Nov/Dec 2026

Vol. 45, No. 6

In this issue:

The Responsibilities Entrusted to Titus - p.1

Good - p. 5

The Power of Being Personal - p. 6

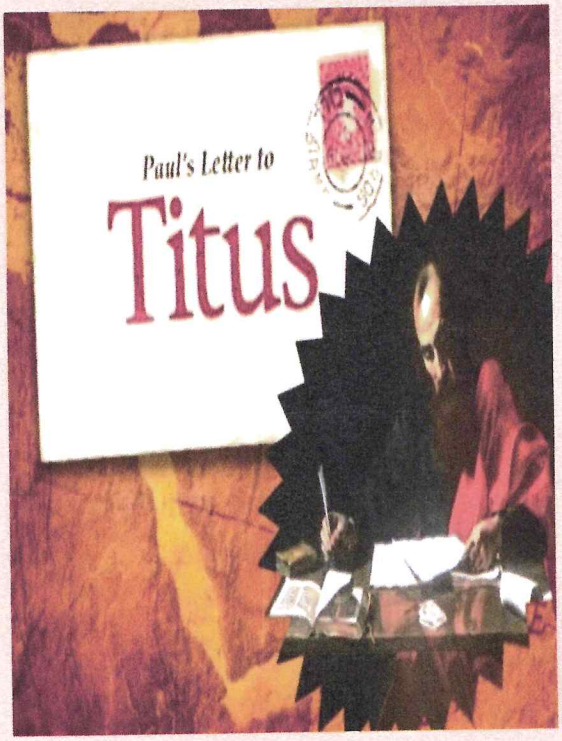
Where Do You Place Your Hope - p. 7

The Responsibilities Entrusted to Titus

"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 commanded you." Titus 1:5

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul dedicated his life to preaching the Gospel, establishing churches, and preparing faithful leaders. Titus was one of Paul's trusted fellow workers. Paul left him on the island of Crete to set in order what remained incomplete in the churches and appoint elders in every city.



The churches needed sound doctrine, godly leadership, and disciplined Christian living. Paul therefore gave Titus clear instructions that remain valuable for pastors, church leaders, and every believer today. Let us consider twelve principles from his letter.

1. Set in Order the Things That Are Lacking - Titus 1:5

Paul instructed Titus to correct and complete what remained unfinished in the churches. A church may have regular services and many activities, yet lack spiritual discipline, biblical understanding, unity, or commitment to truth. Titus was not sent merely to maintain the existing situation, but to bring matters into proper order according to God's Word.

We should examine our own lives too. Is our prayer life weak? Are we neglecting Scripture? Is there unforgiveness in our hearts, or are we failing to fulfil our responsibilities? A faithful servant does not ignore what needs correction. Let us ask God to reveal what is lacking and help us align every area of life with His will.

2. Appoint Qualified Spiritual Leaders - Titus 1:5–6

Paul told Titus to appoint elders in every city. Leaders were not to be chosen merely for wealth, influence, popularity, or speaking ability. Paul emphasized godly character: faithfulness, self-control, integrity, and commitment to sound doctrine. A leader must not be arrogant, quick-tempered, violent, or greedy for dishonest gain.

God is concerned not only with what a leader does but also with who that leader is. Knowledge and communication skills are valuable, but without godly character, leadership can harm the church. Faithfulness in small responsibilities prepares us for greater ones. Let us pray for leaders who shepherd God's people with humility, wisdom, love, and integrity.

> Leaders were not to be chosen merely for wealth, influence, popularity, or speaking ability.

3. Guard the Church Against False Teaching - Titus 1:10–11

Paul warned Titus about deceivers who misled believers and taught things they should not teach. False teaching is dangerous because it can lead people away from the truth of the Gospel. Religious-sounding words should not be accepted without examining whether they agree with Scripture.

Christian leaders need discernment. They must distinguish sincere questions from deliberate attempts to deceive. We should not answer every disagreement with anger; rather, we should examine teaching carefully and correct error with truth and wisdom. The church must never sacrifice biblical truth simply to please people. By teaching God's Word accurately, we help believers become rooted in the faith.

4. Correct Error So Believers Remain Sound in Faith - Titus 1:12–14

Paul instructed Titus to rebuke harmful behavior so that people might become sound in the faith. Spiritual growth requires encouragement as well as correction. Encouragement strengthens us; correction helps us recognize and abandon what is wrong.

Paul's purpose was not to humiliate people or satisfy personal anger, but to restore spiritual health and turn people away from teachings that contradicted the truth. Correction must be guided by Scripture, motivated by love, and directed towards restoration whenever possible. Those who receive correction should respond with humility. Faithful correction, given with the right intention, is an important responsibility in Christian leadership.

5. Be Ready for Every Good Work - Titus 3:1

Paul told believers to respect lawful authorities, obey, and be ready for every good work. Christianity must influence daily life, not just church attendance. Believers should act as responsible citizens and fulfill their duties honestly.

Christians should also be prepared to help people in need, support the vulnerable, and serve their communities. Good works do not purchase salvation; they are the fruit of God's grace in our lives. We are saved by God's mercy, and our conduct should reflect that transformation. Let our families, neighbors, colleagues, and communities see Christ's goodness through our actions.

6. Let Sound Doctrine Shape Daily Living - Titus 2:5

Titus 2 explains how sound doctrine should shape the behavior of different groups in the church. Paul encouraged believers to live in ways consis-

> The central principle remains important: Christian teaching should produce transformed lives.

tent with the Gospel. The instruction in verse 5 highlights godly character, family responsibility, purity, and conduct that honors God.

The central principle remains important: Christian teaching should produce transformed lives. Biblical knowledge must be visible in our attitudes, relationships, speech, and decisions. If we know Scripture but behave dishonestly, our actions contradict the message we profess. Let our homes be places of love, respect, faithfulness, prayer, and godly instruction, and let our conduct show the beauty of the Gospel.

7. Encourage Self-Control - Titus 2:6–8

Paul encouraged younger men to be self-controlled and to speak sound words. Self-control is essential to Christian maturity. Intelligence, strength, education, and ambition can be misused if they are not governed by wisdom.

Self-control is essential to Christian maturity.

Young people face pressures involving anger, pride, unhealthy relationships, materialism, and the desire for immediate pleasure. God's Word teaches us to govern our thoughts, words, emotions, and actions according to His principles. Self-control also means controlling our speech: words spoken in anger can damage relationships and harm our Christian witness. Let God's Word govern our behavior, and ask Him for strength to practice self-control in every area of life.

8. Become an Example of Good Works - Titus 2:7

Paul told Titus to be an example of good works. People listen to what a leader teaches, but they also observe how that leader lives. Parents likewise teach children through both words and personal conduct.

Christian leadership requires us to practice what we teach. If we preach forgiveness, we should forgive; if we speak about honesty, we must be honest; and if we teach generosity, we should demonstrate it. No believer is perfect, but every believer should seek to grow in Christlikeness. Let our lives support the message we proclaim, becoming examples of faith, humility, purity, compassion, and good works.

9. Pursue Peace and Respectful Conduct - Titus 3:1–2

Paul instructed believers to speak evil of no one, avoid quarrelling, be gentle, and show consideration towards all people. It is especially important to remain respectful when others disagree with or mistreat us.

This does not mean remaining silent about injustice. Even when confronting wrongdoing, we should act truthfully and fairly, without unnecessary hatred. Gentleness is not weakness; it is strength governed by wisdom and love. We must learn to disagree without becoming hateful, correct others without arrogance, and stand for truth without abandoning compassion. Let our words and actions reflect Jesus Christ and promote truth, justice, gentleness, and mutual respect.

10. Avoid Unprofitable Controversies - Titus 3:9

Paul told Titus to avoid foolish controversies and disputes that were unprofitable and useless. Some arguments do not strengthen faith or promote godliness; they create division and distract believers from serving God.

This does not mean sincere questions or careful Bible study are unnecessary. Christians should seek truth and examine difficult questions. Paul warned against disputes that become fruitless, divisive, and spiritually unproductive. Churches lose focus when believers spend more time fighting over minor issues than serving God and helping others. Before entering an argument, ask whether your words will bring understanding and spiritual benefit or simply create more conflict.

11. Address Persistent Divisive Behavior - Titus 3:10

Paul instructed Titus to warn a divisive person and, if necessary, warn that person again. If the person persisted, Titus was to reject that person. The passage calls for patience as well as firmness.

Unity is precious, but biblical unity does not mean tolerating destructive behavior.

Unity is precious, but biblical unity does not mean tolerating destructive behavior. When someone continually creates conflict or deliberately divides a congregation, leaders must respond responsibly. Church discipline must never be used to silence legitimate concerns or protect leaders from reasonable criticism. It should be exercised fairly, according to Scripture, and with concern for the church's spiritual health. Let us pursue peace while guarding against persistent, destructive division.

12. Devote Yourselves to Good Works - Titus 3:14

Paul taught believers to devote themselves to good works, meet urgent needs, and avoid unfruitful lives. The Gospel should transform us into people who actively serve God and others.

Good works include helping poor families, caring for the sick, supporting people in difficulty, teaching children, encouraging discouraged believers, and serving the church. Many valuable acts are done quietly, without public praise. Christian love should become practical assistance whenever possible. We need not wait until we have extraordinary resources; we can begin with what God has placed in our hands. Ask yourself: Whom can I help, whom can I encourage, and what responsibility has God entrusted to me today?

Conclusion: Faithful to the Work Entrusted to Us

Titus teaches that Christian faith involves sound doctrine, godly character, responsibility, and practical service. These principles challenge every believer. Pastors must shepherd faithfully, parents should guide their families in the Lord's ways, young people should pursue self-control, and church members should contribute to unity and service.

Let our faith be visible through our character, speech, relationships, and service. May the Lord help us correct what is lacking, stand firm in truth, preserve the unity of the church, and devote ourselves to good works. May we faithfully complete the work entrusted to us and bring glory to Jesus Christ. Amen.

C. Sudhaker

Hyderabad, Telangana, India

"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."

Titus 3:8

Good

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 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. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you." Titus 2:11-15

I have been looking at some passages of scripture that contain our English word "good". This one from Titus is a remarkable exposition of what it means to be a Christian. It begins by reminding us that the grace of God appeared in the flesh. The grace of God isn't just a doctrine; it is a person who left the realms of heaven and came to the earth to live among us and to teach us both in word and by example. Jesus by his life and doctrine teaches us that we are to deny self; we are to deny all the ungodliness and worldly lusts that compete for our attention every day of our lives. Whether it is wealth, power, fame or any number of fleshly desires, we are to learn to curb our sinful appetites and we must cultivate the spiritual fruit that abounds to the glory of God. By his very life Jesus instructs us to deny self.

The way we are called to live is soberly, righteously and godly. And we are to live this way "in the present age". Men are in the habit of yearning constantly for the good old days. We seem to believe that life was simpler and easier in a bygone era. Have you ever seen this quotation? "The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers." Do you know who made that comment? It was Socrates; a philosopher who lived from about 470 to 399 B.C. While modes of transportation and communication may change drastically from one generation to the next, there is one thing that seems to remain constant: Human Nature.

The way we are called to live is soberly, righteously and godly.

This passage also reminds us of what Jesus has done in giving himself for us. There is a grand purpose behind the Lord's life and sacrifice. He is purifying for himself his own special people. That's right. We are special in God's sight in Christ Jesus. He has redeemed us for a very special plan he has in mind for us. As his chosen people we are to be zealous for good works. We read this about Jesus, "…how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38). As his people we are to be zealous for doing good just as Jesus was. We may not have the miraculous powers that Jesus had, but we can still do good for the poor and suffering of this present age. Isn't it wonderful to know this calling that God has given to us as his own special people? People who take their Christian profession seriously are the happiest, nicest people you can ever meet. They are happy because they are focused on others and not on themselves. They are

nice because they follow in the footsteps of the one who is the epitome of goodness. This is encouraging news! So, let's speak these things to others and remind everyone to be good.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21

L Scott Gage
Vita E - Dec. 21, 2018

The Power of Being Personal

How long has it been since you received a handwritten letter? Have you ever received one from a government official?

Those who have lived a few years remember when handwritten letters were the norm. Before long-distance phone calls were free and email and texting made near-immediate communication possible, it's how the world kept in touch. Oh, for the good old days!

The city of Syracuse, New York may have sparked a new trend - at least among tax offices throughout the country. At the suggestion of researchers from Syracuse University, city officials wrote and signed thousands of notes by hand. The subject of their letters? "Please pay your delinquent property taxes." It is now being reported that $1.5 million more taxes were paid than had been predicted, a rise of 57%.

The reason for these surprising responses is not hard to figure out. Most of us grew tired long ago of the standard form letters we frequently receive. "Dear Property Owner" doesn't speak to me as appealingly as "Dear Tim". When a letter with a hand-addressed envelope shows up in my mailbox, it's likely to be opened first.

A message to all humanity has been sent from heaven. It wasn't sent in the form of letters written on the sky, or an eccentric-looking prophet bellowing out his message up and down the streets. Here's how the message has been sent: "'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23). That's a very personal approach!

Matthew has given us a divine commentary on the words of Hebrews 1:1,2: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son ..." John called Jesus "the Word": "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Imagine (some who read this may not have to imagine) that you have a son or daughter in the military, serving in a place of danger. As you gather with your family next week to celebrate Thanksgiving, which would you rather have: a letter from that beloved child, or for that child to show up at your front door?

God's message of love to the world is far too important to communicate by means of a form letter, or even by the most eloquent human orator. God Himself put on a robe of flesh and came down to earth to show us - in Person! - that He really does love us.

At the end of that message is this: "Please RSVP". Have you made your response?

Timothy D. Hall
LightGrams – Nov. 15, 2018

Where Do You Place Your Hope?

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Too often, this world feels full of chaos, confusion, disappointment, and struggle. During tough times, are we placing our hope in the wrong things? Are we depending on a loved one, a friend, or another person? Are we trusting the government to "fix" our problems? Are we turning to addictions like food, alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, or sex? Or are we putting our hope in our job or money? While some of these are necessary, and some even good, they are ultimately sources of false hope. All of them will eventually let us down.

In the first part of Romans 15, Paul reminds believers that the Scriptures were written to teach us so we might have hope. He concludes by saying, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Paul is telling us that God is the true source of hope, and His hope fills us with both joy and peace. But how do we obtain this hope? First, we must obey the Gospel of Christ. Then, we must immerse ourselves in the Scriptures, which are authored by God. The Bible is full of hope and promises from a God who is unchanging and eternal—a God who will never fail us. Even though we face storms in life, His Word offers comfort, patience, and the hope of better things ahead. The Scriptures equip us with the strength to endure even the hardest challenges this world can throw at us. Without them, we are left with only false hope and no peace.

Michelle Franklin

Rogers, AR

Volume 45 - Number 6 - Nov/Dec 2026

BC is published every other month. Send all inquiries, address changes and subscriptions to the editor: L Scott Gage, PO Box 3425, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425 Voice 479-521-6809

Email: Lsgage129@cs.com

www.basicchristianity.net