

A person wearing blue jeans is sitting on a dark kitchen counter. To the right, a white front-loading washing machine is visible. The background shows a kitchen sink and faucet. The text is overlaid on the dark cabinet area.

.. in hope of eternal  
life, which God, who  
never lies, promised  
before the ages began  
and at the proper  
time manifested in his  
word through the  
preaching with which  
I have been entrusted  
by the command of  
God our Saviour.

# THE DAILY READING BIBLE

TITUS

ISAIAH 13-27

TEN COMMANDMENTS

60 daily readings with full Bible text

# THE DAILY READING BIBLE

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*An all-in-one, take-anywhere package to help you feed regularly from God's word.*

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Time to get back into regular Bible reading? *The Daily Reading Bible* has everything you need to get started, and in one compact, portable package.

This volume contains 60 readings from Titus, Isaiah 13-27 and the Ten Commandments. Each reading is designed to take around 15-20 minutes and contains:

- *the full text of the Bible passage for that reading*
- *some questions to get you thinking*
- *some 'points to ponder'*
- *some ideas to get you started in prayer.*

It's all here in one booklet that you can take with you anywhere—on the train, on the bus, to the park at lunchtime, or to your favourite armchair.



# **THE DAILY READING BIBLE**

**Volume 19**

**TITUS**

**ISAIAH 13-27**

**TEN COMMANDMENTS**

*The Daily Reading Bible (Volume 19)*  
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# INTRODUCTION

**R**eadng our Bibles regularly is getting harder. That, at least, seems to be the common experience of many Christians. We could waste lots of ink speculating on the reasons for this: is it the frenetic pace of life these days? Is it spiritual laziness? Is it the impact of postmodernism on our culture and the lack of certainty when it comes to interpreting the written word?

But a better option than speculating on the reasons, we thought, was to provide a new resource for Christians to help them get back into a more regular habit of reflecting daily on God's word. So back in June 2001, we decided to start including a section called 'Bible Brief' in our monthly magazine, *The Briefing* (see [www.matthiasmedia.com.au](http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au) for more information about *The Briefing*). The 'Bible Brief' provided 20 short readings each month—acknowledging that there will be days we miss or days when we want to do something a bit different—with questions, thoughts to ponder, and suggestions to get started in prayer.

Now, several years later, we have a good collection of 'Bible Briefs', and it's time to offer them to a wider audience in a format that will, we hope, be even more convenient and useful.

This nineteenth volume contains 60 readings, all designed to be done in 15–20 minutes. These daily Bible readings are

designed to help you feed regularly from God's word. They won't cover every issue in each passage, nor even every passage from each Bible book. In other words, *they are no substitute for the in-depth study of the Scriptures* that you may undertake personally, in small groups or through listening to sermons.

With the kind permission of our friends at Crossway Bibles, we've been able to make this a complete package to take with you—we've included the English Standard Version Bible text with each daily study. So you can take this one book with you and have everything you need—on the train, on the bus, or to the park at lunchtime—wherever and whenever you can get 20 minutes to yourself.

## How to use these readings

- *With a penitent heart*, the true prerequisite for all Bible reading. Open with prayer (perhaps using the prayer suggested at the beginning of each set of studies).
- *With 15–20 minutes* of peace and quiet. If you can take longer, and want to read and pray further—great! But we have designed the readings to be done in a fairly short space of time.
- *With an accurate modern translation*. We recommend and have included the new ESV translation. The writers of the studies refer to this translation. Contact us for further details about the ESV or visit [www.matthiasmedia.com.au/ESV](http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/ESV)

- *With a pen.* Even if you only jot down brief ideas, writing focuses the mind.
- *As a guide and help, not a straitjacket.* Feel free to dig further into the passage, to notice and ponder things that the questions don't point to.
- *As a launch-pad for prayer.* Use the prayer ideas at the end of each reading as a starting point for your daily prayer. Many of the points that will arise from the readings will be things you can pray for yourself, and also for others (family, friends, neighbours, etc.). Why not compile a list of people you want to pray for (you can write them in the blank space below), and use the prayer ideas from each reading to pray for the next person on your list?

This nineteenth volume includes:

- studies on Titus (written by Ross Blunden and Andrew Prince, pastors at Bayside Baptist Church in Brisbane, Australia)

- studies on Isaiah 13-27 (written by Tony Wright, assistant minister at St Alban's Anglican Church in Lindfield, Sydney, Australia)
- studies on the Ten Commandments (written by Al Stewart who is a full-time ministry worker in the Wollongong region, Australia, and Simon Roberts, associate minister at St George North Anglican Church in Sydney, Australia).

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*July 2009*

**Please note:** the main section of Scripture for each study is reproduced before the questions. Other Scripture references are reproduced as footnotes at the bottom of the page, or, where the passages are too long to be included as footnotes, in the appendix.

## **PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR:**

# TITUS

## INTRODUCTION

Titus is a book about Christian living and putting God's basic principles into action. Paul had been ministering with Titus in Crete, but he had left Titus there to straighten out a particular problem. False teachers had come into the church and were causing havoc. As an antidote, Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders/overseers in each of the churches. These men would teach right doctrine and refute false doctrine.

But what are these overseers to be like? Why is godliness so important? Why is false teaching such a big deal? What is the relationship between a person's doctrine and their daily Christian living? All these questions and more are answered in this practical little letter to Titus.

You might like to use this prayer (or your own variation of it) before each of the next 20 studies:

*Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for sending your Son Jesus into the world. Thank you that because of his life, death and resurrection, my problem with sin has been dealt with and my eternal future has been made secure. I pray that you will help me to learn from Jesus and to become more like him through your enabling Spirit. May I never let anything get in the way of following him. In Jesus' name I pray,  
Amen.*

NB: Tick the box when you've completed each study ✓

### READING 1

### TITUS 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

1. Why do you think Paul describes himself as a servant of God (v. 1)?
2. What two reasons does Paul give for God appointing him to be an apostle (v. 1)?



3. *What is the relationship between knowing the truth and living a godly life (v. 1)?*

**PONDER** What would you say to a friend who says that s/he believes the gospel, but who is not displaying a godly lifestyle (cf. Rom 6:1-4)?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Ask God to help you show the truth of the gospel in your daily life.

## READING 2

## TITUS 1:1-4

**P**aul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began<sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

1. *What exactly did God promise before the beginning of time (v. 2)?*

2. *How did Paul communicate this gospel message (v. 3)?*

3. *Why is the public proclamation of the gospel so important?*

**PONDER** God does not lie (v. 2). When he promises something, he always delivers. How certain can you be that you have eternal life (cf. Phil 1:6;<sup>2</sup> John 5:24<sup>3</sup>)?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Thank God for the sure and certain hope you have through the gospel.

## READING 3

## TITUS 1:5-9

**T**his is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—<sup>6</sup> if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.<sup>7</sup> For an

overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,<sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.<sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give

1. What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?<sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?<sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the

Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

2. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

3. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1. Paul had been ministering with Titus in Crete, but had left him there to complete a particular task. What was it (v. 5)?

2. Verses 5-9 contain examples of the sorts of qualities that should be displayed in the life of people who serve as overseers/elders. Which ones stand out to you as being particularly important? Why?

3. What other qualities would you expect to see in an overseer?

**PONDER** In 1 Timothy 3:1,<sup>4</sup> Paul states that if anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Is this role something that you should be considering seriously?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Ask God to raise up more people who are willing to serve as overseers. Pray for the ones in your church: ask God to help them to exemplify the qualities in this passage.

## READING 4

## 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.<sup>2</sup> Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,<sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.<sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,<sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?<sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that

he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

1. In this passage, Paul writes to Timothy about the sorts of things that should characterize an overseer. Why do you think Paul describes being an overseer as a "noble task" (v. 1)?
2. What similarities and differences do you see between this passage and Titus 1:5-9?<sup>8</sup>

4. The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

5. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—<sup>6</sup> if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.<sup>7</sup> For an overseer,

as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,<sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.<sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

3. *What particular ability or skill must an overseer possess (v. 2)?*

**PONDER** Does God 'call' someone to be an overseer or is it a human desire (v. 1)?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Ask God to help the overseers in your church to reflect the character of the Lord Jesus increasingly so that they are good role models for your congregation.

## READING 5

## TITUS 1:5-9

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— <sup>6</sup> if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. <sup>7</sup> For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1. *In Titus 1, Paul contrasts two groups of people in the church: the overseers (vv. 5-9) and the false teachers (vv. 10-16<sup>e</sup>). Why do you think it is important for an overseer to "hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught" (v. 9)?*

2. *What particular responsibilities does an overseer have (v. 9)?*

3. *How do you think the behaviour of an overseer's family could add to or subtract from an overseer's ministry (v. 6)? Why?*

**PONDER** Do you think an overseer could continue in this role if his life was not consistently above reproach? What should a congregation do if this happens?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Ask God to help the overseers in your church to live blameless lives that do not bring the gospel into disrepute.

6. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. <sup>12</sup> One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." <sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in

the faith, <sup>14</sup> not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. <sup>15</sup> To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. <sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.<sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."<sup>19</sup> Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.<sup>20</sup> As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.<sup>21</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.<sup>22</sup> Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

*1. No doubt that over the past few readings, you've seen that being an overseer involves great responsibility and high standards of personal Christian living. But the church has a responsibility towards their overseers as well. How are they to regard them (v. 17; cf. 1 Thess 5:12-13)?*

2. In verse 18, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 25:4<sup>8</sup> and Luke 10:7.<sup>9</sup> What do these verses mean in their original context? What point is Paul making in verse 18?

3. How else are overseers to be treated (vv. 19-20)?

**PONDER** How fairly is your congregation treating your overseers at the moment? How fairly are you treating them?

**PRAYER IDEAS** Thank God for the overseers he has given your congregation. Ask God to help you to treat them with honour, respect and fairness.

7. We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,<sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

8. "If there is a dispute between men and they come into court and the judges decide between them, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty,<sup>2</sup> then if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with a number of stripes in proportion to his offense.<sup>3</sup> Forty stripes may be given him, but not more, lest, if one should go on to beat him with more stripes than these, your brother be degraded in your sight.

<sup>4</sup> "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

<sup>5</sup> "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of

a husband's brother to her.<sup>6</sup> And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

9. After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.<sup>3</sup> Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.<sup>4</sup> Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.<sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'<sup>6</sup> And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.<sup>7</sup> And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.<sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.<sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you!'"