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July 2018

# TITUS

## *Inside Terry's Office:*

### *The Book of Titus—The Heretics Have a Good Point!*

Titus, like I and II Timothy, is a letter written to an individual; a friend. In each letter Paul gives advice on how to build the organization of the local church in the context of heretic's attack upon it.

The heretics ('Judaizers' / 'circumcizers') insisted that a Christian is required to fulfill the O.T. laws. They pointed out that their families had always been defined by the authority of their fathers and the pride of their calling as God's people (as symbolized by the circumcision of all their males). Paul tells Titus, as he had told Timothy, that it really would serve the church well if he could ordain as deacons and elders the husbands of one wife and the fathers of well-behaved children.

Of course, that would be the best way to establish an institution being attacked by such heretics. AND, here is the problem; If Paul's advice becomes 'law' within the church, then the church becomes legalistic in nature and fall into the very heresy that they are testifying against. The fact is that there were already women serving in the role of deacons and elders (Timothy's mom and grandmother may both have qualified). As the local church became more established, the respect they showed women became a source of confusion and resistance to new converts (and possible new converts).

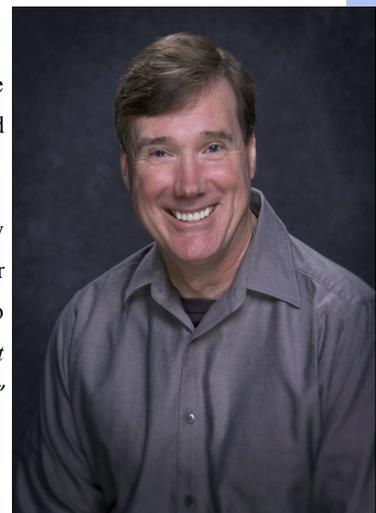
Yet, by trying to accommodate the biases of their culture and not being offensive in avoidable ways, some 2000 years later, the local church has practiced the heresy they originally opposed by making a LAW out of Paul's advice to Titus and Timothy. If you have been reading my articles for long, you will recognize that the interpretation I'm offering here is not a result of devaluing the inspiration of scripture but of reading the scripture "from the inside out" instead of "from the outside in".

Recently I witnessed a wife explain to her husband how she had come to value some principles that she also had profound emotional wounding concerning. She was explaining to her husband why she had not been able to put the principle into application. Her husband tried very hard to be understanding. He really didn't need his wife to follow the principle they were discussing, but all he could offer was encouragements to follow her new conviction. He found it very hard to value her personal emotional struggle. In that particular situation, he acted out the heresy of the Judaizers. We all do the same when we turn "means of Grace" into "spiritual disciplines" by believing that we SHOULD (rather than "we get to") read scripture, gather for worship, participate financially in the institution of the church, to practice fasting, to pray continuously, etc.

Of course, the heretics have a good point; practicing any of these means of grace **really is helpful and healthy for us** right up until we start saying "should" and "commit" and "try", etc.

C.S. Lewis warned Christians that when we make secondary things into primary things we actually sabotage the purpose of the secondary things. As Christians, our primary things are always about relating to God and each other, not about HOW we go about it. *"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."* (1:15)

In His Grip, TWE



ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

# The Plumbline

## Living in the Sanctuary

**You are living between two epiphanies. You have no higher calling in this life than to relate for one supreme purpose—to reveal the beauty of My grace until the beauty of My glory fills you with joy forever.**

**(66 Love Letters, Love Letter 56: Titus, Larry Crabb)**

**. . .when I tried to figure it out, all I got was a splitting headache. . .Until I entered the sanctuary of God. Then I saw the whole picture:**

**(Psalm 73:16, 17, The Message)**

**Watch for His return; expect the blessed hope we all will share when our great God and Savior, Jesus the Anointed, appears again. He gave His body for our sakes and will not only break us free from the chains of wickedness, but He will also prepare a community uncorrupted by the world that He would call His own—people who are passionate about doing the right thing.**

**Titus 2:13,14, The Voice**

In the 56<sup>th</sup> letter, Crabb receives this message from God about living well between *two epiphanies*. *Epiphany* refers to “appearing;” *the first appearing of God’s Son and His second*. “*When you grasp the significance of My Son’s two comings, you’ll understand how you can live in the power of His first coming and in the hope of His second coming.*” (66 Love Letters, p. 302.)

Webster’s also defines epiphany as “a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.” Last

week I had such an encounter with the above verses I quoted from Psalm 73! After reading up on the book of Titus today I find additional enlightenment to what I was gathering from Ps. 73. So let me try to put this together. If you read the first half of Psalm 73 you will find Asaph lamenting of the seeming affluence and carefree life of the wicked while he has had a run of bad luck. He asks where is God---has he gone out to lunch? Then Asaph recognizes the slippery slope that he is on with his thoughts when he says it all gave him a splitting headache until he enters *the sanctuary of God!* *Asaph says even when he was like a “dumb ox” in God’s presence, God took him by the hand and tenderly led him. Verses 25-28, “You’re all I want in heaven! You’re all I want on earth! When my skin sags and my bones get brittle, God is rock-firm and faithful. . . .I’ve made Lord God my home. God I’m telling the world what you do!” The Message*

Did you know that Titus was actually written by Paul before 2 Timothy? There’s a reason. There is a message that is important for us to hear. In 2 Timothy we learn that while Paul was awaiting execution he wrote his second letter to Timothy. In Rome’s judicial system, a preliminary hearing was required. This was a time for the judge to hear charges against the prisoner and when found guilty, a sentence would be pronounced. At this first hearing friends of the prisoner were permitted to advocate on his behalf. (66 Love Letters, p. 304) We learn in 2 Timothy 4:16 that his community failed him. Paul, however, “seized the painful opportunity of failed friendship to reveal the beauty of grace in the strength of anticipating the beauty of glory. Paul focused not on the pain of being failed but on the

mission of making My story attractive by the way he related.” (66 Love Letters, pp. 304-305) What is demonstrated is the order of living life well in between the epiphanies, first live the story and then tell it, thus, 2 Timothy, then Titus, *the whole picture*.

The bigger picture in living a life well in between two epiphanies is this, “the way you live reveals the beauty of **grace-energized relating** until the beauty of glory-filled community can be enjoyed forever [2:11-14; 3:3-7], where even the underprivileged **live in a manner that makes My story attractive** [2:10.] “

When I am living life well in between the epiphanies, I am in the sanctuary of God where he holds my hand and I am home! In this life there are many disappointments and unmet expectations. I’ve certainly experienced those and there will be more. Paul lived what Asaph described in Psalm 73. He suffered loss of many kinds and yet he tells Timothy to tell others to keep up the good fight and he tells Titus to encourage the believers to live upstanding and blameless lives and do what is right.





Join us for our FUNdraiser at

**Cherry Berry  
Self-Service Yogurt Bar**

71st and Garnett  
4605 West Kenosha Street  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

When: Tuesday July 31, 2018  
4pm to 8pm

A portion of ALL proceeds wilol be donated  
**To Plumblines Ministries, Inc.**  
For our Classroom Transformation Project!

See **YOU** there!



## ***PLUMBLINE CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATION PROJECT***

The Classroom Transformation Project is just one of the projects we are currently working toward at Plumblime.

### ***What is the Classroom Transformation Project?***

**OUR VISION:** To transform the existing classroom into a warm and welcoming living room type environment to allow class members to feel comfortable, encouraging emotional growth.

**REQUIREMENTS:** This project will include pain, lighting, upgrades to the wall décor, adding a pass through bar counter in the kitchen, window treatments, transform the floor coverings, and furniture upgrades at a minimum.

**BUDGET:** The overall budget for this project is \$15,000 to include all items.

**TIMELINE:** Once the funds have been acquired, the project will be scheduled and completed.

**ASKING:** We are seeking donations to assist us in completing this Classroom Transformation Project.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Additional ways to assist will be by volunteering your time and expertise when the actual work begins.

***Would you partner with us for this project?***

Donations can be sent to Plumblime Ministries, Inc. [8222 E 103rd Street, Tulsa, OK 74133](https://www.plumblime.org).

***All donations are Tax Deductible.***

# Stickman Saturday Seminars

Hosted by Plumblin Ministries, Inc.

8222 East 103RD Street

Suite 127

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

918-477-9068

By Terry Ewing

## **Stickman's Family: Marriage - Saturday, August 4th**

God offers Himself as an active 3rd party in your marriage. When we depend on Him, His role helps move us from the performance-based model you may have been taught to the mercy-based model that facilitates your enjoyment of Him, yourself and your spouse!

## **Stickman's Family: Parenting - Saturday, August 18th**

We will examine an alternative to the fear creating performance-based parenting principles you may have been taught. The mercy-based parenting principles will free you to be yourself and enjoy yourself more with those you love so dearly.

## **The Divine Delight - Saturday, September 15th**

This study of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) will help create a "big picture" vision for a lifetime of mercy-based relationships and discipleship. Expect to be freed up to be yourself and to enjoy God like never before.

## **Stickman's Prayer - Saturday, September 29th**

Jesus said that the keys to the kingdom are in "binding" and "loosing." In this seminar we will discuss why and when binding prayers are appropriate, why and when loosing prayers are appropriate, and how together these prayers let us relax into God more and more.

Each Seminar is from 9am to 4:30pm with optional discussion time following. The seminars will be held at Plumblin Ministry, Inc. offices. Cost is \$100.00 per seminar and is a stand alone curriculum.



## FALL CLASSES

Looking for a change?

Tired of getting the same results?

Come learn a new way!

**PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC.** has

NEW classes starting soon!

**Soul Care** - Unit 1: Foundation—Starts September 6th

Cost: [www.plumblinesonline.com](http://www.plumblinesonline.com) for various options

**CoDependency**—When good behaviors are taken too far or when I need you to be okay for me to be okay, you may need the skills taught in the codependency class.

Starts—Sunday, September 9th—10 weeks—2:00 P.M. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost—\$70.00 plus book

**Boundaries**—Why do I say yes, when I want to say no? Do I feel controlled by others? Do I feel a need to control others? Get help with questions like these and many more by learning about BOUNDARIES!

Starts Tuesday, September 18th—10 weeks—6:30 to 8:30 p.m

Cost \$70.00 plus book

**Safe People**—Learn how to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives as well as how to be that person for those in our lives!

Starts Wednesday, September 12th—10 weeks—6:30—8:30 p.m.

Cost \$70.00 plus book.

# Stickman's Prayers

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

## stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of  
"loosing prayers"  
and the ministry of  
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter  
Terry Ewing  
Erin Garcia  
Margo Hanne  
Carolyn Knippers  
Carol McNamarra  
Sue Merrill

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

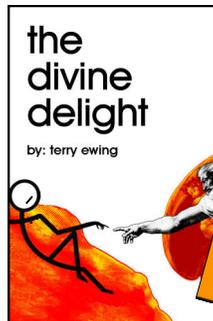
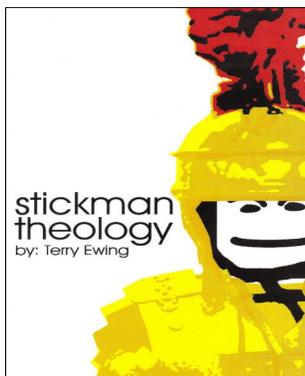
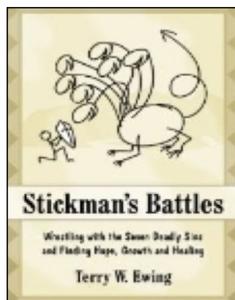
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



*Did you know you can download*

## Stickman Theology

**On your KINDLE?**

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to [smiles.amazon.com](https://smiles.amazon.com), designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

# PLUMBLINE

MINISTRIES

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