

# TITUS: EVERYDAY THEOLOGY

*Titus 1:1-16, 2:11-15*

*Week One*

This week, Summit will begin a sermon series on Paul's letter (epistle) to Titus. It is a small letter, but it imparts to Titus a massive task. Titus was given the task of planting/establishing churches in every town in Crete (there may have been as many as 90 towns on the island at the time). Paul had already preached the gospel there, so there were some Christians, but those new converts needed connection to a church in order to grow in their faith. To make the task more daunting, it appears from chapter 1 that the culture Crete was not exactly "fertile soil" for the gospel message. Crete was full of irreligious behavior, and what religion did exist on the island was not helping the situation.

Titus chapter 1 lays out the groundwork for Paul and Titus' strategy. Local church leaders in every town would help change the culture. It was imperative, however, that these local leaders show a different way of living. They had to be immune from the cultural influences that kept Crete from being respected and trustworthy. Sound doctrine is only sound if it is actually leading a Christian to more godly behaviors and lifestyles. The theme passage of Titus, 2:11-14, makes clear how this works: when we remember God's grace in our lives, we in turn become more gracious, pure, and loving people. The rest of our study in Titus will give practical examples for how this looks in everyday life.

Work through these questions before you come to small group and be ready to interact with the Scriptures and questions below.

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What did you learn about the book of Titus that stood out to you from this weekend's sermon?
2. Read Titus 1:1-16. What is the value of planting local churches for the spread of the gospel?
3. Explain in your own words why it is important for Christians, and Christian leaders in particular, need to be self-controlled?
4. Titus 1 describes the situation of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Crete as not very friendly to Christian values. What challenges do local churches face in such a climate? How can local churches and small groups be a positive influence in such circumstances?
5. Read Titus 2:11-15. How is the gospel different from both religion and irreligion?
6. Describe the relationship between Christian theology and Christian ethics, according to Titus?

Pray: Open your Bibles to 1 John 3:1-3. Read through the passage and pray through these points:

- Thank God for making you his child and for his Fatherly love in your life.
- Ask God for the strength and desire to become pure like he is pure.
- Ask God to give you hope in the areas of your life that have you frustrated or "stuck."

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-control, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a peculiar people, zealous of good deeds. Declare your allegiance to the authority of Jesus Christ. Let no one disregard you.

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TEXT BOX TOO!

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in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and

to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority.

Let no one disregard you.

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