

Scripture and Background Information for November 4-24

We are doing a study from the book of Titus which we are calling “Unfinished.”

Rather than providing similar, short background information each week, we have written one document to provide you with background for the entire series.

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

Background on Titus

Titus was written by Paul after his release from Roman imprisonment. It was written to Titus because he was responsible for organizing and supervising a young church. He left Titus on the island of Crete to “set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city” (1:5). Paul wrote this letter to Titus stressing the importance of sound doctrine, leadership with integrity, and warns against those who distort the truth. In short, Titus can be seen as a conduct manual for various groups within the church.

Paul could have easily written Titus as a long list of things *not* to do, but instead, Paul grounds his letter in encouragements and reminders of the Gospel. There is no theological correction in the book like the letters he writes to others. Instead, the theological claims serve as reminders of God’s grace. Christians have a responsibility to display and declare God’s glory. They also need to raise up others who will do the same. The letter is a great reminder that while great work is being done, there is always a next step that God graciously allows to take. There is always something left incomplete or unfinished that He is calling us to pursue.

3:5 “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”—Paul uses “washing” to describe the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit when we come to Christ. It is not meant to be read as a reference to baptism in this context.

Here are the Scriptures for group discussion for this series:

November 4-10

Titus 2:11-14

November 11-17

Titus 2:7-8

November 18-24

Titus 3:3-8