The Letter to Titus

11

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we complete our study of **Titus**. The third chapter of this letter encapsulates a final reminder to Titus as to what to emphasize in his teaching.

Before you read this last chapter, we encourage you to reread these three passages, for they form the core around which Paul's instructions to Titus revolve. In the entire letter, there are three "nuggets" of Gospel truth that Paul writes, one for each of the three chapters.

> ➲ **Nugget #1** – **1:1-4**
> ➲ **Nugget #2** – **2:11-14**
> ➲ **Nugget #3** – **3:4-7**

This third and last chapter divides into three subsections:

Read Titus 3:1-8

➲ What did Paul tell Titus to remind the people of (**3:1-2**)?
➲ Paul says that once the Cretan Christians were just like their pagan counterparts. What were they like? (**3:3**).
➲ What happened to change all of this? (**3:4**).
➲ What did Paul want Titus to stress and why were these things "excellent and profitable"? (**3:8**).

Read Titus 3:9-11

➲ What was Titus to avoid? (**3:9**).
➲ Foolish controversies and arguments about the law were "unprofitable and useless" (**3:9**) and this is contrasted with things that are "excellent and profitable for everyone" (**3:8**). What is the difference between these two things?

Read Titus 3:12-15

➲ Paul again emphasizes the importance of the Cretan believers "devot[ing] themselves to doing what is good"? (**3:14**). How does this relate to **1:16**?

MORNING STUDY

Memory Verse

> ...He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
>
> Titus 3:5-7

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

➲ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see **John 14:26**).

➲ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.

➲ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference.** Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."

➲ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.

➲ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.

➲ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.

➲ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.

➲ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.

➲ The next day, before you begin commiting a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).

➲ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.

➲ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice (**James 1:22**). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts (**John 15:7**). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!

MEMORY VERSE