

## **St. Paul's Epistle to Titus**

### **Objective**

To provide a general overview of the epistle and to concentrate on certain issues addressed therein.

### **Scriptural Verse**

"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."  
Titus 3:1-2

### **References**

"Commentary on Epistle to Titus" by Father Tadros Yacoub

"Commentary on the Epistle to Titus" by Father Antonious Fikry

### **Lesson Guidelines**

#### Chapter 1

##### 1. Greeting of St. Paul (Verses 1-4)

- Refers to himself as a bond servant. He enslaved himself to God, so that he can be free from the world and sin. Once we submit ourselves to God, sin has no dominion over us because of His grace working within us.
- Titus – the Bishop of Crete, a Gentile from Antioch who believed in Christ through St. Paul.

##### 2. Characteristics of the clergy (Verses 5-10)

##### 3. The issue of this church (Verses 11-16)

- The people were heeding the words of the Jews and were concerning themselves with old Jewish rituals rather than good works.

##### 4. Purity – similarities with Mark 7:18-23

- Jewish tradition maintained that certain rituals, animals, etc. were pure while others were not.
- However, Christ teaches us that no false ritual can purify or desecrate someone. Rather we are made impure by our own desires. St. Paul states that an impure person sees the whole world as impure. Therefore it is impossible for them to see God because He is purity itself. Thus He says "Blessed are the pure for they shall see God."
- An impure person may talk about God but his actions will bear no fruit because he does not have a true relationship with Christ.

#### Chapter 2

##### 1. The role of each individual in the church (Verses 1-8).

- The elderly are to teach the young. Titus is to teach by example. Action must come before words and the two must match up.

##### 2. Obedience (Verses 9-10, Ch 3: 1-2)

- This is one of the hardest things for us to learn because it involves denying our will and pride and submitting to someone else. However, we must remember that our Lord obeyed the Father till the cross.
3. Being transformed (Verses 11-15)
- Through God's grace we have gone from ungodliness and recklessness to being godly, sober and righteous and living in hope till the appearance of our Lord and through this grace we are able to teach others by example.

### Chapter 3

1. Salvation and treating others (Verses 2-7)
- This can only be done through the work of grace in our lives. Our nature wants to hate and envy but only through God's grace can we love, be humble and gentle.
  - Salvation involves baptism and the death of the old nature and the birth of the new man. It also involves the work of the Holy Spirit who lives in us and prepares us for the eternal life by teaching us to do good works and to live in righteousness. Some will allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives and therefore receive salvation and others will ignore Him.
2. Reemphasis on the importance of good works and not getting carried away with mere words (Verses 8-11).
- Avoid arguments that are not serving a useful purpose. Some people like to argue for the sake of arguing and refuse to be convinced. Christianity is a way of life rather than a philosophy to be discussed.
3. Conclusion (Verses 12-15)

### **Conclusion**

This epistle provides us with guidelines on how to live the Christian life in purity, obedience and love to one another. It emphasizes the importance of good works and its achievement through grace only. It reminds that we must teach by example and not words and false arguments.

### **Discussion**

1. What is Titus's main role in Crete?
2. What are the characteristics of the Cretans? Are there any similarities with us?
3. What are the attributes of the impure?
4. What is the role of the young women and men?
5. In your opinion what is the point of this epistle?