## How to approach studying the Bible

1. *Read the entire book: Establish author, audience and context (completed)*
2. Read the chapter: Identify the message being communicated
3. Identify questions that you want to have answered: Use resources to find answers.
4. Read the chapter: Identify the message being communicated
5. Map the audience & message: Apply the message to your life
6. Compare your conclusions with others: Trace back any differences to the text

## Session 4: Understanding Chapter 3

Objective: Identify the message of Chapter 3 and apply it as God's word spoken into our lives.

**Step Two: Read the chapter and identify the message Paul is communicating to Titus**

In my first pass of looking at the message, I found my attention captivated by the gospel. It dominates my impressions and understandings of what Paul was trying to say.

Declare and Remind: Live holy, righteous lives

The Power of the Gospel

- It changed Paul & Titus' lives from rebellious to redeemed
- Even Paul & Titus needed the gospel to transform their lives. They were not above the gospel.

The Hope of the Gospel

- We are heirs and will receive an inheritance we do not deserve
- Because of the gospel, we look forward to something we did not earn on our own and could not achieve without God.

The Conduct of the Gospel

- Devoted to good works
- Paul lists out how people changed by the gospel ought to live their lives.

The Judgment of the Gospel

- Stay away from one who does not show the evidence of the gospel
- Paul is clear that those who do not demonstrate the gospel in their lives are not to be treated as brothers and sisters. They are to be set aside.

The Fruit of the Gospel

- You (Titus) care for the fellow ministers
- The people will care for each other

- Show the fruits of faith

**Step Three: Identify and write down any questions that arise out of the chapter. - Use resources to research and answer the questions you've written down.**

What do we know of Artemas or Tychicus?

- [Unger's Bible Dictionary] Artemas is not mentioned anywhere else in the New Testament. We only know what we can infer from him here in this verse. Tradition holds that he was the bishop (lead pastor) in Lystra (a city in modern-day Turkey).
- [Unger's Bible Dictionary] Tychicus is referenced several times as being with Paul or working in conjunction with Paul. In Acts 20:4 he is called a native of Asia Minor. Tychicus went with Paul to Jerusalem after the third missionary journey and may have been present when Paul was arrested. Paul references him in several of his Epistles from prison (Colossians & Ephesians). Finally, it is possible that Tychicus had been with Titus during the collection of the offering for the impoverished Christians in Judea.
- That Paul is discussing the sending of so many of his co-workers around suggests that Paul was actively involved in the provision of leadership and direction to many fledgling churches around the Mediterranean.

What are Zenas the lawyer and Apollos doing?

- [Haley's Bible Handbook] The text does not really tell us anything about that. Apparently, they brought the letter to Titus, including the instruction that he was to provide them with whatever they needed.

Is there any significance to Nicopolis?

- [Unger's Bible Dictionary] No real significance. Several locations are possible, but the most likely seems to be on the Adriatic coast of Greece about one hundred miles from Corinth. It is possible that Nicopolis had good weather for spending a winter, leading to Paul's desire to go there.

**Step Four: Read the chapter and refine the message Paul is communicating to Titus** (now that your questions are answered)

Remember: Believers are to live transformed lives characterized by good works

- By the power of the Gospel (no one can do it on their own – even Paul & Titus required the gospel)
- Fueled by the hope of the Gospel (an inheritance of eternal life, not condemnation)
- Demonstrating the conduct of the Gospel (good works; excellent & profitable)

Avoid foolish entanglements and the people who promote them

- If they do not demonstrate the Gospel in their lives, have nothing more to do with them (they are unprofitable and worthless)

Do True Good Deeds (let the people learn)

- To give to those who are in urgent need
- Demonstrate fruit (not just lip service)

**Step Five part 1: Map the Audience** (how much and in what ways is Titus like us today?)
Review and confirm the previous mapping.

Titus is a believer, living under the power of the gospel, pursuing the mission of the church:

- Theologically he is very close to me.

Titus is acting on Paul's instruction and apostolic authority and is in charge of setting up churches

- Vocationally he is distant from me, but the things he is charged to do (teaching the believers how to live gospel transformed lives) have direct application to me and represent principles I must honor.

**Step Five part 2: Map the message to apply to me today**

- What commands must I obey?
- What truth must I hold dear?
- What error must I flee?
- How is God revealed?
- How is the gospel made clear?

- What actions can I take in the next 7 days that will demonstrate what I said above is real?

What commands must I obey?

- Be submissive
- Be obedient
- Be ready for every good work
- Speak evil of no one
- Avoid quarreling

- Be gentle
- Be courteous toward all people
- Separate fellowship from those who do not live the gospel

What truth must I hold dear?

- I am saved because of the goodness of God, not myself
- I am an heir of God

What error must I flee?

- Avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions and quarrels about the law. These are not the gospel and do not have any power to change my life. They are distractions meant to lure me away from the power of God.

How is God revealed?

- God is revealed in the gospel that changes our lives

How is the gospel made clear?

- This passage features the gospel as the power that transforms our lives and gives us hope

What actions can I take in the next 7 days that will demonstrate what I said above is real?

- Pick a command that I'm not doing well and focus on obedience. This text is loaded with all sorts of direct commands that I should be following. What really struck me was how I talk about people at work. I want to do a better job of the command to "Speak evil of no one." I find it very easy to drop small snide remarks about others when they do not do what I want. This is an area in my life that requires gospel transformation.