"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)

Some Things Titus Was To Remind Christians In Crete

TIT 3:1 Remind them [the believers in Crete**] to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,**

- "hupomimnesko" [hoo pah mim **nay** skoh] **-** is present imperative. See 2 Tim. 2:14.

1. "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities" - Paul urges Titus to remind his listeners to be subject to rulers.

- The verb "remind" denotes continuous action in the original Greek - not a one time reminder.
- "Rulers and authorities" denote government, civil leaders. (Lk. 12:1; Rom. 13:1-7).
- Many might be inclined to disobey rulers because of their corruption and opposition to the faith.
- Many might be inclined to disobey rulers claiming Jesus was their real Ruler.
- The word "remind" suggests this was not a new commandment they had never heard before, but one they needed to be reminded of again.

a. Jesus taught us to pay taxes by example and command.

1) He paid taxes. (Matt. 17:24-27).

MAT 17:24 And when they had come to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter, and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?"
MAT 17:25 He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?"
MAT 17:26 And upon his saying, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Consequently the sons are exempt.
MAT 17:27 "But, lest we give them offense, go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

2) Jesus taught us to pay taxes. (Matt. 22:17-21).

MAT 22:17 "Tell us therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?"
MAT 22:18 But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites?
MAT 22:19 "Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax." And they brought Him a denarius.
MAT 22:20 And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"
MAT 22:21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."

b. Christians are to be obedient to the ruling authorities. (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

ROM 13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
ROM 13:2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

ROM 13:3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same;
ROM 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.
ROM 13:5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.
ROM 13:6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.
ROM 13:7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

1PE 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
1PE 2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
1PE 2:15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
1PE 2:16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.
1PE 2:17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

c. The exception would be if the ruling authorities required them to disobey God. (Acts 5:27-29).

ACT 5:27 And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. And the high priest questioned them,
ACT 5:28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."
ACT 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must obey God rather than men."

1) Most of the time ruling authorities do not force us to do wrong.

2) They may limit our freedom and make life and serving God harder than it has to be, but do not make it impossible to live the Christian life.

3) Many Christians have been obedient to God even when they live under a government that is hostile or unfavorable to God and Christianity.

2. "to be obedient" - They were to obey the ruling authorities - not be rebellious.

3. "to be ready for every good deed" - They should not only obey the authorities, but they should "be ready" to cooperate in "every good deed." "ergon" [**ehr** gahn] means "work, deed."

a. Amp. "to be prepared and willing to do any upright and honorable work."

b. Christians are not to be anti-government though they may not agree with government in many ways.

c. Christians are taught to pray for authorities. (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

1TI 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
1TI 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

1) Prayer is powerful. It reaches the God of the universe who has the power to change and overcome the ruling authorities.

2) We should constantly be praying for our leaders, and let them know they are in our prayers.

3) It would be good if our authorities knew we pray for them and not just criticize them.

c. Christians should help and cooperate in good works.

d. In a democracy where Christians have the right to vote and change things they should exercise that right.

e. In the 1st century the Roman government did not permit Christians the right to vote or have a voice in making changes in the government.

f. This is also true in much of the world today. Most have no vote or voice in changing things.

Attitude Of Christians To Others

TIT 3:2 to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

1. "to malign no one" - speak evil or hurtful of or to no one. Lit. Gr. has "blaspheme." "blasphemeo" [blahs fay **meh** oh].

   a. This would apply to civil leaders.

   b. This would also apply to church leaders and to men in general.

2. "to be uncontentious, gentle"

   a. They were to be peaceable and considerate.

   b.They were to avoid quarreling and show courtesy to all. (Rom. 12:18; 14:19).

ROM 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

ROM 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

3. "showing every consideration [gentleness] for all men"

   a. "All men" includes Christians and non-Christians.

   b. NIV "to show true humility toward all men"

   c. The Greek has "prautes" [prah **oo** tace] meaning "meekness, gentleness, humility."

TIT 3:3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

1. "For we also once were foolish ourselves" - This speaks to their pre-Christian lives.

   a. We were once 'foolish" [without understanding] like the rest of them. Gr. "anoetos" [ah **nah** ay tahs] - "senseless, void of understanding."

   b. "Foolish" is not a reference to education, but it is used in a moral and religious sense.

   c. They had once lived a life of folly before becoming Christians.

2. "disobedient, deceived" - They had once lived in disobedience to God and had been deceived by the lies of Satan.

3. “enslaved to various [all kinds of] lusts and pleasures” - We were the slaves of all kinds of lusts and pleasures.

4. “spending our life in malice and envy” - They lived in wickedness and jealousy.

5. “hateful, hating one another” - NIV “being hated and hating one another.” Lit. “stugetos” [stoo gay **tahs**] - “hateful.”

   a. Hate is a characteristic of those in the world, but the Christian replaces “hate” with love.

   b. Christians have been warned against hate. (1 Jn. 3:15).

1JO 3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

   c. We are not even to hate our enemies. (Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:18-21).

TIT 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

McCord “But when God our Savior revealed his kindness and love for man.”

1. “But when the kindness of God our Savior” - God here is spoken of as “our Savior.” He saves men through the atonement of His beloved Son.

2. “and His love for mankind appeared” - This refers to Christ coming to die for mankind and dying as a propitiation for the sins of men.

TIT 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

1. “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds” - We did not merit salvation.

2. “which we have done in righteousness” - NIV “not because of righteous things we had done.”

   a. Salvation is not the result of our righteous deeds or actions.

   b. It was not because we were good enough to be saved.

3. “but according to His mercy” - Salvation is the result of God’s mercy.

   a. See Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16.

ROM 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

JOH 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

   b. Salvation is the result of God’s grace. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:5, 8-9; Tit. 2:14).

4. “by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” - This is a reference to the new birth. (Jn. 3:1-5).

   a. It is by water [cleansing bath] of rebirth and by the work of the Holy Spirit. NEB “through the water of rebirth.” McCord “the bath of new birth.”

1) This has nothing to do with the cleansing of the physical body. (1 Pet. 3:21).

2) This has reference to the cleansing of sins by the blood of Christ.

b. The Holy Spirit brings about a change of heart, faith and repentance by His word.

c. The Holy Spirit uses His word to save us. (1 Cor. 4:15; Jas. 1:18, 21; Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22, 23).

d. Those who receive the words of the Holy Spirit revealed through scriptures are immersed into the waters of baptism and the coming forth from these waters is described as a birth.

TIT 3:6 whom [the Holy Spirit**] He poured out upon us richly [**abundantly, generously] **through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

- "ekcheo" [ehk **keh** oh] "to spill, shed, pour out."

1. "whom He poured out upon us" - Christians receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Gal. 4:6; 1 Jn. 3:24).

ACT 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ACT 5:32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

ROM 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

1CO 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
1CO 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

GAL 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

1JO 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

a. The Christian is "a temple of the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

b. The Holy Spirit is the earnest or pledge of our salvation. (Eph. 1:13, 14).

EPH 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
EPH 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

c. "arrabon" [ahr rah **bohn**] - "first installment, deposit, down payment."

2. "richly through Jesus Christ our Savior" - "richly" is from "plouseos" [plou **see** ahs]. It means "richly, abundantly."

a. Jesus is called "Savior."

b. God is also called “Savior.” (Tit. 3:4).

TIT 3:7 that being justified [acquitted**] by His** [undeserved**] grace we might be made heirs** [inheritors**] according to the hope of eternal life.**

1. **“**that being justified by His grace”

   a. “being justified” is from “dikaioo” [dee ki **ah** oh] means “to justify, to be cleared, to be acquitted.”

   b. We were forgiven and declared righteous by His unmerited favor.

   c. We are treated as forgiven. (Heb. 8:12).

2. “we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life”

   a. “hope of eternal life” - Tit. 1:2 - With “hope” [unwavering confidence] they looked forward to “eternal life” with God.

   b. Those acquitted were “heirs” of the great and precious promises of God. (2 Pet. 1:4; Mk. 10:29, 30).

2PE 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

MAR 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,
MAR 10:30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)