

A Study in the Book of Titus

LESSON SIX

Things to Avoid

(Titus 3:9-15)

Prayerfully read through Titus, chapter three, verses 9 through 15.

1. In these last seven verses of our study of Titus, Paul starts out by telling Titus, and us, things we need to avoid. List the things in **verse 9** that Paul tells Titus to avoid.
2. What reason does Paul give, at the end of the verse, why these things should be avoided?
3. **Foolish Disputes**: Webster's Dictionary defines **disputes** as: to argue irritably or with irritating persistence, to a verbal controversy, debate or quarrel. Some translations read "**foolish questions**." Below are a couple examples of **foolish disputes** that fit the category of Paul's list of things to be avoided.

Luke 22:24 -

John 3:25 -

4. **Genealogies**: The Jews were often obsessed with ancestry and a person's lineage was of the utmost importance to them. But in Christ, all believers stand on equal ground and there is no room for distinctions to be made amongst believers over their lineage. "Genealogies" is often listed with "foolish disputes."

What did Paul say to Timothy about foolish disputes and **genealogies** in the following verses?

1 Timothy 1:4 -

2 Timothy 2:16 -

2 Timothy 2:23 -

5. **Contentions**: One of the definitions given in **Webster's Dictionary** for the word "**contention**" is **rivalry and competition**. Paul put a stop to a contention amongst the Corinthian church in **1 Corinthians 3:4-7**. Look up those verses and write them down below.

6. **Strivings about the Law**: The Judaizers, and who Paul refers to as "the Circumcision," were continually trying to pull both Jewish and Gentile believers back into following the letter of the Law. This was also preaching a **different Jesus** and ignoring the truth of the Gospel, that Christ fulfilled the letter of the Law for us, because we were incapable of fulfilling it, and has set us free from its requirements. What do the following verses tell us concerning the Law?

Romans 10:3 & 4 -

Galatians 2:16 -

Galatians 2:21 -

7. Paul was mainly referring to the Judaizers in this list of things to avoid who loved to stir up strife over matters of the Law. Today there are many others who love to stir up strife over things that “do not edify.” Can you name any examples?

8. Paul’s instructions in **Titus 3:10** of how Titus is to handle this seems pretty harsh. Write down what he says Titus is to do.

Adam Clarke makes these comments concerning this verse: **“That is, do not do it hastily and rashly. Give him an opportunity to explain himself, and to repent and abandon his course. No man is to be cut off without giving him a proper opportunity to vindicate his conduct, and to repent if he has done wrong. If after the first and second admonition a man who is undoubtedly doing wrong, will not repent, then he is to be cut off. The apostle does not say in what way this admonition is to be given, or whether it should be public or private. The language which he uses would justify either, and the method which is to be adopted is doubtless to be determined by circumstances.”**

9. What were the Lord’s instructions concerning disputes and offenses found in **Matthew 18:15-17**? Look up that passage and record it below.

10. What instructions did Paul give to the church in Thessalonica? Record his words from **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15** below.

11. The Lord's heart, and Paul's as well, was always to give every opportunity for **correction and reconciliation**. When that has been rejected, the priority must be to **protect others in the church**. Look up and record Paul's words to the Ephesian Elders in **Acts 20:28-30**.

12. Record **Titus 3:12** below.

We don't know anything about **Artemas**, as this is the only place where he is mentioned. He was obviously a companion and fellow laborer in ministry that Paul trusted and felt was capable, along with **Tychicus**, to take the place of **Titus** in Crete, as Paul was asking Titus to come meet him in **Nicopolis** where he planned to stay the winter. **Tychicus** is mentioned in **Acts 20:4** among a list of others who were Paul's companions and fellow laborers in ministry. We learn from that verse that he was from Asia. Paul also mentions him in **2 Timothy 4:12**.

13. This isn't the first time Paul has sent others to relieve a brother who he has requested to come join him. (Look at **2 Timothy 4:9**). This verse in **Titus 3:12**, that contains this personal note from Paul, seems an easy one to skim over, but it reveals some important things we shouldn't overlook. It speaks to us of how the church, the **body of Christ**, works together for a common goal. Look up and write down the following Scriptures that speak of this.

Romans 12:5 -

1 Corinthians 12:12 -

1 Corinthians 12:14 -

Ephesians 4:4-7 -

Ephesians 4:12 -

14. Coming now to **Titus 3:13**, record that verse below.

15. Apparently Zenas and Apollos had either been in the area ministering and were preparing to depart, or they were passing through the area. Paul mentioned earlier in this letter how **hospitality** was to be something the church leadership was to be known for. **Titus 3:13** is one of the ways this hospitality was to be shown. How do these other verses express this?

Romans 15:24 -

1 Corinthians 16:10-11 -

Philippians 4:18 -

3 John 1:5-8 -

Bible Commentator, **G. Campbell Morgan** states: “**The final word concerning occupation shows clearly the duty of members of the Christian Church to contribute to the support of those devoted to the work of the ministry.**”

16. As Paul gets ready to close out his letter, how does he sum up all that he has expressed in **Titus 3:14**?

17. It was Paul’s desire that believers would continue to grow into spiritual maturity. Concerning Paul’s words in **verse 14**, many scholars believe that the Greek word translated as “good works” relates to maintaining an **honest living** in order to have the means to help others. The word is **ergon**, and while it can refer to a “deed” or “deeds” of kindness, it most often refers to **work, labor, or occupation**. What did Paul say about the subject of work in **2 Thessalonians 3:10**?

18. How does he establish the importance and purpose of **labor** in **Ephesians 4:28**?

19. Paul did not want to see believers become **unfruitful**. “**Fruitfulness**” is described in **Webster’s Dictionary** as “abundantly productive” and “producing desirable results.” **Unfruitful**” is the opposite, meaning to be empty, barren, void. It is laziness or efforts that produce nothing of any value. As Christians who are Christ’s representatives in the world, we need to strive for **fruitfulness**. How does **Colossians 1:10** express this?

20. How does Peter express this in **2 Peter 1:5-8**?

21. Paul ends his letter to Titus in **Titus 3:15**. Record Paul's final words.

22. Paul ends his letter similar to how he began it, with a benediction of grace. There are a couple differences between the two. In his benediction at the beginning of his letter, his benediction is a personal one, to Titus, from Paul, personally. In his closing benediction, he addresses it to all the believers in Crete from all of the fellow believers who are with Paul. This is, again, a reminder to us that we are all a part of the universal Body of Christ, the church as a whole. Record how this last lesson has ministered to your heart. In what ways did it speak to you, personally?

23. How has your study of the Book of Titus impacted you? What has been your greatest take away?

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

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