day. Equally this speaks of that moment in time throughout the ages when He touched the willing person, when He appeared as the Saviour unto the needy, such kindness and love appeared to us, hallelujah!

Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

No one is, or can be saved by works!

3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, Grace which always is accompanied with Mercy offers Salvation through the Sacrifice of the Son of God, there is no other way in which man can be saved. Some people that hear the message of Christ do not like the idea that the Salvation process is so simple, they feel they must add their work, their effort, into making such an

act a reality, Paul is shooting down such foolish theorisations. Churches that remove works, and point to the power of what Jesus did at the cross quite often are empty of hearers! That really is a sad statement, but one I personally believe to be a true one, but I am praying this shall change.

3:5...but according to His mercy He saved us, Man could not save himself! We could not offer one rightful claim as to why He should save us, there was nothing within mankind which demanded God that He should reward us by allowing His Son to become the Sacrificial Lamb, rather the love of the father, Son, and Holy Spirit pitied our state of misery and endless sufferings.

3:5...through the washing of regeneration The word washing used here in the Greek means 'to bath, to perform a complete cleansing' the word regeneration means in the Greek 'a recovery, a restoration, a revival' So how is grace accomplished? What are we washed under? The blood of the Lamb, from such comes the power of regeneration, which is speaking about the miracle of revival that has happened within each individual believer, we are washed by the blood, saved wonderfully, then within our hearts we are changed into something we never thought we could possibly become, holy children of God, amen!

3:5...and renewing of the Holy Spirit, And here He is, the almighty Holy Spirit, the power that makes the changes within us. If we remain within the parameters of what Jesus Christ did at the Cross, then we can be sure that the Holy Spirit is doing His wonderful work.

Titus 3:6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
The word He speaks again of the Father.

3:6 whom He poured out on us abundantly This speaks of the Holy Spirit. Who poured out the Holy Spirit on to us? God the Father. How?

3:6...through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Paul, takes us back to the Work of the Son that day at Calvary.

Titus 3:7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
Justification, grace, eternal life!

3:7 that having been justified by His grace Justification takes place directly after the believer is saved which is the power of grace! This is a legal work, stating that the sin debt has been fulfilled, the penalty of the broken law has been satisfied, the penalty the law demanded for being broken has been paid, which means that all sin debts by a believer have been atoned for.

3:7...we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. If we are 100% saved why does Paul call it the hope? Justification is indeed an act of faith on our behalf, is it not? For without faith it is impossible to please God! Hebrews 11:6 tells us without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Two reasons I feel that we have the word hope used here.

1/ Even though we have eternal life we have not received the full blessing, we have not been resurrected into our perfect bodies, for such we hope to receive daily!

2/ The word hope also lends, I believe anyway to the possibility of one forfeiting their salvation status, a deliberate act of one walking away from Christ.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.
Paul is saying that all he has said about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from verse 4 on needs to be taught and believed.

3:8 This is a faithful saying, Ever so trustworthy, in fact it is the Holy Spirit through Paul telling us such.

3:8...and these things I want you to affirm constantly, The Spirit has told us through Paul how the Father loves us and has shown such by allowing His Son to leave heaven for earth to become

the sacrificial scapegoat for mankind. The Son has shown us His love by dying on a cross and being removed from the Fathers love, and the Holy Spirit has shown us His love by being a suffering subject witness to the whole affair.

3:8...that those who have believed in God For it is the Fathers great pleasure to have us taught about who Jesus Christ is and what He did at Calvary. We used to believe in Jesus, but had no understanding about the work He did at the cross, such has caused most in our Church to grow in the Spirit of truth.

3:8...should be careful to maintain good works. Verse 5 above tells us works cannot save us, so what does this mean? Simply, the works spoken of here point to remaining by faith in what Jesus Christ did at Calvary. Such a believer shall do great things due to the fact that the Holy Spirit can work within, and through them, the miracle of one being changed into a Christ likeness and then being used to change others.

3:8...These things are good and profitable to men. This takes us back to the kindness and love of God, His mercy, the washing away of our sins, the power of regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit and justification by faith which places us into the greatest place of being called, the an eternal child of God!

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

Paul swings Titus and us back to one of the greatest problems I believe the Church faces today. He points out four different issues.

1/ Foolish disputes Such causes nothing but strife, which if left unchecked brings death within a Church

2/ Genealogies The Lord greatly desires that we understand we are heavenly citizen and not of this earth, He wants us to be about the matters of Salvation, fullstop.

3/ Contentions This covers many issues such as social science, politics, social and religious platforms which in Paul's day was a major problem and remains such today. These topics alongside many others compromise the truth of the Gospel causing the Church to become fractured and weakened and open to the enemies approach.

4/ Strivings about the law I shall say little on this as we have seen the divide caused between believers due to the lack of understanding regarding the law in our Church. I believe most other Churches have experienced such. I thank God that on this subject we have gained a wiser and healthy understanding and approach.

3:9...for they are unprofitable and useless. As just stated the four points just discussed are simply a no go area, they only promote ones arrogant and prideful preposition. The word useless makes it abundantly clear...stay away from such subjects!

Titus 3:10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

The Holy Spirit instructs Titus, and us, that after a first and second warning, a persistently divisive man (person) must be removed from the fellowship. This is not done hastily or harshly, but only after clear, loving correction has been ignored. Verse 11 explains why such action is necessary.
We are in the world but not of it, yet many believers struggle to understand what that means in practice. The behaviours listed above foolish disputes, arguments, strife, and contentions, do nothing but tear down the unity of the church and distract from the gospel of truth. When someone refuses correction and continues to stir division, they separate themselves from the life of the body. The word reject simply acknowledges the separation they have already chosen.
The goal is always restoration, but the protection of the church and the purity of the gospel must be guarded and attained to at all times.

Titus 3:11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

Here is the reason, knowing means believers will see the lack of truth being lived in such a persons

life. Their refusal to accept correction, their divisive behaviour, and their rejection of truth reveals they are warped in their thinking enjoy sin over correction. They become self-condemned, not because the church judges them, but because their own actions testify against them. Believers will see the lack of truth being lived out in their life, and this is why Paul instructs Titus and us to act.

3:11...that such a person is subverted and sinning, Living more in the flesh than the Spirit. The word subverted means 'perverted warped' they will continue to drive their views regardless of the Holy Spirits presence. The Pharisees made religion their business, the tragedy is they miss-read the Scriptures thinking they were Saved by their actions, but if fact they ended up opposing God. Today many play deadly games concentrating on politics, economics, and social issues and so on. Lets look towards the author of our faith and remain steadfast in His truth. Amen?

Titus 3:12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

Paul's final instructions to Titus. This is the only mention of Artemas, but Tychicus is mentioned in four other places, see (Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21, Colossians 4:7, and Timothy 4:12). Paul asks Titus to come to him as quickly as it is permitted. It is also a possibility that Nicopolis was the place where Paul was arrested and then sent on to Rome.

Titus 3:13 Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.

Interesting that Paul asks for Zenas who was a lawyer, it could fit that Paul understood that they were about to arrest him, however it could also be that he was an expert in the law of Moses, I have no idea as to the greater truth here as commentaries have differing views, but this was an act that was to be done quickly, as Zenas skill was going to be of some advantage. Apollos of course for any bible reading soul should be well known. He became a powerful preacher, especially in Corinth, where many believers were strengthened through his ministry, he was often connected with Paul's ministry, serving alongside him in the work of empowering the churches.

3:13...that they may lack nothing. Simply the Church is to provide the care in hospitality and other resources to help Zenas and Apollos on their travels.

Titus 3:14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. Farewell

This continues on from the last verse, maintain good works spoken of here is the aiding of Zenas and Apollos.

3:14...to meet urgent needs, Many in the Church think just praying for those that work full time for the Lord is enough, they do not understand the greater needs which the Lord through Scripture has commanded us to do, we should always be ready to offer to such people hospitality, transport, finance, food, and so on. Yes the Lord could and indeed does many times over meet such needs but we are expected by faith to also do such.

3:14...that they may not be unfruitful. That they can concentrate on the Gospel and not a forty hour week job, that they can grow in the Truth and aid others with their knowledge. Farewell Adios, bye-bye, adieu.

Titus 3:15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.
Grace be with you all. Amen.

For sure, such was needed then as it is today is needed the 'Grace of God' **amen** and **amen**!