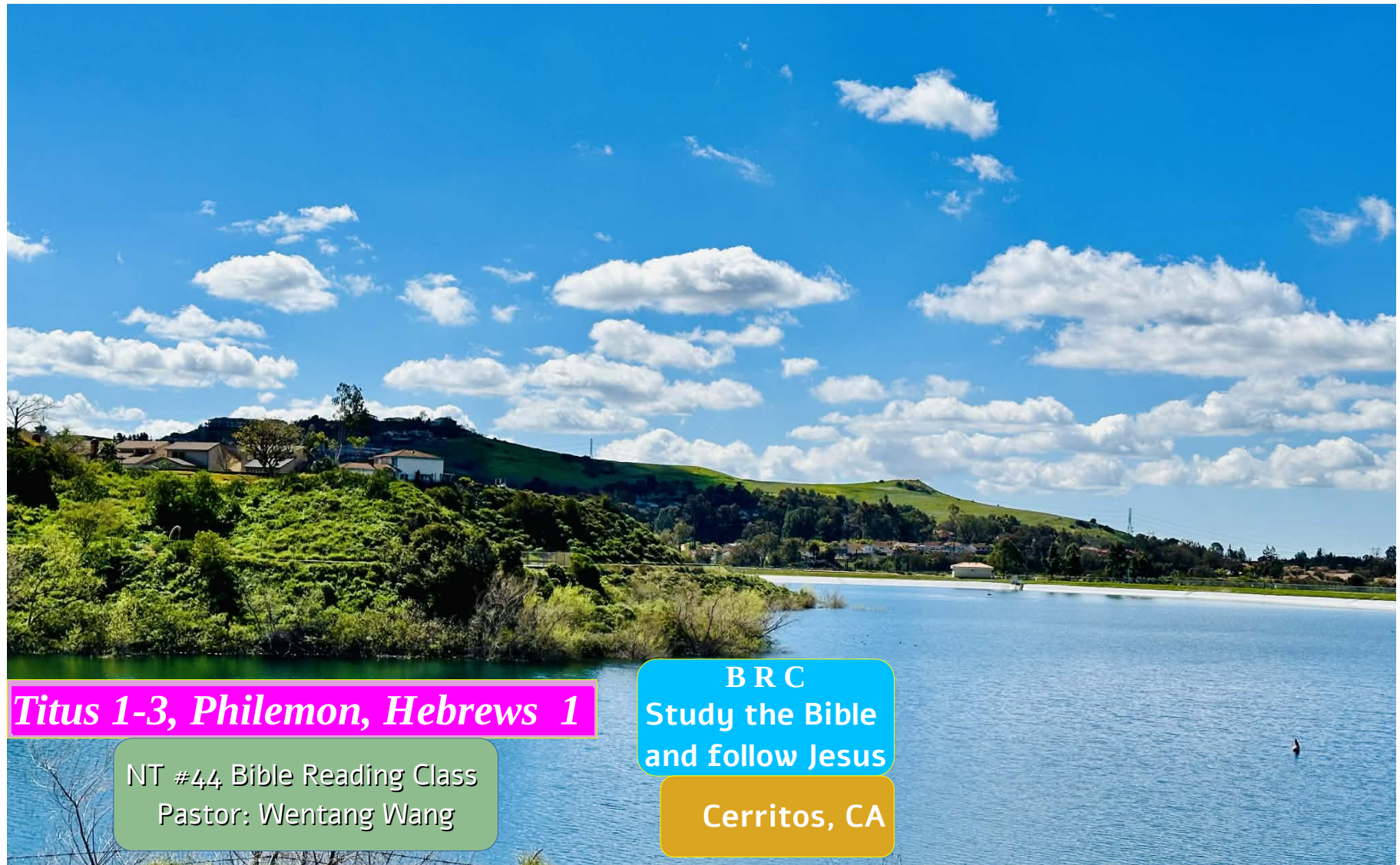




Titus 1-3, Philemon, Hebrews 1

NT #44 Bible Reading Class
Pastor: Wentang Wang

B R C
Study the Bible
and follow Jesus

Cerritos, CA

W.Wang

A Bible Reader's Conviction

- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17, NIV)*

A Blessed Journey

1. *May you study God's Word with a reverent heart and walk in His will.*
2. *May the Lord's Word flourish, and may He add to the church those who are being saved.*
3. *May the Lord bless your days of reading the Scriptures.*

Study the Bible, follow Jesus



The Guiding Principles of BRC



- Christ-Centered
- Bible-Based
- Mission-Minded

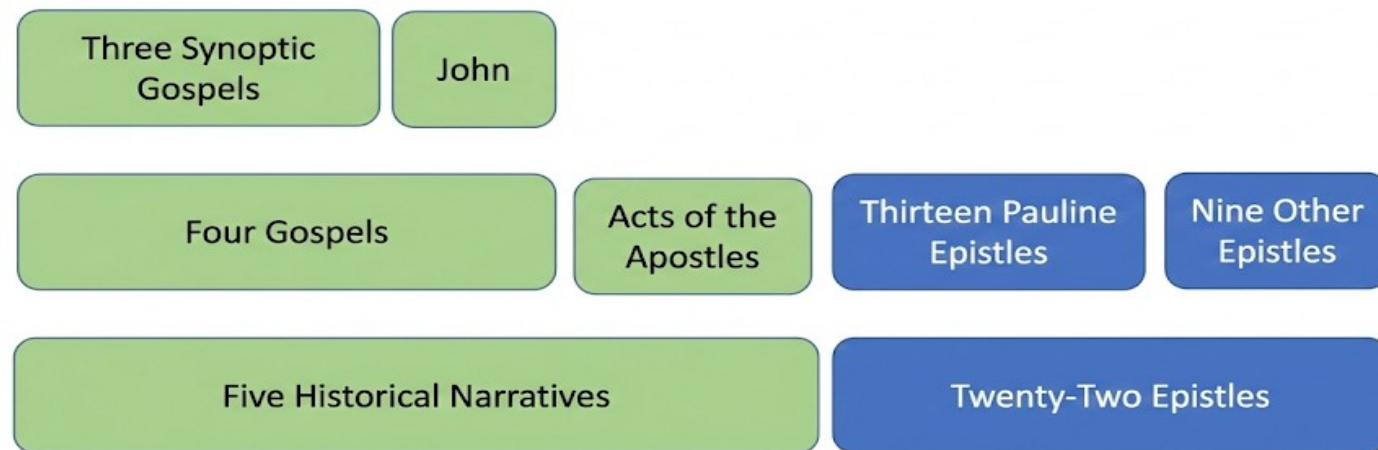
BRC: A Gentleman's Agreement

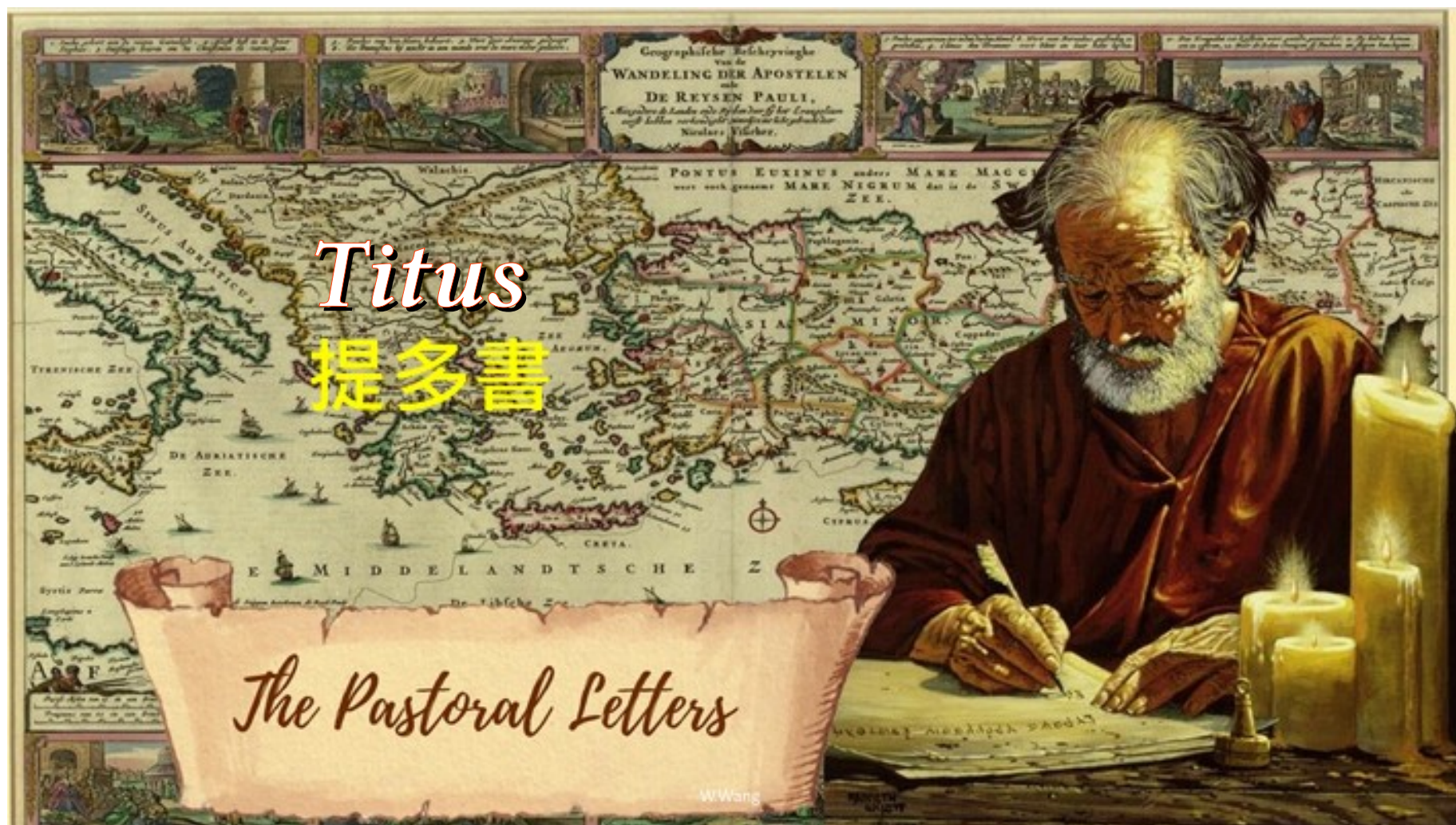


- *I'll complete weekly reading assignment*
- *I'll watch weekly teaching video in its entirety*
- *I'll complete weekly quiz (closed book)*

The Structure of the 27 Books of the New Testament

- *The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) John*
- *The Fourfold Gospel, Acts, The Thirteen Pauline Epistles, The Other Nine Epistles (General Epistles and Others)*
- *Five Books of Historical Narrative, Twenty-Two Books of Doctrinal Teaching*





W.Wang

Titus

- **Date of writing:** *Between AD 63–65, after Paul was released from his first imprisonment in Rome.*
- **Purpose of writing:** *Paul and Titus preached the gospel in Crete and worked there for a period of time. Afterward, Paul continued his missionary journey and left Titus on the island to organize the churches (“**The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.**” **Titus 1:5, NIV**). In the book of Titus, Paul addresses the corrupt moral climate of Crete and emphasizes the importance of good works, because genuine faith must produce godly behavior.*
- **Characteristics of the book:** *Titus is a “**book of good works.**” It contains little doctrinal teaching—only two short sections—but speaks extensively about the conduct Christians should display. New Testament letters are written with specific audiences and situations in mind. Titus faced the Cretans, who were described as “**liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons**” (1:12). Paul therefore emphasized the behavioral standards expected of elders, older men, older women, young men, young women, and all believers, urging them to show in daily life that they are disciples of Christ.*
- **Key words:** *Doing good, good deeds, good works*

Titus

- **Outline:**

1. *Greeting — 1:1–4*
2. *The good works of elders — 1:5–9*
3. *The evil deeds of false teachers — 1:10–16*
4. *The good works of Christians and the good doctrine they believe — Chapters 2–3*

Key Verses in Titus

1. The distinction between the pure and the impure:

“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.” (Titus 1:15 , NIV)

2. Salvation teaches us to live godly lives:

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:11–13, NIV)

3. Salvation comes from God’s mercy:

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:4–5, NIV)

Titus

- *“Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles... Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.” (Galatians 2:1–4, NIV)*
- *Titus was a Greek (Galatians 2:3), Paul’s disciple and coworker. Paul called him “my true son in our common faith.” (Titus 1:4, NIV)*
- *Paul once sent Titus to the Corinthian church to handle matters related to offerings (2 Corinthians 8:16). Titus was likely a capable, efficient, trustworthy man of integrity.*
- *Paul left Titus in Crete to handle unfinished matters, especially appointing elders in every town and rebuking those who opposed the truth.*

The Book of Good Works

1. Those who oppose good works (false teachers):

*“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything **good**.” (Titus 1:16, NIV)*

2. A model of good works:

*“In everything set them an example by doing what is **good**. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.” (Titus 2:7–8, NIV)*

3. God’s people eager to do good:

*“He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, **eager to do what is good**.” (Titus 2:14, NIV)*

4. Doing every kind of good work:

*“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready **to do whatever is good**.” (Titus 3:1, NIV)*

The Book of Good Works

5. **Believers must devote themselves to doing good:**

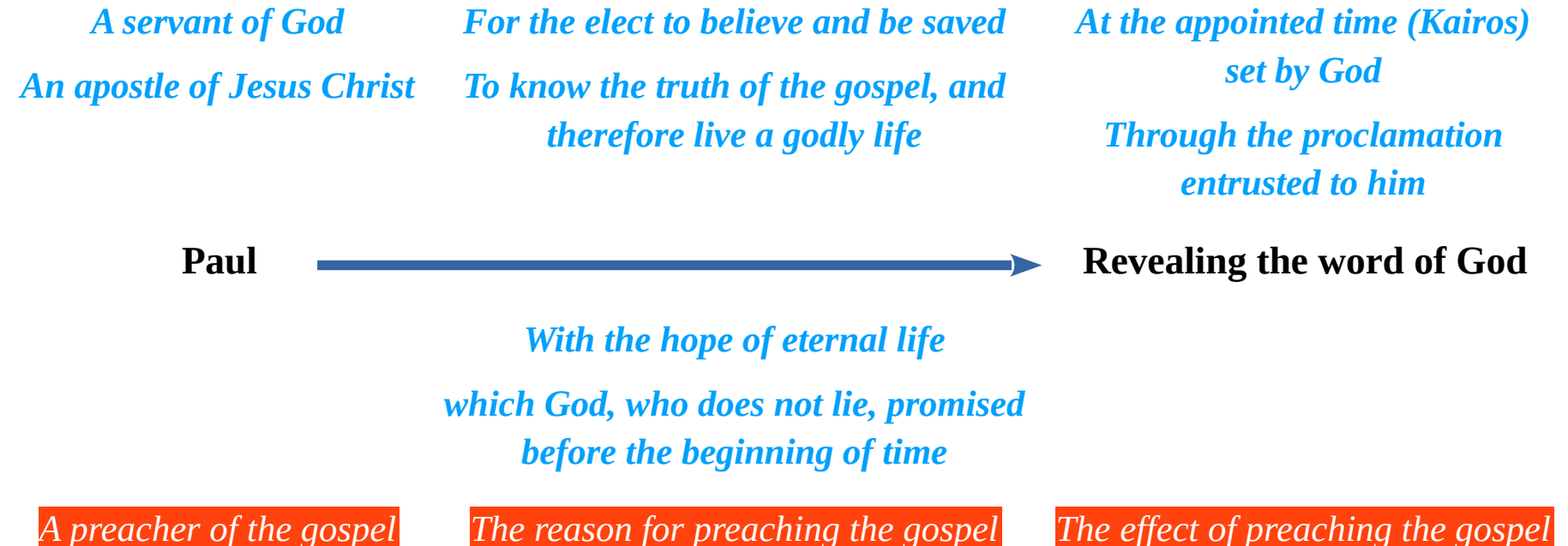
“This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” (Titus 3:8, NIV)

6. **Our people must learn to do good:**

“Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.” (Titus 3:14, NIV)

Paul Reveals the Word of God, 1:1–3

- Apart from Romans, Titus 1:1–3 is Paul's longest self-introduction.



The Good Works of Elders (Overseers)

<i>I. Testimony in Family Life</i>	<i>II. Gentle Character</i>	<i>III. Not Greedy for Money</i>	<i>IV. Dignified Conduct</i>	<i>V. Holding Firm to the Truth</i>
• Faithful to his wife (the husband of one woman) • Children who believe and obey	• Not self-willed • Not quick-tempered • Not given to drunkenness or causing trouble • Not violent	• Not pursuing dishonest gain • Willing to show hospitality to strangers • Loving what is good	• Dignified • Just • Holy • Self-controlled	• Holding fast to the trustworthy message as taught • Using sound doctrine to encourage others



*They fashioned a tomb for you, holy
and high one,*

*Cretans, always liars, evil beasts,
idle bellies.*

*But you are not dead: you live and
abide forever,*

*For in you we live and move and have
our being.*

*One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are
always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This saying is
true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be
sound in the faith (Titus 1:12–13, NIV)*

Epimenides, 6th century BC --Cretans



W.Wang



Cretan festival, wearing traditional local costumes



*Cretans are known
for clan-based
armed feuds, and
every household
owns guns.*

Evil Deeds of the False Teachers

- 1. Disobedient***
- 2. Meaningless talk and deception***
- 3. Dishonest gain***
- 4. Teaching things they ought not to teach***
- 5. Liars***
- 6. Lazy and gluttons***
- 7. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. (1:10–16, NIV)***

Their Mouths Must Be Stopped

- *“For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. **They must be silenced**, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.” (Titus 1:10–11, NIV)*
- *If someone in a fellowship group speaks false doctrine, should we patiently let him finish, or stop him immediately? Should we gently say, “You may be right, but have you considered this possibility?” or firmly say, “What you said is wrong! It contradicts Scripture”?*
- *If someone speaks false doctrine from the pulpit, how should we respond?*
- *Paul instructed Titus: **“Their mouths must be stopped!”** Defending the truth is not a one-time task but a long-term battle. Whenever someone speaks error that contradicts Scripture and harms believers’ faith, we must immediately refute it and stop his mouth. If someone speaks error again next time, we stop him again. After many times, over a long period, with many people defending the truth together, a church may finally be corrected and return to sound doctrine.*

Reflection: Gentle Admonition or Sharp Rebuke?

- Two different instructions

1. To Timothy: “*Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*” (2 Timothy 2:25, NIV)
2. To Titus: “*Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith.*” (Titus 1:13)

- Wisdom in application

- In different places, toward different people, use different methods.
- Sometimes correction must be public; sometimes it should be private. Some people can be persuaded gently; others must be rebuked strongly. The goal in both cases is the same: **to lead people to understand the truth and return to the Lord.**

To the Pure, All Things Are Pure

- *“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.” (Titus 1:15, NIV)*

- *“They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.” (1 Timothy 4:3–4, NIV)*

- One characteristic of heresy is **many rules**—many prohibitions. Some forbid marriage, forbid sexual relations, forbid eating meat, and impose all kinds of “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch” (Colossians 2:22) regulations.

They oppose and avoid anyone different from themselves. But those who have been cleansed by Christ’s blood—to them all things are pure. They may eat, drink, marry, and even associate with sinners and tax collectors, as long as they receive God’s gifts with thanksgiving and do not violate God’s moral standards.

In contrast, “to the corrupted and unbelieving, nothing is pure.” Their hearts and consciences are defiled, and in their eyes nothing is clean—except themselves.

The Lord's Word in His Church (Ecclesia)

- **Five ways to honor the Lord's Word:**

1. *Preachers must teach **sound doctrine** (2:1)*
2. *Older women must teach what is **good** (2:3)*
3. *Young women must live **good lives**, so that God's word will not be maligned (2:5)*
4. *Teachers must show **integrity in teaching**, handling the word of truth correctly, not twisting Scripture to fit their own theories (2:7)*
5. *Servants (those who serve) must **in everything make the teaching about God our Savior attractive** (2:10)*

Good Works of Christians (1)

I. Older Men

• *But you must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. (2:1–2)*

	Greek	Chinese / English Comparison
1	<i>nēphaleos</i> — not indulging in wine	節制 — Temperate (NIV / NASB) / Sober (NKJV)
2	<i>semnos</i> — noble, honorable	端莊 — Worthy of respect (NIV) / Dignified (NASB) / Reverent (NKJV)
3	<i>sōphrōn</i> — self-controlled	自守 — Self-controlled (NIV) / Sensible (NASB)
4	<i>pistis</i> — faith	信心 — Faith (NIV / NASB / NKJV)
5	<i>agapē</i> — love	愛心 — Love (NIV / NASB / NKJV)
6	<i>hupomonē</i> — perseverance, endurance	忍耐 — Endurance (NIV) / Perseverance (NASB) / Patience (NKJV)

Good Works of Christians (2)

II. Older Women

- Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. (2:3)

	Greek	Chinese / English Comparison
1	hieroprepēs — fitting for God	恭敬 — Reverent (NIV / NASB / NKJV)
2	diabolos — slanderer, accuser	不說讒言 — Not to be slanderers (NIV) / Not malicious gossips (NASB)/ Not slanderers (NKJV)
3	douloō — enslaved	不給酒作奴僕 — Not addicted to much wine (NIV) / Not enslaved to much wine (NASB) / Not given to much wine (NKJV)
4	kalodidaskalos — teacher of good things	用善道教導人 — Teach what is good (NIV) Teaching what is good (NASB)/ Teachers of good things (NKJV)

Good Works of Christians (3)

III. Young Women

• Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. (2:4–5)

	Greek	Chinese / English Comparison
1	<i>sōphrōn</i> — self-controlled	謹守 — Self-controlled (NIV) / Sensible (NASB) / Discrete (NKJV)
2	<i>hagnos</i> — pure, clean	貞潔 — Pure (NIV / NASB) / Chaste (NKJV)
3	<i>oikouros</i> — caring for the home	料理家務 — Busy at home (NIV) / Workers at home (NASB) / Homemakers (NKJV)
4	<i>agathos</i> — good, beneficial to others	待人有恩 — Kind (NIV / NASB) / Good (NKJV)

Good Works of Christians (4)

IV. Young Men

- Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. (2:6)

	<i>Greek</i>	<i>Chinese / English Comparison</i>
1	<i>sōphroneō — to be self-controlled</i>	<i>謹守 — Self-controlled (NIV) / Sensible (NASB) / Sober-minded (NKJV)</i>

Good Works of Christians (5)

V. Preachers

• *In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching **show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech** that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (2:7–8)*

	<i>Greek</i>	<i>Chinese / English Comparison</i>
1	<i>adiaphthoria — incorruptibility</i>	正直 — Integrity (NIV / NKJV) / Purity (NASB)
2	<i>semnos — noble, honorable</i>	端莊 — Seriousness (NIV) / Dignified (NASB) / Reverence (NKJV)
3	<i>aphtharsia — purity, without mixture</i>	純全 — Soundness (NIV) / Sound (NASB / NKJV)

Good Works of Christians (6)

VI. Servants

- *Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. (2:9–10)*

	<i>Greek</i>	<i>Chinese / English Comparison</i>
1	<i>pistis — faithfulness, loyalty</i>	<i>顯為忠誠 — Show that they can be fully trusted (NIV) / Showing all good faith (NASB) / Showing all good fidelity (NKJV)</i>

Good Works of Christians (7)

VII. All People

- *Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. (3:1–2)*

	<i>Greek</i>	<i>Chinese / English Comparison</i>
1	<i>praotēs — gentleness, meekness</i>	<i>向眾人大顯溫柔 — Always to be gentle toward everyone (NIV) / Showing every consideration for all men (NASB) / Showing all humility to all men (NKJV)</i>

Christian Doctrine (I)

• *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2:11–14, NIV)*

1. **The Cross:** Christ gave Himself for us
2. **Redemption of sinners:** Redeemed us from all wickedness
3. **Becoming God’s people:** Purified us to be His own people
4. **Doing what God considers good:** Eager to do good; living self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age
5. **Waiting for Christ’s return:** Waiting for the appearing of the glory of our Savior Jesus Christ

Christian Doctrine (I)

- **The lifestyle of those who have received grace**

1. ***Living godly lives: Yes and No***

- Say **No** to ungodliness and worldly passions
- Say **Yes** to self-control, righteousness, and godliness

2. ***Waiting in faith***

- *Waiting for the blessed hope*
- *Waiting for the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*

Christian Doctrine (I)

- **The salvation of Jesus Christ**

1. *Delivered from sin*
2. *Made God's people*

Christian Doctrine (II)

• *“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He save... Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:4–8, NIV)*

1. *Salvation is **not** because of our own righteous deeds, but because of God’s love and mercy*
2. *Through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (those born again receive baptism outwardly and renewal inwardly)*
3. *By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are justified*
4. *Becoming heirs of God with the hope of eternal life*

Profitable Things, Unprofitable Things, and People to Reject

1. Profitable things

- *“And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” (3:8)*

2. Unprofitable things

- *“But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.” (3:9)*

3. People to reject

- *“Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.” (3:10)*

the
Prison Epistles
Philemon

Love Postcard: The Letter to Philemon

- **Characteristics and Theme**

- **Features:** *Philemon has only one chapter; it is the shortest of Paul's letters.*
- **Theme:** *This is an intercessory letter. Paul pleads for a runaway slave named Onesimus, asking his master Philemon to forgive him and receive him back in love.*

- **Philemon**

- *He was a Christian living in Colossae.*
- *He was the leader of a house church; Paul called him “our dear friend and fellow worker.”*
- *Onesimus was his slave and may have run away after stealing from him.*

Love Postcard: The Letter to Philemon

- **Onesimus**

- *The name “Onesimus” means “useful” or “beneficial.”*
- *He was a slave who betrayed his master and fled.*
- *He became Paul’s “son while I am in chains”; Paul preached the gospel to him while imprisoned and led him to Christ.*
- *Paul called him “our faithful and dear brother” and sent him back to Colossae, for he was from there (Colossians 4:9).*

- **Slavery in the Roman Era**

- *The Roman Empire enslaved conquered peoples; slaves made up more than half the population.*
- *Masters had absolute authority over slaves, including the right to execute runaway slaves.*

Teachings from Philemon

1. Faith in Christ can change a person's life

- *Onesimus was formerly useless, but after believing in Christ he became useful:*
 - *“Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.” (v. 11)*
- *Believing in Jesus is not keeping one's old self and seeking emotional comfort; it is surrendering to God and experiencing His transforming power.*
- *“Useful to you and to me”: In Christ, I am an “Onesimus”—a person beneficial to myself and to others.*

Teachings from Philemon

2. Facing the person you have wronged

- *Paul asked Onesimus to return and face Philemon.*
 - *“I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.” (v. 12)*
- *Christians do not deal with wrongs by running away, but by facing them, making restitution, and seeking forgiveness.*

Teachings from Philemon

3. To forgive a person is to gain a person

- *Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus:*
 - *“Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever.” (v. 15)*
 - *“So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.” (v. 17)*
- **Resentment loses people; forgiveness gains people:** *Christians who learn forgiveness in the Lord will gain more people and lose fewer.*

Teachings from Philemon

4. In everything, look to the Lord first

- *Paul viewed matters always from the perspective of Christ:*
 - *“So that people may know that every good thing you do is for Christ. ” (v. 6)*
 - *“No longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother... both in the flesh and in the Lord.” (v. 16)*
 - *“ Brother, I am hoping that in the Lord you will give me joy (benefit), and I am also hoping that you will refresh my heart in Christ. ”(v. 20)*
- *Christians must look at matters from the greater perspective—look to the Lord first, not to people. Looking to the Lord will not lead to error; failing to look to Him will lead to great error.*

What Philemon Reveals About Paul

1. Paul, now an old man

- *“I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul—an old man...” (v. 9)*
- *Reference: At Stephen’s martyrdom, the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul (Acts 7:58).*

2. Paul, who leads people to Christ even while in chains

- *“I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.” (v. 10)*

3. Paul, who does not command but prefers to appeal

- *“Although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love.” (vv. 8–9)*

What Philemon Reveals About Paul

4. Paul, who hopes through God's grace and the prayers of believers

- *“And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.” (v. 22)*

BOOK OF
HEBREWS



Hebrews: The Incomparable Christ

• Characteristics of the Book of Hebrews

1. *Strong Old Testament background*

- *The book quotes the Old Testament extensively—over fifty direct quotations and many more indirect references. Anyone reading Hebrews must have a solid understanding of the Old Testament.*
- *Traditionally called “Hebrews” because the intended recipients were believed to be Jewish Christians.*

2. *Rich theological content*

- *The book covers major theological themes: theology proper, Christology, soteriology, bibliology, angelology, anthropology, ecclesiology, and eschatology.*
- *Among these, Christology is the richest and most developed.*

Hebrews: The Incomparable Christ

3. Unknown human author

- *The book does not identify its author, leading to centuries of speculation: some say Barnabas, some Apollos, some Paul.*
- *Hebrews is divine revelation given through an unnamed believer; the true author is God. Since God did not preserve the writer's name, we need not speculate—our task is to receive the truth revealed in the book.*

Hebrews: The Incomparable Christ

Theme of Hebrews

- **The Superiority of Christ:** *The theme of Hebrews is the **superiority of Christ**. It demonstrates that Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, completed the work of redemption and became the eternal mediator between God and humanity. He is far superior to angels, Moses, and earthly high priests—He is incomparable.*
- **“Better”:** *Hebrews describes Christ’s superiority using the word “better”:*
 - *Jesus introduced a better hope (7:19)*
 - *Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant (7:22)*
 - *Jesus’ ministry is better (8:6)*
 - *Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, established on better promises (8:6)*
 - *Christ offered a better sacrifice (9:23)*

Outline of Hebrews

- **Doctrine and Life**

Hebrews can be divided into two major parts:

- **Doctrine** — “The Excellent Christ” (1:1–10:18)
- **Life** — “The Excellent Christian” (10:19–13:25)

1. **The Excellent Christ, 1:1–10:18**

A. Christ is the **higher revelation**, 1:1–4

B. Christ is **more honorable**, 1:5–7:28

- 1) More honorable than angels
- 2) More honorable than Moses
- 3) More honorable than earthly high priests

Outline of Hebrews

1. The Excellent Christ, 1:1–10:18

*c. Christ is **better**, 8:1–10:18*

- 1) A better covenant*
- 2) A better sanctuary*
- 3) A better sacrifice*

Outline of Hebrews

2. *The Excellent Christian, 10:19–13:25*

A. Excellent spiritual life, 10:19–40

B. Excellent life of faith, chapter 11

C. Excellent life of discipline, chapter 12

D. Excellent daily life, chapter 13

Christ Surpasses All Things

- **The confusion of Jewish believers**
 - *In traditional Jewish thought, the Law was the highest revelation, angels the most exalted spiritual beings, Moses the greatest servant of God, and the high priest the holiest human figure.*
 - *Many Jews who believed in Christ still held these deeply rooted ideas. They were unsure whether Christ was beneath these or above them.*
- **Christ's place in the believer's life**
 - *The purpose of Hebrews is to prove that Christ is above all these. Christ is far superior to the Law, angels, Moses, and earthly high priests. Christ is higher and better; therefore, in the believer's life, Christ must hold the highest place.*

The Excellent Christ (I): Christ as the Higher Revelation

- **The God who speaks**

- *Hebrews 1:1–4 is the prologue, declaring that God is a speaking God, a revealing God.*
- *Christ, as the Son of God, is God's highest speech and highest revelation.*

- **Two kinds of revelation**

1. *In the past, through the prophets*
2. *In these last days, through His Son*
 - *Christ is far superior to the prophets—He is the higher revelation.*

The Excellent Christ (I): Christ as the Higher Revelation

• **Knowing Christ** — *The introduction clearly presents Christ:*

1. Christ's identity

- 1) He is the Son of God*
- 2) He is the radiance of God's glory*
- 3) He is the exact representation of God's being*

The Excellent Christ (I): Christ as the Higher Revelation

2. Christ and creation

- 1) Through Him the universe was made*
- 2) He is the heir of all things*
- 3) He sustains all things*

3. Christ and redemption

- 1) He provided purification for sins*

The Excellent Christ (II): Christ Is More Honorable

1. Christ is more honorable than angels

- **What are angels?**

1. ***In relation to God:*** *Angels are God's servants (1:7)*
2. ***In relation to people:*** *Angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation (1:14)*

- **Who is Christ?**

1. ***In His nature:*** *Christ is the Son of God (1:5)*
2. ***In His coming:*** *Christ is the Firstborn brought into the world (1:6)*
3. ***In His kingdom:*** *Christ is the enthroned King (1:8–9)*
4. ***In creation:*** *Christ is the eternal Creator (1:10–12)*

The Excellent Christ (II): Christ Is More Honorable

1.Christ is more honorable than angels

- **The message of angels vs. the message of Christ**

1. ***The message of angels is the Law***

- *The message spoken through angels (the Law) was binding.*
- *Every violation received just punishment.*

2. ***The message of Christ is salvation***

- *First announced by the Lord Himself, then confirmed by those who heard Him.*
- *If those who violated the Law were punished, **how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?***