

## ***Preaching the Epistles (Titus)***

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### **Outline of Titus**

1. Greetings and a Word About Preaching, 1:1-4
2. Qualifications (character) of Elders, 1:5-8
3. Ministry tasks (competence) of Elders, 1:9-2:1
4. Characteristics of an Orderly Church, 2:2-10
5. Appearance of God's Grace, 2:11-3:8
6. Avoidance of Disputes, 3:9-11
7. Final Greetings and Farewell, 3:12-15

### **Ministry Challenges Highlighted in Titus**

- divisive people
- doctrinal deviancy
- enormity of the task
- generational, economic, and social diversity
- gossip and loose talk
- legalism
- social ostracism
- spiritual warfare

### **Preaching Emphases in Titus**

- magnify God's grace (1:4; 2:11; 3:7,15)
- prioritize [doctrinal] preaching (1:3,9; 2:1,15)
- emphasize character before conduct (1:5-9)
- glory in the Gospel (2:11-14; 3:4-7)
- revel in the Second Coming (2:13)
- invest in the next generation of preacher-pastors (1:4-5,9;3:12-13)

### **Preaching the Epistles**

- examine the canonical "neighborhood" (phrase, sentence, paragraph, chapter, section, book, Testament, Bible)
- follow the textual pattern of this specific genre of the text (epistle)
- establish the pericope (complete unit of thought)
- look at the complete sentences of the text
- prioritize and examine the verbs (load-bearing words)
- check for supporting clauses (e.g. purpose clauses, *hina*)
- identify the main theme or big idea
- cross the homiletical "bridge" from the "then" of the biblical world to the "now" of the contemporary world
- formulate the outline (usually structured around sentences or emphases in the text)
- work toward sermon alignment between the title, sermon main idea and outline
- flesh out each point by explaining, illustrating, and applying
- write out the sermon introduction and conclusion

## Sample Sermon

### ***Overwhelmed By God's Grace***

#### **Titus 2:11-15**

**Big Idea:** Overwhelmed by the grace of God's Son, our lives should look like Christ. Overwhelmed by God's grace means that we:

#### **1. Live like Christ, 2:11-12**

—Grace is a major theme of Titus. The word occurs 4x (1:4; 2:11; 3:7,15). Paul never forgot or took for granted God's grace that was extended to him and placed him in the ministry (1 Cor. 15:10; 1 Tim. 1:11-13).

#### **2. Look for Christ, 2:13-14**

—The book of Titus references the appearing of Christ 3x (2:11 [grace], 13 [glory]; 3:4 [kindness and love]). The blessed hope (2:13) of the Second Coming of Christ loomed large in the lives of believers in the early church.

#### **3. Labor in (the Word) of Christ (2:15)**

—Preaching is a prominent theme in Titus (1:3,9; 2:1,15). Paul planted the church in Crete through the preaching of the Word (1:3). He summons Titus to his task of preaching to restore order to the church. Such preaching would produce bold living, longing, and leading.

—The apostle uses 3 terms to describe the preaching task: “speak [*laleo*] these things, exhort [*parakaleo*], and rebuke [*elegcho*] with all authority” (2:15). These tasks embody the specific, nuanced purposes of preaching. Sometimes, the preacher speaks or teaches; at other times he exhorts or encourages; and, finally, circumstances might require rebuking or reproving.

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