

# Titus - Inductive Bible Study

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1. **Step 1** - The first step of Inductive Bible Study is to begin with an unmarked Bible. Leave all helps and aids aside. You're going to see what the Word says for yourself. The key is observation. You need to look and look and look at the text. (We have used the RSV translation)
2. **Step 2** - Pray and then read through the entire book in one sitting. Set aside enough time to read the book through without interruptions. Read it through rapidly without pausing to ponder; try and get the Big Picture. Read aloud.



## Stop and do step 2

3. **Step 3** - Now read the book through again. What is the Big Idea (picture) of this book? Briefly sum up its message.



## Stop and do step 3

4. **Step 4** - Read the text through again. This time, in order to get a handle on the book, we'll have to give each paragraph a title. A paragraph title is three or four words or less that capture the point of the paragraph. The paragraph title must use the actual words of the Scripture text. This keeps you just doing observation. In other words, you can't use your own words; use only the words of the text. If possible use words in sequence.

1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

2:1 \_\_\_\_\_

2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

\* 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

3:8b \_\_\_\_\_

3:12 \_\_\_\_\_

3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Notice that we have taken the liberty to change this paragraph group. The text has a paragraph for 2:15 and another paragraph for 3:1. We have combined them. Remember paragraph divisions and chapter divisions are not inspired, but they were put in to help us. You can change them when you think a better arrangement is more logical.

If your Bible is not structured in paragraph form, but is written in columns, then the paragraphs are indicated by the paragraph numbers being in a bolder or larger print and the paragraph is indented.



**Stop and fill in your Paragraph Titles**

Here is an example of our Paragraph Titles for Titus:

- 1:1 God's elect
- 1:4 To Titus, grace
- 1:5 Appoint elders
- 1:10 Insubordinate men
- 2:1 Model: Good deeds, teaching
- 2:11 Purify a people
- 2:15 Submissive
- 3:3 He saved us
- \*3:8b Apply to good deeds
- \*3:12 Apply to good deeds
- 3:15 Grace with you all

\*Usually you would not have identical Paragraph Titles. An exception occurs in our titles for 3:8 and 3:12 where we have the same title for both paragraphs. We chose this on purpose because it shows Paul's repetition of this phrase and his emphasis on good deeds.

Your Paragraph Titles should reflect the main thought of the paragraph. You don't have to have the exact titles that we have chosen, but they should catch the main idea of the paragraph. Read through your titles and see if they bring to mind the central thought of each paragraph.

5. **Step 5** - You have probably already guessed it! Read through the text again. This should be your fourth reading. In this reading look for compositional links and relationships between paragraphs. Which paragraphs would you group together and why? Where would you divide the book? How many subdivisions (sections) would you break your main division(s) into? As you think through how you would group your paragraphs together, use your Paragraph Titles on page 1 as a worksheet. Mark it up showing how you would group paragraphs together. Also decide what you would entitle the groupings that you have selected. For help refer to your Basics of Bible Study handout (Observation questions 9, 10, 16, 17 and Interpretation questions 4, 8, 18, 20, 21).



**Stop and do step 5**

Here is how we marked up our Paragraph Titles and grouped them together:

1:1 God's elect	Living in Grace
1:4 To Titus, grace	
1:5 Appoint elders	
1:10 Insubordinate men	
2:1 Model: Good deeds, teaching	
2:11 Purify a people	Washing of Grace
2:15 Submissive	
3:3 He saved us	
*3:8b Apply to good deeds	
*3:12 Apply to good deeds	
3:15 Grace with you all	

We divided the book at 2:11. Titus is not an easy book to determine where to divide. You can keep the same paragraphs as are found in the RSV text. If you also divided it at 3:1 (as the chapter divisions are) there is good reasoning behind that division also. Don't get hung up on chapter divisions. Begin to think of your book in segments of thought, not necessarily in chapters, though often the chapter divisions are in good places.

Think of one verse that summarized the whole book. Write it here:



\_\_\_\_\_

What title would you give the book of Titus? Write it here:



\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Step 6 - The Horizontal Chart.** Take the thinking you have done with your paragraph titles and turn it into what we call a rough Horizontal Chart. Here are some things to consider:
- a. List Divisions, Sections and Segments **OR** Divisions, Sections and Paragraph Titles.  
*\*Note – Titus is only three chapters so you will have only Divisions and Paragraph Titles*
  - b. Make it proportional to the number of verses per paragraph or segments
  - c. Include your Title and Key Verse



**Stop and draw your Horizontal Chart**

*\*See example of Titus chart on next page.*

# TITUS: The Fruit of Grace, Good Deeds

<i>Paragraph Titles</i>	<i>Divisions</i>
1:1 God's Elect	LIVING IN GRACE
1:4 To Titus: Grace	
1:5 Appoint Elders	
1:10 Insubordinate Men	
2:1 Model Teaching Good Deeds	
2:11 Purify a People	WASHING OF GRACE
2:15 Submissive	
3:3 He Saved Us	
3:8b Apply to Good Deeds	
3:12 Apply to Good Deeds	
3:15 Grace With You	

Key Verse 2:14

7. **Step 7 – The Vertical Chart.** Now that you’ve completed the Horizontal Chart you can begin to start on your Vertical Charts. A Vertical Chart is a blown up, detailed look at each small unit in the Horizontal Chart

- a. Look at your Horizontal Chart: How many Divisions do you have? Remember we divided the book in half at 2:11. We have two Divisions so we will have two Vertical Charts. If you have a larger book you will have a Vertical Chart for each Segment. You will make Vertical Charts for the smallest unit other than paragraphs.
- b. Now looking at the first half of the book, how many paragraphs do you count? In Titus there are five. Now draw a rectangle (Vertical Charts are rectangles that are read vertically, whereas Horizontal Charts are read horizontally) and section it off proportionally to the number of verses per paragraph.

*\*See Example 1 – Please note that the quotation marks on the sample charts indicate directions - they are not to be included on your actual chart - they are just directions and explanations to help you in your chart-making process.*



### **Stop and draw your Vertical Chart**

- c. Now write your verse reference number for each paragraph on your Vertical Chart. **See Example 2** for what yours should look like. Be sure and do your own work. Part of learning is writing it out no matter how simple it may seem!
- d. Now write your Paragraph Titles at the top of each paragraph section. You may want to write your Paragraph Titles in a different color and use another color to fill in your box. Or you may want to underline your Paragraph Titles. You can develop your own color code system as you progress in your study. Be creative! Let the colors you use mean something. **See Example 3**



### **Stop and write your Paragraph Titles on your Vertical Chart**

Now you are staring at this empty looking rectangle that is a Vertical Chart in the making. What next? Just take a minute and look at the chart and you can learn several things about Titus. Read through the Paragraph Titles. Does the essence of the letter and its themes come to mind as you look over your titles?

- Note the amount of space that Paul devotes to each topic.
- Look how much space he takes to introduce his letter.
- Note the brevity of his salutation to Titus.
- Observe the equal space he gives to good leaders (Appoint elders) and how much he gives to bad leaders (Insubordinate men). The amount of space for each group is about equal.
- Did you notice that Paul begins with a command to appoint elders and then contrasts these elders and their qualifications with the insubordinate men? Why did he mention the appointing of elders first?

- e. **Inside the Vertical Chart** - Ready to go on? Next you can begin to fill in your Vertical Chart. Everything within your Vertical Chart rectangle must be the **exact words** of the Scripture text (you are doing observation). Select several important phrases, lines or points from each paragraph that you want to include on your Vertical Chart. The goal is to select a few important things, not to write out the whole text of Scripture. Pay attention to sentence structure and it will help you see what the main points are in each paragraph. Observe lists and put them down in list fashion. Be careful to observe contrasts, repetitions, key words, summary statements and parallels. Before you write, you will want to read through the paragraph again and think about what you want to include. **Consider Observation questions in the Basics of Bible Study** **handout.**



### **Stop and fill in the insides of your Vertical Chart**

\*Do this **BEFORE** looking at **Example 4**. You learn better if you do the exercises yourself! Part of learning to make charts is writing and thinking through what to include. Remember that the example illustrations are not authoritative. They are just examples of how we have done Titus.



f. **Outside the Vertical Chart** – Now that you’ve filled in your Vertical Chart rectangle, you can now begin to add insights, interpretations and more observations in the areas outside the Vertical Chart box. Remember inside the Vertical Chart rectangle you are to put only the words of the Scripture text. On the outside of the rectangles you can use your own words. Be creative and experiment with ways to illustrate your thoughts. Try and put your statements that are on the outsides of the rectangle parallel with the material on the insides. Analytical lists, summary statements or applications can be put on the bottom of the chart. Review your Basics of Bible Study handout and record your answers to some of these questions on the outsides of your Vertical Charts. Some questions will be more important than others. Record what you consider significant findings. Here are some suggestions as to what to include:

1. Key theme(s) in the book. For example: godliness (good deeds) in Titus
2. Progression within the Vertical Chart. See BBS handout, Observation #16.
3. Relate the contents of the Vertical Chart to the title that you gave the segment.
4. Include elements of Structure and Composition. See your separate handout on this material. See BBS handout, Interpretation #18
5. Trace the author’s argument.
6. Interpret specific passages. Support your conclusions.
7. Form lists. You may note listings in the text or you may create lists. For example in Titus you may list all the various terms used to describe the false teachers or:
  - A listing of theological concepts
  - A listing of characters
  - A listing of events or places
  - A listing of key words, phrases or concepts
8. Record application of certain truths.

*\*Once again, the answers to the Observation and Interpretation questions in the BBS handout furnish the information for the outsides of your Vertical Chart.*



**Stop and fill in the sides of your Vertical Chart**

*\*See Example 5 for a completed Vertical Chart*

## **CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE JUST COMPLETED A VERTICAL CHART!**

Now that you've completed your Vertical Chart for the first half of Titus, you can do your Vertical Chart for the second half.

Here is a review of the steps:

1. Look at your Horizontal Chart.
2. How many paragraphs are in the second half of Titus? (Titus 2:11-3:15)
3. Section off your chart according to the number of paragraphs and make them proportional to the number of verses in each paragraph.
4. Write your reference numbers for each paragraph on your chart.
5. Put in your Paragraph Titles.
6. Fill in the insides of the Vertical Chart with two or three points using only the text of the Scripture.
7. Fill in around the outside of your Vertical Chart with insights.

## **THE FINISHED, POLISHED HORIZONTAL CHART**

If you haven't drawn up your Horizontal Chart neatly, then now is the time to do that and when you've finished, you have completed your chart-making for the book of Titus!

# Appendix

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## Why Charts?

1. Charts are visual and quickly convey information.
2. Charts are concise – all the information is on one page for quick viewing.
3. Charts are a way to store information: Observations, Interpretations, Applications, Big Picture, etc.
4. Charts make a differentiation between observation and interpretation.
5. Charts teach one to think Big Picture before details.
6. It is a repeated system so the student knows what to do each time and the focus becomes the text of the Bible and the inductive approach.

## How to Draw a Vertical Chart to Scale


1. Look at your Horizontal.
2. Determine the largest segment or section
3. Count the number of squares (lines) on your graph paper (or lined paper) from top to bottom.
4. Subtract some space at the top and bottom. This will give you the number of usable squares or lines.
5. Divide the number of usable squares (or lines) by the number of verses in your largest section. Round to the closest half:

*For example: 45 usable squares or lines*

*22 verses (largest section in Philippians)*

*$45/22 = 2.045$  rounds to 2*

*Scale – 2 squares/verse*

 *This will be your scale for all your Vertical Charts (you now have a visual of how sections vary in size). You can see how much space is devoted for various topics, events, people etc.*

6. Count the number of verses in each paragraph.
7. Multiply the number of verses in each paragraph by your scale:  
*For example: 12 verses (or lines) x 2 = 24. This shows that this paragraph will have 24 squares or lines*
8. Center your chart in the middle of the page with space on both sides