

A Study in the Book of Titus

LESSON ONE

Qualifications for Elders

(Titus 1:1-9)

Prayerfully read through Titus, chapter one, verses 1 through 9.

1. Looking at **verse one**, how does Paul address himself to his readers? Write down the two titles Paul calls himself below.
2. It was customary for Paul's letters to be circulated to the other churches in the area, so although Paul is sending this letter to Titus, he assumes that all the local churches in the area will also be reading it. How he addresses himself to these churches is significant. **First and foremost**, before any other title he could give, Paul considers himself a **bondservant**. The Greek word is **doulos**. Look up the word **bondservant** in the dictionary and write down the definition you find below. If you have a Bible dictionary, look up the word **doulos** and add that definition to your answer.
3. There are two significant things about the word "**doulos**" that we need to note. The first is that this word was used for the "**lowest**" of slaves, and the second is that this word was used for one who was a slave "**by choice**." That Paul considered himself a **doulos**, first and foremost, reveals the humility we all need to have in our service to the Lord and others. How does this challenge your heart? Do you consider yourself a **doulos**? Share your thoughts.

4. Having this attitude of humility and humble service is essential in our service to the Lord, whatever ways the Lord has called us to serve. For Paul, it was most important for the special calling the Lord had placed on his life. Write down the second way Paul addressed himself to the recipients of this letter, according to **verse one**.
5. The word Apostle means “messenger,” but not in an ordinary sense. An Apostle was sent as a **Delegate**, an **Ambassador of the Gospel** and a **Commissioner of Christ**. Look up the following words below and write down the definitions you find for each.

Delegate:

Ambassador:

Commissioner:

Commission:

6. At the end of **verse one**, Paul defines what his “**commission**” is. Look at the **last part** of this verse in several different translations for a clear understanding and then write down **in your own words** what Paul’s commission was.
7. We may not be Apostles (with a capital “A”), but we are all a part of “**the great commission**” given to us by Christ to be His representatives to the world. In what specific ways is the Lord calling you to **represent Him** to others? What is your personal “**mission field**?”

8. I love how the NLT translated the last half of this verse. It reads: **“I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives.”** This was Paul’s specific calling, and it is also the calling of every pastor, but it is no less a calling we all share with those the Lord has placed in our own personal “mission field” and areas of influence. We are all called to not only proclaim Who Christ is, but to **teach others the truth of God’s Word**, as it shows us how to **live a godly life**. In other words, we are all called to encourage each other in the faith and in spiritual maturity. Looking at **verse two** in the NLT, what does Paul say teaching **“this truth”** accomplishes? Write the verse down from the NLT below.
9. Can you share a way this is working in your life as a teacher, or maybe as a **recipient** of the ministry of others?
10. Paul states in **verse two** that the **hope of eternal life** is a **promise** given by God **“before time began”** or as the NASB puts it, **“long ages ago.”** The promise isn’t “wishful thinking,” it is given as a **promise** from the **God who cannot lie**. It is **sure**. It is **trustworthy**. How has this promise affected your perspective of life and the way you live? How has it changed your mindset?
11. This promise was not made fully clear to the Old Testament believers. The plan of salvation that brought this promise into a reality was manifested in God’s perfect timing. Write down Paul’s last statement in his opening address, found in **verse three**.

- 12. Titus** is not mentioned until we get to **verse four**. How does Paul describe him in this verse?
- 13.** The little we know of Titus is found primarily in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, with a short mention of him in Galatians 2:3. Look up the following Scriptures and write down the description(s) Paul gives of Titus in each verse.
- 2 Corinthians 2:13 -**
- 2 Corinthians 8:23 -**
- 2 Corinthians 12:18 -**
- Galatians 2:3 -**
- 14.** Paul's greeting to Titus in **Titus 1:4** is a common one Paul often uses. What does Paul say in this verse is his prayer for Titus? Write the words down below and where Paul tells us the **source of them** comes from.
- 15.** Just as Paul was given a commission by the Lord, he now, by the authority of his Apostleship in Christ, gives a commission to Titus. From **verse five**, write down Paul's reason for leaving Titus in Crete and the commission he gives to him.

16. From **verse five**, we see that Paul wasn't speaking of just one local church, but of all the churches in the area that he left Titus in charge of. Paul understood the importance of what it means to **rightly represent Christ** to others. All believers are accountable with how we represent our Lord to the world around us, and this includes within the household of God. A church leader, in any capacity, must represent the God he serves accurately. Therefore, as he tasks Titus with appointing elders within each church to serve in leadership roles over their congregations, he demands that certain qualifications are met. From **verse six**, write down the first of these qualifications given in this verse.

17. Blameless: the Greek word is "anegkletos," and it literally means "unaccused." Some translations read "above reproach." **David Guzik** gives a good definition of this word, stating: "**This word literally means 'nothing to take hold upon.' There must be nothing in the life of the leader that others can take hold of and attack his life or the church.**" What do these other Scriptures say about being "blameless?"

Philippians 2:14 & 15 -

Colossians 1:21 & 22 -

1 Thessalonians 3:12 & 13 -

2 Peter 3:14 -

18. What is the next qualification on Paul's list, found in **verse six**?

19. Most all scholars agree that Paul **isn't saying** that marriage is a requirement, nor is he saying that if you have been widowed or divorced and remarried that you cannot serve in a leadership role. In **David Guzik's** statement on this verse he says, **"The idea is of 'a one-woman man.' It does not mean that a leader *must* be married. If that were the case, then both Jesus and Paul would be disqualified from leadership. Nor is it the idea that a leader could never remarry if his wife had passed away or if he were Biblically divorced. The idea is that the leader has his focus upon one woman – that being his wife."** Write down the qualification Paul gives after this in **verse six**.

20. The implication is that Paul is referring to children who are **"in the home,"** not adult children outside of the home. The idea is that if a leader cannot manage his own household, he is not qualified to manage the congregation. **Warren Weirsbe** states: **"Christian living and Christian service must begin at home. The children in an elder's home must not only be saved, but must be good examples of obedience and dedication. To be accused of 'riot' [wild living] or disobedience ['unruly,' unable to be ruled] would disqualify their father from the eldership. This applies, of course, to children still at home, under the authority of their father."**

What are the other qualifications Paul adds to these in **verse seven**? Write **verse seven** down below.

21. Paul describes the Bishop or Elder as a **"steward of God."** A steward is really a "servant" who manages the interests of another. What does Paul say in **1 Corinthians 4:1 & 2** about stewards? Write those verses down below.

22. What did Jesus say about the faithful steward in **Matthew 25:21**?

23. It seems obvious that a “faithful steward” is not one who is self-willed, quick-tempered, given to wine, violent, or greedy for money. A faithful steward is focused on caring for the interests of his Lord, not himself. In **verse eight**, how does Paul describe the characteristics of the faithful steward?
24. These are all the characteristics required of those in a leadership position of any kind in the service of Christ, but especially those who are in the position of an elder or pastor over the congregation the Lord has placed in his care. **Verse nine** sums up these qualification and gives us the **reason** these qualifications are required. What does it say?
25. How important it is for those in a leadership position to not only know the Word of God, but to know how to use and handle it accurately. What do the following verses tell us about how we use God’s Word?

2 Timothy 2:15 -

2 Timothy 3:16 & 17 –

It starts with “**holding fast (firm) the faithful word (of God) he has been taught.....**” God’s Word is **faithful**. It is **true**. It is **trustworthy, solid, reliable**. And if we are to effectively minister God’s Word to others, we too, must be faithful and trustworthy in our sharing His Word uncompromisingly, and in living a life that proves we believe what we preach.

26. How has this first lesson in Titus ministered to you? What are your take-aways from **Titus, chapter one, verses 1 through 9?**

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2025