

**Lesson 6 – Titus 1:9**  
**Valley Bible Church Adult Sunday School**  
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Review

- I. Salutation Showing the Commitments of the Mature Believer (1:1-4)
  - A. The Writer (1:1-3) – Paul is committed to 1) God’s mastery, 2) God’s mission, 3) God’s character, 4) God’s word, and 5) biblical ministry.
  - B. The Reader (1:4a)
  - C. The Greeting (1:4b)
- II. Character of the Mature Believer (1:5-9)
  - A. Duties of Titus in Crete (1:5)
  - B. Public Reputation – if any man be above reproach (1:6) Mature believers are above reproach (blameless). They must not give people a reason to criticize them – they have a good public reputation. They are free from even the appearance of evil and no charge of evil could be brought against them let alone sustained. They strive to be upright, have a proper God centered focus, and turn away from evil (Job 1:1). They strive to “walk” in the law of the Lord (Psa 119:1).
  - C. Sexual Purity – the husband of one wife (1:6b) Mature believers strive to be outwardly and inwardly sexually pure. They are devoted to God and His glory (1 Cor 6:20; 10:31) and are therefore devoted to their spouse physically, emotionally, and mentally. They are a one-spouse spouse.
  - D. Family Life – having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion (1:6c) A mature believer lives a life that is consistent with their profession of faith in Jesus and is able to do their part by sharing the gospel in bringing others (including their children) to a saving knowledge of Christ.
  - E. General Negatives (1:7)
    1. Above Reproach as God’s steward (1:7a) Maturing believers recognize that everything in their life is God’s (salvation, spiritual gifts, money and possessions, relationships, our very life, etc.) They strive to honor God’s priorities and to be faithful with all that God has given them.
    2. Not self-willed (1:7b) Maturing believers are NOT characterized by being self-willed, arrogant, or selfish. They are striving to be humble and yielded to God and to have a sacrificial love, service, and preferential attitude toward others.
    3. Not quick-tempered (1:7c) Maturing believers strive to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. They strive to accept people and focus on who God is making that person to be instead of who they want that person to be.
    4. Not addicted to wine (1:7d) Maturing believers do not make alcohol their companion. They exercise wisdom when deciding to partake of alcohol in moderation.
    5. Not pugnacious (1:7e) Maturing believers do not respond to provocation with harsh words or fists.
    6. Not fond of sordid gain (1:7f) Maturing believers have a proper steward-attitude concerning money.
  - F. General Positives (1:8)
    1. Hospitable (1:8a) Maturing believers seek wise opportunities to love strangers without complaint.
    2. Loving what is good (1:8b) Maturing believers strive to love the things that God loves.
    3. Sensible (1:8c) Maturing believers live their lives based in wisdom.
    4. Just (1:8d) Maturing believers are able to make proper judgments in relationships with others – they know when to judge and when not to judge.
    5. Devout (1:8e) Maturing believers strive moment-by-moment to be pleasing to the Lord.
    6. Self-controlled (1:8c) Maturing believers exercise self-control and discipline for the purpose of godliness.

## Introduction

Today, we conclude our study of the character qualifications of elders (or mature believers). We first looked at verse 6 which presented the overarching character quality of elders of “being above reproach” which deals with the elder’s public reputation. “Above reproach” was expanded on by looking at an elder’s sexual purity and family life. The qualification of being “above approach” is again reiterated and specified by adding “as God’s steward”. We then how “above reproach” is again expanded on by describing five negative character qualities to avoid. Then we looked at six positive character qualities to pursue. These are the character qualifications of elders, but these are also character qualities that we all should be avoiding/pursuing as those that desire to glorify God by progressing in sanctification.

<b>NASB</b>	<b>ESV</b>	<b>NIV</b>	<b>Amplified</b>
<sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.	<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.	<sup>9</sup> He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.	<sup>9</sup> He must hold fast to the sure and trustworthy Word of God as he was taught it, so that he may be able both to give stimulating instruction and encouragement in sound (wholesome) doctrine and to refute and convict those who contradict and oppose it [showing the wayward their error].

The parallel to this qualification is found in 1 Tim 3 where the elder is to be “able to teach”.

<sup>1</sup>It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.

<sup>2</sup>An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, **able to teach**, <sup>3</sup>not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. <sup>4</sup>*He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity <sup>5</sup>(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), <sup>6</sup>*and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. <sup>7</sup>And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 1 Tim 3:1-7

The reason Paul included the qualification “able to teach” in a list of moral qualities is that effective teaching is woven into the moral character of the teacher. The same is true here in Titus 1:9.

Verse 9 is a two-fold requirement: 1) dealing with character and 2) dealing with ministry.

## Character

"In accordance with the teaching" [katá ten didachen] is the first phrase in the Greek sentence and provides emphasis. "Teaching" [didache] is modified in the original Greek by the definite article "the" which defines this as not just any teaching but the specific body of teaching passed on from Jesus and His apostles. Anything else is not the "faithful word" and therefore not reliable or trustworthy.

“Holding fast” [antechomai] expresses the sense of a strong attachment to someone or something; to be devoted (feeling or demonstrating loyalty and thus ardent, devout, loving); or to cling to (adhere as if glued firmly to and so to hold on tightly and tenaciously). It is only used three other times in the NT:

<sup>24</sup>No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will **hold to** one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Matt 6:24

<sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will **hold to** one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Luke 16:13

<sup>14</sup>And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, **help** the weak, be patient with all men. 1Thess 5:14

“Faithful word” expresses the idea that the word is trustworthy, reliable, believable, and dependable. The overseer clings with utmost confidence to the faithful word because he knows that it alone is completely trustworthy and reliable, unlike the spurious doctrines of the false teachers.

An elder (mature believer) has an unshakeable commitment to the word of God. This word, the Bible, is the inspired, plenary, verbal, infallible, inerrant in the original manuscripts word of God! Inspired translates the Greek *theopneustos* from 2 Tim 3:16 which literally means “breathed out by God” or “God-Breathed”. God is the source of Scripture and as such Scripture takes on His qualities. God superintended the human authors which describes the means by which God wrote His word – God directed (or moved), but did not dictate to the human authors so that, using their own personalities and styles, they composed and recorded without error in the original manuscripts God’s specific revelation to mankind (2 Pet 1:21-22). Infallible means completely incapable of error (i.e. true and trustworthy) (Titus 1:2) and inerrant means completely without error (John 17:17). Plenary means inspired in equal parts, including every word and verbal means extending to the very words (“all” in 2 Tim 3:16 and “no” in 2 Pet 1:21-22). This is shown by the Lord Jesus’ and Apostle Paul’s statements, usage, and arguments (Matt 5:18; 22:31-32; Gal 3:16).

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is **inspired** by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 2 Tim 3:16

<sup>20</sup>But know this first of all, that **no** prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Pet 1:21-22

<sup>18</sup>"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.** Matt 5:18

<sup>31</sup>"But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: <sup>32</sup>**'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'?** **He is not the God of the dead but of the living.**" Matt 22:31-32

<sup>16</sup>Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his **seed**. He does not say, "And to **seeds**," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your **seed**," that is, Christ. Gal 3:16

The Scriptures are authoritative and constitute the believer’s only source of faith and practice (Matt 5:18; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 4:12; 2 Pet 1:20-21). Only Scripture is perfectly adequate for all matters of faith and conduct – for salvation and sanctification. Only Scripture is able to meet all the spiritual needs of God’s people. Scripture is all-sufficient in regards to the soul of man, in our relationship to God, and in our relationship to others. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks (2 Pet 1:3; Matt 4:4; Heb 4:12; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Pet 2:2; Psa 19:7-13; 119:9, 11; 119:24).

<sup>3</sup>seeing that **His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 2 Pet 1:3

<sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, "It is written, '**MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.**'" Matt 4:4

**<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Heb 4:12**

<sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** <sup>17</sup>**so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.** 2 Tim 3:15-17

<sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. ... <sup>11</sup>**Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.** Psa 119:9, 11

<sup>24</sup>Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors. Psa 119:24

The Holy Spirit works in the believer to bring spiritual understanding, enabling us to perceive spiritual truth, and heart application of Scripture (John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Cor 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20). Any believer, by depending on the Holy Spirit and using the proper rules of interpretation, can study the scriptures for his own growth and edification, and lead others to salvation in Christ.

<sup>17</sup>**If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching**, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself. John 7:17

<sup>12</sup>“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup>But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. <sup>15</sup>All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. John 16:12-15

<sup>10</sup>For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>**Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,** <sup>13</sup>which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. <sup>14</sup>**But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.** 1 Cor 2:10-14

<sup>20</sup>But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 1 John 2:20

So, an elder (mature believer) has an unshakeable commitment to the word of God. This will be manifested by spending time with God in His word.

### Spending Time with God

*All things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.* Abraham Lincoln

*A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.* Theodore Roosevelt

*My custom is to read four or five chapters of the Bible every morning immediately after rising from bed. It employs about an hour of my time, and seems to be the most suitable manner of beginning the day.* John Quincy Adams

*Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.* Ronald Reagan

*A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So if we love the Lord Jesus, we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of him.* John R. W. Stott

Other books were given for our information, the Bible was given for our transformation. We understand that the Scriptures bring about transformation in our lives. We understand that we need to long for the pure milk of the Word (1 Pet 2:2). However, a 1991 USA Today poll showed that 11% of people read the Bible daily and less than 50% read the Bible one time per month or never at all (as quoted in *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney). Similarly, a 1990 Barna Research Group survey of “born again” Christians showed that only 18% read the Bible daily and 23% say they NEVER read the Bible. In 2011, Barna Research Group said that “Bible reading undertaken during the course of a typical week, other than passages read while attending church events, has declined by five percentage points.”

What are some excuses that we use as to why we are not in the Word? And note that these are primarily excuses and not reasons. If we love our Lord Jesus and desire to live our lives for Him then there is no reason that we should not be in the Word. Two popular excuses are that we do not have time and we do not have a plan.

### No Time:

To address the “no time” excuse look at the table below. It takes approximately 71 hours to read the Bible from cover to cover – the total time of the Bible on CD (this is called “pulpit rate”). This gives an estimate of how long it would take to read the Bible, even though most of us could probably read faster than we listen to someone else read. (The average adult reads 200 wpm which would take less than 11 min/day to read the entire bible.)

Reading nonstop would take be three days straight. Unless you are really committed that would be difficult. And even then how much would really be retained?

Entire Bible (from Bible on CD)	71 hrs or 4260 min
One Month Plan	< 2.5 hrs / day
Six Month Plan	24 min / day
<b>One Year Plan</b>	<b>12 min / day</b>
One Year Plan (Weekdays only)	17 min / day
Two Year Plan	6 min / day
Three Year and Three month Plan	1 Chapter / day
Five Year Plan	2.5 min / day

So, to read the Bible from Genesis through Revelation in five years takes 2.5 minutes per day. To read the Bible in one month takes a little less than two and one-half hours per day. How much TV watching, video gaming, computer playing/net surfing, and general recreating do you do?

### No Plan:

If you do not know where to start you could easily look in your study Bible or at [www.valleybible.net/resources/readingindex.shtml](http://www.valleybible.net/resources/readingindex.shtml) for reading suggestions. If you like to design your own things, you could try a plan below. Take the number of chapters for various sections of the Bible and simply design your own reading plan. Some examples are below:

Entire Bible	1189 Chapters
Old Testament	929 Chapters
New Testament	260 Chapters
Genesis – Deut	187 Chapters
Genesis – Esther	436 Chapters
Joshua – Esther	249 Chapters
Job – Song of Solomon	243 Chapters
Job – Malachi	493 Chapters
Isaiah – Malachi	250 Chapters

Read 23 chapters per week (3 per day +) = Whole Bible in one year

Read 3 chapters Mon – Sat and 5 chapters on Sunday = Whole Bible in one year

Read 3 chapters in each the OT and the NT = OT one time and NT four times in one year

Read 5 chapters (one from every section below) everyday = whole Bible in ~9 months:

1. Genesis – Deut (Law) [187 Chapters]
2. Joshua – Esther (History) [249 Chapters]
3. Job – Song of Solomon (Poetry) [243 Chapters]
4. Isaiah – Malachi (Prophecy) [250 Chapters]
5. New Testament [260 Chapters]

Read 3 places everyday starting in: (will have to double up chapters to complete in one year):

1. Genesis – Esther [436 Chapters]
2. Job – Malachi [493 Chapters]
3. Matthew [260 Chapters]

Read 9 chapters in the NT everyday = NT in one month

Read 5 Psalms and 1 chapter in Proverbs everyday = Psalms and Proverbs in one month

## Ministry

<sup>9</sup>holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, **so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.** Titus 1:9

An elder who meets this qualification is a man of the Word, not necessarily a gifted public speaker, but one who knows Bible doctrine and can use it effectively to exhort and encourage believers and to refute those who contradict the truth of God's Word. VBC Position Papers on Church Leadership

There is an interesting pattern in Paul's letters. He often starts with theological concepts then connects that to practice with a "therefore". There is something important about understanding doctrine that impacts our walk with Christ. We see that maturity stands in contrast to children who are "tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph 4:13-14) and that paying attention to doctrines of demons stands in contrast to being "nourished on the words of faith and of sound doctrine" (1 Tim 4:1-6). Advocating different doctrines shows that one is conceited and understands nothing (1 Tim 6:3, 4) and Paul exhorted Titus to show himself to be an example of good deeds with purity in doctrine (Titus 2:7).

Understanding theology not only will help us to mature as Christians, it helps us to serve others. If people are led astray by false teaching, we will be better equipped to help them. As people need to know God's Word, we will be better able to direct them toward particular passages of relevance to them. By understanding doctrine, we are enabled to teach ourselves and others what God says, thus fulfilling the second part of the Great Commission, "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

1. A mature believer is "able ... to exhort in sound doctrine"

Exhort [parakaleo] means literally to call one alongside and can include the idea of giving help or aid but the primary sense in the NT is to urge someone to take some action, especially some ethical course of action. Sometimes the word means convey the idea of comfort, sometimes of exhortation but always at the root there is the idea of enabling a person to meet some difficult situation with confidence and with gallantry.

An elder (mature believer) can bring the word to bear in their own and another's life to urge them to sanctification.

**<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16**

First, however, the Scriptures must be brought to bear on our own life.

<sup>15</sup>Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15

<sup>10</sup>For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel. Ezra 7:8-10

<sup>1</sup>How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup>**But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.** <sup>3</sup>He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. Psa 1:1-3

2. A mature believer is “able ... to refute those who contradict”

Refute [elegcho] means to bring to the light (to reveal hidden things) with the implication that there is adequate proof of wrongdoing. To expose, to convict, to reprove, to shame or disgrace and thus to rebuke another in such a way that they are compelled to see and to admit the error of their ways. To show someone that they have done something wrong and summon them to repent.

Contradict [antilego] means literally to say against or to speak against and so to contradict (assert the contrary of, take issue with, implying open or flat denial), to speak in opposition to or to oppose (place over against something so as to provide resistance), to gainsay (declare to be untrue or invalid and implies disputing the truth of what another has said), to deny, to refute (to deny the truth or accuracy of). In secular Greek antilego was used to mean "reject a writing as spurious". Continually contradicting an authority = obstinate.

An elder (mature believer) can point out (bring to light/expose) the error of false teaching and explain why it is wrong.

<sup>13</sup>Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, <sup>15</sup>**but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;** <sup>16</sup>and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 1 Pet 3:13-16

<sup>24</sup>The Lord's bond-servant **must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,** <sup>25</sup>**with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition,** if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. 2 Tim 2:24-26

### Summary

A mature believer has an unwavering commitment to the word of God and is able to encourage believers and refute scoffers with it.