

### Study Tips:

Read through Titus at one sitting. Read it twice more, alternating translations to avoid stagnation. What is Paul's tone as he writes Titus? Compare Titus to Timothy (I Tim.). How were these young men alike? different? Read about Titus, Crete, and the structure of the early church in a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia. Read Titus again with the background information. Does it change your perspective at all? How? How do the contents of Titus compare with those of I Timothy? Why would the same material be in the Bible twice? Examine the exhortations to godly living in Titus. What motivations are given? What patterns of life are spelled out? Would obeying these injunctions affect your life today? How?

Read Philemon through several times, alternating translations. What insights into the heart of Paul does this epistle give that the others do not? Read about Paul, Onesimus, Philemon, and slavery in New Testament times in a Bible encyclopedia or dictionary. Apply Paul's plea for Onesimus to a situation in your own life. Do you need to show mercy to anyone in particular--mercy based on the grace of God in Christ?

### Keys:

The main concern of Titus is found in 1:1, godliness as the goal or outcome of the Christian life. This theme is repeated throughout the letter (see History of Redemptions, above). Alongside this theme is that of grace leading to (eternal) life; this life should be seen increasingly here on earth (2:11-13). In Philemon 8-10, Paul states his own reasons for writing--to appeal for Onesimus. This appeal is based, not on human concerns of profit, friendship, or the like, but on the changed nature of Onesimus's life: he is now profitable to both Paul and Philemon (11).

### Further Study:

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES by Donal Guthrie includes a helpful commentary on Titus. TITUS by Thomas Taylor, a puritan writer, is a classic commentary, exhaustive in scope and size. FULLNESS AND FREEDOM by R.J. Lucas, part of the excellent series, The Bible Speaks Today, covers Philemon and Colossians. COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON by Jacob J. Mueller is a more advanced work in the New International Commentaries series. H.A. Ironside's sermon-commentary on Philemon CHARGE THAT TO MY ACCOUNT is an interesting devotional study. Because of the immediate practicality of the pastorals and Philemon, there is no shortage of good literature for these books.