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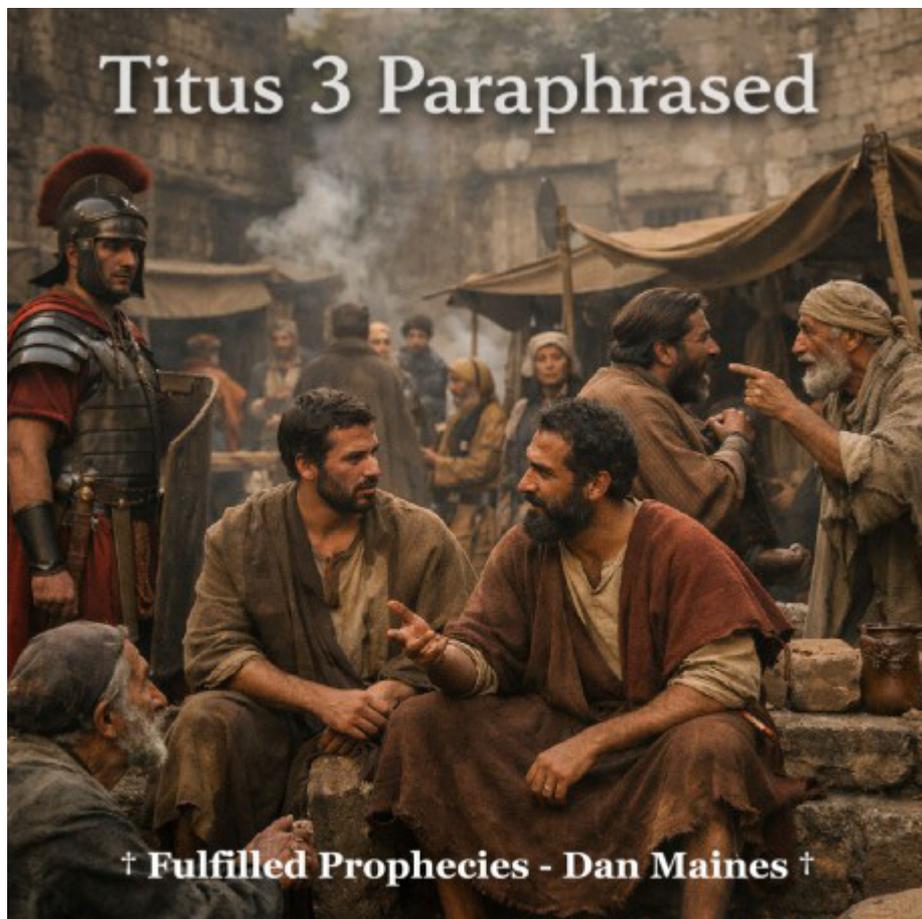
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Titus 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Titus 3 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul closes his letter to Titus by reminding believers how they are to live among the nations. The gospel wasn't meant to produce arrogance, it produces humility and good works.

† The early church was living under Roman rule, surrounded by pagan culture, yet Paul told them to live respectfully and peacefully so their lives would show the transforming power of Christ (Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

† From the fulfilled perspective, these instructions were given to

believers living before the judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70, when the old covenant world was passing away and the new covenant kingdom was being fully revealed (Hebrews 8:13).

Titus 3:1

Remind the believers to respect rulers and authorities, to obey the laws, and to be ready to do what is good whenever the opportunity comes.

† Christians were not rebels against civil order. Even under pagan governments, believers were called to live honorably and peacefully (Romans 13:1-7).

† Jesus taught the same principle when He said to render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God (Matthew 22:21).

† The testimony of believers in the Roman world depended heavily on their conduct. Good works demonstrated the reality of their faith (Matthew 5:16).

Titus 3:2

Tell them not to slander anyone, not to be quarrelsome, but to be gentle and show kindness to all people.

† The gospel changes the way believers speak and treat others. Instead of conflict and insults, Christians are called to humility and gentleness (Ephesians 4:29-32).

† James warned that the tongue can destroy relationships and spread great harm if it isn't controlled (James 3:5-10).

† The character of Christ is displayed through patience, kindness, and mercy toward others (Colossians 3:12-13).

Titus 3:3

Because we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, easily led astray, enslaved to different desires and pleasures, living in jealousy and hatred, hating others and being hated by them.

† Paul reminds believers where they came from. None of us were righteous before Christ rescued us (Romans 3:10-12).

† Humanity apart from Christ lives under the power of sin and selfish desires (Ephesians 2:1-3).

† Remembering our former condition keeps believers humble and patient toward others who are still lost.

Titus 3:4

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

† God's salvation was not earned by human effort. It came from His mercy and love (John 3:16).

† The appearing of God's kindness refers to the coming of Christ and the revelation of the gospel (2 Timothy 1:9-10).

† The new covenant revealed the true depth of God's love for the world.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of the good things we had done, but because of His mercy, washing us clean and giving us new life through the Holy Spirit.

† Salvation isn't based on human works but on God's mercy alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

† The washing and renewal language points to the spiritual cleansing God performs in believers (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

† Through Christ, believers receive new life and a new heart that desires righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Titus 3:6

He poured out the Holy Spirit generously on us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

† The Spirit was given through Christ's finished work and the establishment of the new covenant (Acts 2:33).

† This outpouring fulfilled the promises spoken by the prophets that God would place His Spirit within His people (Joel 2:28; Ezekiel 36:27).

† The Spirit's work produces transformation and empowers believers to live faithfully.

Titus 3:7

So that after being declared righteous by His grace, we would

become heirs with the confident hope of eternal life.

† Justification comes by grace, not by law or human effort (Romans 5:1).

† Believers are heirs of the life God promised through Christ (Romans 8:16-17).

† Eternal life is not merely future existence, it is the life of the kingdom that Christ brought into the world (John 17:3).

Titus 3:8

This message is trustworthy, and I want you to strongly emphasize these things so that those who trust in God will focus on doing good works. These things are good and beneficial for everyone.

† Faith and good works are never separated. Genuine belief produces righteous living (James 2:17).

† The early church emphasized practical righteousness that benefited society as a whole (Matthew 5:16).

† Good works demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel.

Titus 3:9

But avoid foolish controversies, debates about genealogies, arguments, and disputes about the law, because they are useless and accomplish nothing.

† Many Jewish teachers in the first century focused on endless debates about the law and ancestry instead of the gospel (1 Timothy 1:4).

† Paul warned that these arguments distract believers from the true message of Christ.

† The gospel calls people to faith and transformation, not endless religious debates.

Titus 3:10

If someone keeps stirring up division, warn them once, then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing more to do with them.

† Division within the church threatens unity and spiritual growth

(Romans 16:17).

† Church discipline protects the body from those who continually spread conflict (Matthew 18:15-17).

† Persistent divisiveness reveals a heart that refuses correction.

Titus 3:11

Because you know that such a person has become twisted and sinful, condemning themselves by their own actions.

† A person who refuses correction eventually reveals their true condition.

† Scripture teaches that stubborn rebellion leads to self-condemnation (Proverbs 29:1).

† The church must protect its unity and purity.

Titus 3:12

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me in Nicopolis, because I've decided to spend the winter there.

† The early church functioned through networks of traveling ministers and messengers who strengthened the congregations.

† Paul's letters reveal the deep cooperation among believers and leaders across the Roman world (Acts 20:4).

† This shows the practical organization of the early Christian movement.

Titus 3:13

Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey so that they lack nothing.

† Supporting traveling teachers was a vital part of early Christian ministry (3 John 1:5-8).

† Apollos was known as a powerful teacher of the Scriptures in the early church (Acts 18:24-28).

† Hospitality and generosity helped spread the gospel throughout the Roman Empire.

Titus 3:14

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing good works in order to meet urgent needs, so they won't live unproductive lives.

† Christianity was never meant to be passive belief. It produces active compassion and service (Galatians 6:10).

† Meeting real needs among believers and neighbors was a defining mark of the early church (Acts 2:44-45).

† Productive faith blesses others and strengthens the community.

Titus 3:15

Everyone with me sends greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

† Paul's letters consistently close with greetings that reflect the close relationships among early Christians.

† Grace is the central theme of the gospel and the foundation of the Christian life (Ephesians 2:8).

† The unity of believers across regions demonstrated the power of the new covenant community.

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles instructed believers to live peacefully among the nations so the gospel would spread without accusation.

† Clement of Alexandria described early Christians as people known for kindness, generosity, and moral discipline within Roman society.

† Eusebius recorded that the conduct of Christians, especially their care for others, played a major role in the growth of the church during the first centuries.

How it applies to us today

† Believers today are still called to live respectfully within society while remaining faithful to Christ.

† The gospel should produce humility, kindness, and a life devoted to helping others.

† Christians should avoid pointless religious arguments and focus on living out the truth of the gospel.

† Good works still serve as visible evidence that Christ has changed our lives.

† Our conduct should point others toward the grace and mercy of God.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why does Paul stress humility and kindness toward others?

A: Because believers were once lost themselves and are saved only by God's mercy (Ephesians 2:1-5).

Q: What does the washing and renewal in Titus 3 represent?

A: The spiritual cleansing and new life God gives through the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:25-27).

Q: Why must Christians avoid foolish controversies?

A: Because arguments about meaningless topics distract from the gospel and divide believers (1 Timothy 1:4).

Q: What role do good works play in the Christian life?

A: Good works demonstrate genuine faith and benefit others (James 2:17).

Q: Why was supporting traveling teachers important in the early church?

A: It helped spread the gospel and strengthen churches across different regions (3 John 1:5-8).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Titus 3

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History
† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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