



*Saved for*  
**GOOD**

Titus



DATE	BIBLE	DATE	BIBLE
9-15 Oct	Choose your own	13-19 Nov	<a href="#">Titus 2:11-15</a>
16-22 Oct	<a href="#">Titus 1:1-4</a>	20-26 Nov	<a href="#">Titus 3:1-7</a>
23-29 Oct	<a href="#">Titus 1:5-9</a>	27 Nov-3 Dec	<a href="#">Titus 3:8-15</a>
30 Oct-5 Nov	<a href="#">Titus 1:10-16</a>	4-10 Dec	Christmas Party to Finish the Year
6-12 Nov	<a href="#">Grow: No Groups</a>		

## TITUS: SAVED FOR GOOD

In this letter Paul tells Titus how to oversee the churches in Crete and how to setup other elders to do the same. It's part of the "pastoral epistles" – 3 letters Paul wrote to Timothy and to Titus explain how to pastor churches in sound doctrine and godly living. These are the 5 biggest themes in Titus:

- 1. Salvation:** Christians have been saved by God – by the grace of God the Father, through God the Son giving himself for us, and by the regenerating work of God the Spirit. This is the foundation of our new lives which we need to understand deeply, because...
- 2. Behaviours follow beliefs:** our beliefs drive our behaviours, whether that's the true beliefs and sound doctrine elders are to teach, or the false damaging teaching of rebellious people. Paul starts the letter making this connection, explaining that he is an apostle *"...to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness"* (1:1)
- 3. Doing good:** having been saved, and with a firm foundation built on sound beliefs, what are Christians meant to do? Good. *"And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good... Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good..."* as we're Christ's own people *"eager to do what is good"* (3:8, 14, 2:14). In order to do good, Christians need to be taught, instructed, encouraged, rebuked, reminded, warned and modelled to, in many aspects of our lives.

**4. The Church:** the letter is written to an elder/pastor about how to guard and grow the Church, and what to direct God's people to do / not do. So it instructs pastors in how to behave and teach, whilst informing the kinds of things churches should look for and celebrate in their leaders. At the same time, it's written for all Christians, who 'look-in on' the instructions to a pastor; the last sentence of the letter reads "*Grace be with you (plural) all*" (3:15) which shows Paul is aware all the churches in Crete will read this letter, even though it's addressed to Titus. There's also a rich picture of what a Christian *community* doing good looks like, which we're meant to emulate at Salt. So (to sum up my point here): 1) pastors are meant to do good, teach and model it, 2) individual Christians are meant to do good and cling to the truth, and 3) Christian churches/communities are meant to take responsibility to do good, plus teach and model good to each other. The Christian life is not a solo journey, it's by definition corporate.

**5. Evangelism:** there is an evangelistic edge to Titus. We obey God to honour God because that's what we've been saved for, *and* to show the goodness of the gospel so others come and trust the same saviour. E.g. young women are told to live a particular way "*so that no one will malign the word of God*" (2:5) and slaves "*so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive*" (2:10). There is also a clear awareness of the corruption of people outside the church in Crete, acknowledging that "*at one time we too were...*" living just like them before God's grace saved us (3:3). Since it saved us who were just like them, it can save them too.

These 5 things we really need! Especially in our unbelieving culture that...

1. Can't understand salvation by grace or the character of our triune-God
2. Thinks all beliefs are equally valid, and severs the connection between beliefs and behaviours
3. Has a radically different definition of what "good" is, compared to God
4. Undervalues leaders and character, and overemphasises individualism
5. Can't see the need for a Saviour and thinks that Christians cause harm rather than good

All Christians want to do good but we often don't know what "good" looks like. Titus will teach us how to do good in a world that's confused about what's "good". **Christians are saved for good.**

# USING THESE NOTES

**LCOMA:** These notes use a bible reading approach called LCOMA.

*Launch:* This introduces the topic you'll unpack & gets everyone talking.

*Context:* This is about seeing how this passage fits in the book. What must we know from context to understand this piece properly?

*Observe:* This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.

*Meaning:* This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining, what does it mean and why does it matter.

*Apply:* This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).

**The Code:** these notes use a symbol-based code to help you easily work out which questions might best suit your Small Group.

→ **Simpler:** questions with this arrow symbol → trace 1 idea through a passage. So they're great if you have time pressures, less mature Christians in your group, or just want to unpack and apply 1 big idea.

++ **Bonus:** questions with this plus symbol ++ fill-in the picture more. So they're great if you want to dig deeper or explore a few extra ideas. You don't need to ask every bonus question; just pick the best ones.

**The Goal:** Remember, the purpose of a bible discussion is... to discuss the bible. It's not to ask every question in the notes and tick them all off. These notes will help you dig into the bible but don't let them get in the way of the actual goal – wrestling with the bible together, loving it and living it out.

# TITUS 1:1-4 • 16-22 OCT

**PRAY TO START:** Pray for God to shape us as we grow in knowledge of Him through the book of Titus.

**LAUNCH:** What is the most awe-inspiring thing you've ever seen?

**CONTEXT:** Read **Isaiah 6:1-8**. What fuels Isaiah's desire to serve as a prophet?

**READ:** Titus 1:1-4

**OBSERVATION:**

→ List the things that God has done for his people.

→ What is Paul doing in response to God's work?

**MEANING:**

→ What outcome does Paul want to see from his work?

→ If these 4 verses are a summary for the letter, what does Paul hope this letter will accomplish?

→ Why does Paul talk about the timeline of God's work? I.e. from eternity past ("God's elect," "beginning of time") to eternity future ("eternal life" v.2)

++ What causes Paul to keep doing the work of a servant and apostle?

++ Read Titus 2:11-12. If Paul wants us to be godly, what is the only thing that can teach us to be that way?

++ If the Gospel/Grace of God is our only hope for godliness, then what is the “knowledge of the truth”? i.e. what “truth”?

## APPLY:

→ Paul wants his readers to become more godly as they read this letter.

Do *you* want to become more godly? Why, why not?

What could it look like for you to become more godly?

From this passage, how do we become more godly?

++ All of Paul's effort and work comes from his hope in the eternal life that God promised. What does that certain hope mean to you right now?

++ What do you think of this quote:

*“So often we try to develop Christian character and conduct without taking the time to develop God-centred devotion. We try to please God without taking the time to walk with him and develop a relationship with him. This is impossible to do.” Jerry Bridges - ‘The Practice of Godliness’*

**PRAY TO END:** From eternity past to eternity future, God has been lavishing grace on us so we'd know and please him. Spend a good amount of time in praise to God. Let's praise him!

## TITUS 1:5-9 • 23-29 OCT

PRAY TO START: Pray we'll love God's people as much as He does.

**LAUNCH:** Think of the best and worst boss you've ever had. What were they like?

CONTEXT:

→ Read **Colossians 1:21-22**. What has Christ done for all Christians? How does that bring assurance as we strive to become more godly?

READ: **Titus 1:5-9**

OBSERVATION:

→ List the attributes and qualifications...

An elder should be:	An elder shouldn't be:
---------------------	------------------------

## MEANING:

→ What would an elder look like if they lived out all the *negative* attributes?

→ What would they look like if they lived out all the *positive* attributes?

++ Consider for a few of the attributes, how does it flow from the Gospel?

→ In your workplace, character probably isn't as important as productivity. But this qualification list is almost exclusively character-focused. What might that show about God's values?

→ What reasons does Paul give for this high standard for church leaders?

++ What do you think it means that an elder's children "believe"? Why is this important?

## APPLY:

→ Reflect on your own life. How do you measure up against this list?

→ How can we grow in those positive attributes and reduce the negative?

++ Have you ever considered growing to lead God's people?

**PRAY TO END:** Confess the ways we don't live up to these attributes, pray for grace so that we might adore and obey our God more and more, and give thanks to God that *"now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation"* (Colossians 1:22)

# TITUS 1:10-16 • 30 OCT-5 NOV

**PRAY TO START:** Pray that we might become sound in the faith.

**LAUNCH:** Have you ever rebuked someone / been rebuked by someone? What was good and bad about that experience?

**READ: Titus 1:10-16**

**OBSERVATION:**

- What are the false teachers in Crete like?
- Does the description of these false teachers feel a bit harsh to you?
- What is Paul worried will happen to the churches in Crete?
- What is Paul's hope for the Cretan church?

**MEANING:**

- From this passage why does Titus need to appoint elders?
  - How is Titus going to help them be "sound in the faith"?
- ++ Read **Galatians 5:2-12**. What is the issue of the circumcision group?

++ Read **Titus 2:14**. What has Jesus done for us? What does that mean for our need to be circumcised as a mark of belonging to God?

## APPLY:

→ Proverbs 13:1 says *"A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not respond to rebukes."* How could you be more willing to be rebuked and corrected?

→ What about you might make it hard for Christian brothers and sisters, or your Church leaders, to rebuke you?

→ What makes it hard for you to rebuke and correct other Christians? How could you be more willing to helpfully correct other Christians?

→ What are some inappropriate things people may try to force Christians to believe or do?

→ How could you work out what are "merely human commands" (v14) and what are God's good commands to you?

**PRAY TO END:** Praise God that he has made us pure and protects us from false teaching through our leaders!

Ask God to help Michael, Andy and Geoff faithfully carry out this work of protecting us from false teaching at Salt Church.

Pray that we might all be willing to learn and to correct each other so we know, obey and enjoy God more.

**Want to learn more?** Check out this article during the week:  
[www.desiringgod.org/articles/embrace-the-blessing-of-rebuke](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/embrace-the-blessing-of-rebuke)

# GROW: NO SMALL GROUP • 6-12 NOV

Grow is on this Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 7-9pm including dinner.

We really want every member of Salt Church to come to *Grow* – for everyone who calls Salt their home to be there or to watch the livestream.

## Why Come to Grow?

We know that many of us have busy lives with lots of responsibilities. So getting to Church and Small Group regularly is enough of a challenge, yet alone coming out for a moment like *Grow*.

Also, many of us at Salt feel like we already know our Church's vision and we're on-board with it, so it doesn't really feel worth coming to *Grow* – there's nothing new to hear and I could definitely use a night off.

There's also a bunch of us at Salt who have never been to a *Grow*, so don't really know what it is that we're being encouraged to get along to.

Whatever camp you're in, here's where *Grow* fits and why *Grow* matters.

## Bus Versus Boat

You may have heard Salt's pastors describe Salt as a rowing team not a bus. On a bus 1 person drives and everyone else comes along for the ride. If you're not driving, you don't have to contribute to the trip, you hop on and off when you want, you get somewhere because of the driver.

But on a rowing team 1 person might steer the boat, but you only move forward if everyone rows; if the team works together to make it happen.

## God's Vision for Salt Church

Christ Jesus has given all of his people a massive vision and task:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)*

We pray this would happen in Wollongong and we'd play our part in it. We want to see a flood of lifelong disciples of Jesus across Wollongong and beyond because it's what Jesus wants to see and it's what Jesus deserves.

## Why Grow Exists

We don't want to do this solo though – each of us trying to make disciples or growing as Christians on our own. We also don't want to be a bus – a handful of us doing this and the rest just kicking back, along for the ride. We want to be a rowing team, for the glory of God.

But without moments like *Grow* it's very difficult for us to row together as a whole Church. At *Grow* we plan and pray about how we're going to do this *together*. What kind of Church do we want to be? Where are we heading as a Church? Where is God guiding and leading us? It's like a family meeting, or the team huddle just before we put the boat out on the water.

Each *Grow* is different too. The big vision doesn't change; it shouldn't as it's God's vision that he gives to every Church and all His people. But how we achieve that vision, the strategy, the next steps, the different roles we can each play – that's what changes. So each *Grow* we dive into the next steps to take as a Church family. Not what's coming up this week, but what we're doing in the next 3 months, this year, where we want to be in 5 years.

As well as all that, *Grow* is just like Sunday Church in that we get to meet together as God's people for fellowship, to enjoy being a community, to listen to and learn from our good Father.

## How You Can Help

To make it easier for more of us to come to *Grow*, we're no longer going to run Small Groups in the week that *Grow* is on. Instead, we'll go to *Grow* that week for bible teaching and fellowship. We've also moved *Grow* so it's mid-week (Wednesdays for this year) and not on Fridays as it was before, when many of us are worn out from a week of work or have competing plans.

So can I encourage you to come to this *Grow*, 7-9pm this Wednesday. And not only that, but to help bring others from your Small Group along too? Each *Grow* really is a hugely encouraging and crucially important moment for our Church family. We want to grow – that's what Jesus deserves.

# TITUS 2:11-15 • 13-19 NOV

LAUNCH & CONTEXT: In 2:1-10 Paul wanted Timothy to teach the things in this find-a-word. Have a race to see who can find them all first!

Doctrine

Faith

Endurance

Kind

Good

Temperate

Love

Reverent

Pure

Self-control

F	T	K	E	O	R	U	R	C	H	N	O	S	D
T	T	R	E	V	E	R	E	N	T	O	A	K	T
N	C	R	P	E	D	R	E	N	O	I	E	T	O
D	C	V	E	R	O	R	G	D	N	E	A	N	R
D	E	E	R	U	P	H	O	D	R	D	R	R	D
C	T	D	T	N	T	A	O	T	D	N	I	K	E
E	N	I	R	T	C	O	D	H	E	K	E	M	N
M	L	R	M	R	E	N	D	U	R	A	N	C	E
T	O	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	E	C	P	F
C	V	E	U	R	E	D	R	E	D	U	L	R	O
E	E	E	T	T	E	P	E	P	E	E	O	I	C
S	E	L	F	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	O	V	P
F	G	M	E	E	E	F	H	T	I	A	F	O	N
F	E	O	E	R	A	D	C	R	T	O	E	E	E

READ: Titus 2:11-15

## MEANING:

→. Grace is a word often used in the bible (and often used by us!) - what do you think "grace" means?

→ Read **Ephesians 1:7-8, 2:4-5**. How does this help us understand grace?

→ Read **1 Cor 15:10, and 2 Cor 8:1, 9:8, 12:9**. How is grace used here?

→ The rest of this passage is about how we're to live in light of being saved and by the power of God's grace. Together fill in the table:

	What does it mean?	How can we live it out?
Saying no to ungodliness & worldly passions		
Being self-controlled		
Living an upright Godly life		
Waiting for Jesus' return		
Doing good		

# TITUS 3:1-7 • 20-26 NOV

PRAY TO START: We'd dwell on the grace of God and be transformed

LAUNCH: → Who is the person that annoys you the most?

OBSERVATION:

→ In pairs or on your own, draw on the passage printed here:

Underline all the *conjunctions* (aka connecting words like but, because, so that) and *prepositions* (aka modifying words like to, in, through, by)

Circle all the words that describe who God is or what God has done.

<sup>1</sup>Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, <sup>2</sup>to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

<sup>3</sup>At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

MEANING:

→ What stands out to you most in the way these Christians used to act (v3) and are now supposed to act (v1-2)?

→ Why is it important for Christians to act in this new way?

→ What causes us to act differently?

++ What different work does each member of the Trinity do to save us?

++ What is the final outcome of God's saving work in our lives?

## APPLY:

→ Look at v1-2 again. How are you going at obeying this?

→ Read v3 again. What is your reaction to people like that?

→ Our culture believes that our good deeds prove we're good people. How does this passage teach us otherwise?

++ Why should God allow you into heaven?

++ Think about your unbelieving friends and family. What 'passions and pleasures' do you think they are 'enslaved' to?

**PRAY TO END:** Praise God for his mercy kindness and love to people who deserve nothing but wrath!

Pray for your unbelieving friends, family, workmates and neighbours.

# TITUS 3:8-15 • 27 NOV-3 DEC

**PRAY TO START:** Pray we might be captivated by the grace of God.

**LAUNCH:** Besides Jesus, what do you think everyone needs to know about?

**CONTEXT:** Summarise the message of Titus in 1-2 sentences

**READ:** Titus 3:8-15

**OBSERVATION:**

→ What is the “trustworthy saying”? What is Titus to “stress”?

→ What is the effect of the “trustworthy message”?

**MEANING:**

→ Why do you think “foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law” are called “unprofitable and useless”? (v9)

→ Why does Paul call them “divisive” people?

++ Why is “warped” (v 11) a good description of these people?

→ So how does v9-11 give us examples of “doing what is good”?

→ How does v12-15 give us examples of “doing what is good”?

++ Why do you think Paul ends his letter with a request to God for “grace”?

## APPLY:

→ What is a “good” you need to devote yourself to this week?

→ What has encouraged you the most from Titus?

→ What has challenged you the most from Titus?

++ What are some urgent needs we can be providing for at Salt Church, and in our wider community?

++ What do you tend to “stress” more for Christians – how safe we are before God, or the need to obey God?

++ How would you go about warning a divisive person?

**PRAY TO END:** Confess the times we haven’t been devoted to good.

Thank God for the Gospel that extends grace to us even when we aren’t doing good. And thank God for all we’ve learned in Titus!



**saltchurch.**

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good

**Titus 2:11-14**