

Only God has the
**right, power,
wisdom, and
righteousness**
to rule the world.

 children desiring God

Scripture of the Week

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me.”

- John 14:6

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- ☐ Lord's Day & Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday
- ☐ Friday & Saturday

Signature

Daily Bible Studies January 12-18, 2014 “Christian Citizens” Titus 3:1-2



The Lord's Day and Monday

This week we will only study two verses. They are **Titus 3:1-2**.

Paul has already explained the importance of sound doctrine or correct belief about God. He has also explained the types of behavior that adorn, that are consistent with, and that magnify God's truth. He has left very few stones unturned so far as he has taught us how men and women, young and old should live if they desire to glorify God. Today, we will see that Paul turns over one more rock, that up until now was untouched.

In this week's study we will learn how to behave ourselves as Christian citizens of an earthly kingdom. What do we mean by that you ask? Well, Philippians 3:20 tells us that Christians are citizens of heaven. A Christian is part of a heavenly kingdom whose ruler is the Lord himself. Does that mean that we are not part of this world? Truly, we are not of this world, but we do still live in it. We live in the earthly kingdom known as the United States of America and we must know how God wants us to behave while we are here.

This makes things a bit confusing doesn't it? We are part of God's kingdom, but we are also here in America. Who do we obey? How much allegiance do I pledge to the United States of America? Is this country really "one nation, under God?"

Hopefully, you will have some answers to these questions as you progress through your study this week.

Friday Quiz

	E	C	O	U	R	T	E	O	U	S	W	E
	S	N	A	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	T	H
	T	Y	E	L	T	N	E	G	M	A	O	L
meek	E	H	T	R	X	M	R	D	R	N	T	T
gentle	E	U	V	I	L	M	T	E	O	Y	K	N
humble	M	M	M	M	L	N	D	R	M	I	P	W
humility	O	B	J	B	J	I	O	N	N	P	B	L
kindness	T	L	Y	N	S	T	M	D	L	Y	B	B
courteous	H	E	X	N	H	M	N	U	R	Z	B	L
considerate	E	M	O	E	M	E	E	V	H	Q	Q	D
christian	R	C	R	L	S	N	B	E	T	D	M	Y
esteem others	S	S	L	S	L	W	N	Y	K	X	T	B
honor others												

Suggestion for Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to learn meekness and gentleness from you. Lord, the Christian life is impossible to live without you. Help me to repent of the areas where I fail. Do not let me presume upon your grace. Amen.

Pray for the Lord's Day Service

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

Friday

The last reading of the week is **Titus 3:2b**. “showing all humility to all men.”

Like yesterday, we are given a simple instruction. We are to be humble. The Greek word that is translated here as “humility,” is translated as “meek” in the verse where Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek.” (Matthew 5:5) So to show humility means to be meek. You are not to be easily angered. You are not to be someone who whines and complains. You are to be gentle, courteous, and considerate.

Finally this week, let us consider who it is we are to be humble toward. Obviously, we are to be humble before God and also before His people, the Church, but here Paul tells Titus that we are to show humility to all men. We are to be humble before people who do not know God as well. Remember, that if you are a Christian now, you once were not a Christian. You did not know God at all and you constantly rebelled against Him. The reason why you know Him now is not because you are better than others. You only know Him because He chose to reveal Himself to you. So do not look down on others who do not know God and who mock Him. Be humble. Realize that you are no better. Pity them and have compassion on them. Pray for them. Do this not just for their sake, but for the Lord’s sake. If you are arrogant and look down on others, they will not be attracted to our Lord. But if we are kind and humble before them, perhaps God will grant them repentance and they will become worshippers of the true God as well.

We close with a quote from a man named David Campbell: “It is not enough for Christians to say the right things—telling others about Jesus and his love. Our lives are of critical importance, too. People need to see a consistency between the salvation that we profess to have received and the way we live in the world. And in these reminders to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be ready to do whatever is good etc., we have clear pointers as to the direction in which we must go...”

The Lord’s Day and Monday Quiz

Review

Read Titus 1:5-11

1.) List 4 qualifications to be an Elder

Read Titus 2:1-2, 6-8

2.) In your own words, describe the behavior of both old and young men.

Suggestion for Prayer

Dear Father, Thank you for teaching me how I am to behave as your child. Help me when I have doubts as to where my loyalties ought to lie. Show me how to live as a citizen of your kingdom while here on Earth. Amen.

Pray for Family

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts, Cousins

Tuesday

Please read **Titus 3:1a**. “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities...”

The first word of this verse is the word “remind.” It actually might be translated a better way: “Keep on reminding them...” Even true Christians can be kind of slooooooow. Sometimes they are just downright stubborn. They need God to remind them over and over again of certain truths. Paul told Titus that the people under Titus’ care needed to be reminded often to obey the government.

The people of Crete (and you) were (and are) supposed to be subject to rulers and authorities. To be “subject to” means to know your place and behave accordingly. In the Army, the new recruit, who is learning to lace his boots up properly, normally does not have the right to give the General a “piece of his mind.” There is a chain of command. Some people are in charge and other people are not in charge. Fathers are in charge of children. Husbands are in charge of wives. Masters are in charge of servants.

In this passage, to be subject to rulers and authorities means to obey the civil government i.e. the Constitution, the Congress, the President, the Supreme Court. You are to obey and pray for these authorities. As we will see later, you are not to call them names and dishonor them.

OK, ok, ok. I get it. The Bible teaches me that if someone with more authority and power tells me to do something, I should just do it. When President Obama comes to town, I am supposed to hold my arms out and mumble like a zombie, “Yes, all-powerful master...” When he is about to step in a pile of slush, I will throw myself down so he can trample on me and stay dry.

No, that is not what the Bible is teaching. We are to obey because it is God himself that has appointed our rulers. President Obama is president, because it was God’s will that he be president. When we rebel against our government we rebel against the **good** purposes of God. This is a very complex and crucial concept that you should think more about.

So do we obey no matter what? No. If our government commands us to sin, it is right, it is in fact necessary to disobey. Again, you should contemplate this further.

Thursday Quiz

- 1.) Psalm 34:13 “ Keep your _____ from speaking _____, and your _____ from speaking _____.
- 2.) Psalm 39:1a “ I said, I will _____ my ways, that I may not _____ with my _____.”
- 3.) Proverbs 31:26 “ She opens her _____ with wisdom, and the teaching of _____ is on her _____.”
- 4.) 1 Peter 3:10 “ For whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his _____ from _____ and his _____ from speaking _____.”
- 5.) James 1:6 “ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not _____ his _____ but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is _____.”

ESV

Suggestion for Prayer

Dear Lord, I often fail to speak kindly towards others. Teach me to “esteem others better than myself.” Let me always strive to have a kind word for my neighbors, no matter who they may be or what they might have done to me. Amen.

Pray for All Men

1. Mr. Barry Snyder — President, Seneca Nation of Indians
2. Ms. Sheila J. Poole — Commissioner, NYS OCFS Native American Services
3. Mr. Kevin Washburn — Assistant Secretary, US Department of Indian Affairs

Thursday

Titus 3:2a is the reading today. It says, *“to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle...”*

It doesn’t get much simpler than this. We are not to speak evil of anyone. William Hendriksen said, “Insulting and abusive language is surely out of place for anyone, certainly for believers.” We are sinning when we insult people and speak harshly to them. Every person is made in the image of God and that image needs to be respected.

Remember our Lord Jesus. As he hung on the cross, dying for the sins of His people, many made fun of him. Do you think you would be angry if people made fun of you while you died for them? I am sure you would be. Jesus though, did not speak harshly and offensively to the people that mocked him. “...who, when he was reviled, did not revile in return.” (1st Peter 2:23) If you look back to 1st Peter 2:21, you will see that we are to follow Jesus’ example in this.

I once learned something about this, that you should learn. When people say evil things about you, they might be right. If they say you are a jerk, maybe it is because you are a jerk. On the other hand, when people spoke evil of Jesus they were always wrong. If Jesus, the Innocent One, held his tongue, you have much more reason to do so.

As you consider this, keep in mind the Bible’s command: “Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse.” (Romans 12:14)

Finally, today we are commanded to be peaceable and gentle. This means, first of all, that we are not to listen to others speak evil of people. Secondly, we should not be “brawlers” or fighters. There is a time to fight, but even when that time comes, we are not to be in a blind, uncontrolled rage. We are to have self-control and to “speak the truth in love.” Remember what Proverbs 25:15 tells us: “With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.”

Tuesday Quiz

1. Nebuchadnezzar was a proud king, who acknowledged no authority but his own. Eventually God humbled him and corrected his thinking. Read **Daniel 4:24-4:37**. What was the lesson that God taught Nebuchadnezzar?

2. Read **Romans 13:1-7**. According to verse 1 who has set up earthly kingdoms and governments?

3. According to verse 2, what is the consequence for disobeying the authorities that God has established?

4. Verse 4 says that the civil authority is a minister, or servant, for the good of God’s people. Does the verse say that he is ministering good only when he makes good decisions? Yes or no?

Suggestion for Prayer

Lord, I thank and praise you for your love and mercy. Thank you that you have ordained rulers to carry out your will. I know that you are Sovereign and that nothing is out of your control. Help me to remember this even when things might look hopeless in my country. Amen.

Pray for the Church

1. Mr. and Mrs. Stefanone
2. Mr. and Mrs. Ames
3. Mr. Tim Austin

Wednesday

Take a look at **Titus 3:1b**. *“to obey, to be ready for every good work...”*

We need to continue and expand upon our thoughts from yesterday. In today’s section of Scripture we are told “to obey.” No explanation necessary. Obey. I personally believe that something very important needs to be said here though.

How are we to obey? When the government tells us to do something that is not sinful, but it is unpleasant e.g. pay higher taxes, do we obey while we grind our teeth and mutter under our breath, “Grrr...stupid Obama, taking my money...grrr...grrr.” No. You have missed the point by a mile or two.

Do you think that God picks the President, but has nothing to do with his decisions? God is our Father who pleads with his children to repent. To turn away from their sin. Is that a good thing or bad thing? It is a wonderful thing that God tells you to turn to Him. But how does he do it? Well, when the plain teaching of the Bible does not penetrate our hard heads, God brings out his “spanking sticks.” If we will not turn from sin, he will let us feel the consequences and pain of our sin. If words entering our ears don’t wake us up, maybe the stinging on our butt will. So obey President Obama joyfully. Understand, God is giving our country a big spanking for disobeying Him. Be thankful, take it, learn your lesson, and change. But do not complain. That only proves you don’t know what’s going on. You still don’t realize you are the one who is wrong.

But what if the government tells us to do something sinful? Are we to obey with a smile on our face then? The answer, as we said yesterday, is no. If the government tells you to disobey God, then you **must** disobey the government. There are many examples in the Bible. The one we are most familiar with is that of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego found in Daniel 3. Remember, they were ordered to bow down and worship a golden statue when the trumpet sounded. They refused to obey. They said, “...be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

This verse also tells us, “to be ready for every good work.” We should actively try to do good unto all men. Our good works will glorify our Father in heaven.

Wednesday Quiz

1. Read **Acts 5:17-32**. What did God command the apostles to do in verse 20?

2. What did the Pharisees command the apostles to do in verse 28?

3. Who did the apostles decide to obey in verse 29?

4. Do you think the apostles made this decision on the spot or had they thought it through already?

5. Do you need to prepare yourself to disobey the government when necessary? _____

Suggestion for Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to be a citizen of your country first, and a citizen of the USA second. Remind me that “all things work together for my good.” Strengthen me to stand for the right no matter what the cost. Amen.

Pray for Missionaries

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

This week’s missionaries are Rick and Hilde Griffiths, missionaries to Belgium. Remember that they work with teenagers and live in a country that is filled with immorality. Pray that their children would also walk with the Lord and love Him.