

GOD'S AMAZING BOOK

THROUGH THE BIBLE, BOOK BY BOOK

led by: Pastor Josh Franklin, Good Hope Baptist Church (www.goodhopechurch.org and www.joshfranklin.org)

SOUND DOCTRINE AND HOLY LIVING

A Quick Look at the Pastoral Letter to Titus

Fast Facts on Titus

Written by? Apostle Paul

Written to whom? Titus

Written when? A.D. 64

Written why? Paul sent Titus to organize and oversee the churches on Crete. This letter tells Titus how to do this job.

Key Passage: "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you." (1:5)

		Maintain Sound Doctrine and Good Works							
		Church Leadership	False Teachers	Specific Groups	Everyday Life				
		God's Word Has Appeared		God's Grace Has Appeared	God's Kindness and Love Has Appeared				
Introduction	1:1-4	Commitments (1:5-6)	The Divisive (1:10-11)	Older Men (2:1-2)	In the Community (3:1-8)			Conclusion	
		Conduct (1:7)	The Deceived (1:12-14)	Older Women (2:3-4)	In the Church (3:9-11)				
		Character (1:8)	The Defiled (1:15-16)	Younger Women (2:4-5)	In our Conduct (3:12-14)				
		Convictions (1:9)		Younger Men (2:6-8)					
		Leaders	Enemies	Followers					
		1:5	1:9	1:10	1:16	2:1	2:15	3:1	3:15

Source: Danny Akin

Somehow, as we ponder this short but weighty note to Titus, we have an uneasy feeling that all too many of us modern Christians live far below its simply worded but searching standards... We have much need to linger often among the purifying paragraphs of this little letter. – J. Sidlow Baxter

The Pastoral Epistles are the last words we have from the pen of the Apostle Paul... The hard-earned lessons of Paul's years of service are concentrated here so that these epistles, brief though they are, contain a priceless spiritual treasure. – Philip C. Johnson

Some things and some people just go together like Adam and Eve... Tarzan and Jane ... Batman and Robin ... Jack and Jill. Not to see these famous pairs together seems unnatural. The book of Titus presents one more pair: Sound Doctrine and Sound Living. What we believe will surface in how we conduct ourselves. Proverbs 23:7 says, "as a man thinks, so is he." The connection is obvious. There is wholeness, synergy, a true sense of completion and purpose when we combine sound doctrine and sound living. They were meant to be together ... just like "peaches and cream." – from "Titus" by: Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX

The vacuum produced when a strong leader departs can devastate a movement, organization, or institution. Having been dependent on his or her skill, style, and personality, associates and subordinates flounder or vie for control. Soon efficiency and vitality are lost, and decline and demise follow. Often this pattern is repeated in churches. Great speakers and teachers gather a following, and soon a church is flourishing. It is alive, vital and

effective. Lives are being changed and people led into the Kingdom. But when this person leaves or dies, with him or her goes the drive and the heart of the organization. People flocked to hear Paul's teaching. Educated, articulate, motivated, and filled with the Holy Spirit, this man of God faithfully proclaimed the Good News throughout the Roman Empire; lives were changed and churches begun. But Paul knew that the church must be built on Christ, not on a person. So he trained young pastors to assume leadership after he was gone. Paul centered them on preaching the Word of God and to train others to carry on the ministry.¹

1) Guidance for the Church (Titus 1:1-16)

Titus wanted another assignment from Paul because he was having a hard time ministering in Crete. Paul helped

Titus by telling him to:

- 1) Focus on the privileges of the ministry (1:1-4);
- 2) Follow God's Word (1:5-9);
- 3) Face the Enemy (1:10-16)

2) Godliness in the Church (Titus 2:1-15)

Paul wanted to help Titus build a strong Church, built on godly strong people. Strength comes by three ways:

- 1) Strong, sound teaching (2:1)
- 2) Strong, godly examples (2:2-10)
- 3) Strong reliance upon God's grace (2:11-14)

3) Good Works as the Church (Titus 3:1-15)

Christianity is meant to influence others for Christ, resulting in showing God to the world around us. God would be seen through the church if Titus remembered:

- 1) What you should do (3:1-2)
- 2) What you were (3:3)
- 3) What God did for you (3:4-7)
- 4) What God expects of you (3:8-11)

"One of the most important things any pastor or elder will do for you is something you may never notice. It is not visiting hospitals, successfully leading a church to expand its budget, or ensuring that his sermons have clear outlines - all of which are good things. **It is this: working hard to know Scripture in order to protect you from false teachings, which are useless, of no benefit, dangerous, and divisive in the church.**" – Mark Dever (see 3:9-11)²

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT Titus

1. Cretans had a reputation for being immoral and stubborn.
2. Titus was a Gentile Christian.
3. Titus was sent on many missions by Paul.
4. Self-control is one of the qualities people look for most in Christians (2:6-8).
5. Because Jesus has done so much good for us, he expects us to do good for other people (3:3-8).
6. Titus has a heavy emphasis upon the importance of good works in the lives of believers (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14).

Life Lessons from Titus³

1. Spiritual leadership starts with what you are before it moves to what you are to do.
2. Your conduct exposes your true spiritual condition.
3. Your conduct is essential to your witness.
4. Each age group and gender in the church has specific roles and responsibilities that, when fulfilled, reflect positively on God and His Word.

¹ Introduction to Titus, *Life Application Study Bible*, pg. 1946.

² Mark Dever, *Message of the New Testament* (Crossway), 386.

³ Jim George, *The Bare Bones Bible Handbook*, pg. 253.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON TITUS ⁴

Purpose - Paul wrote this letter to guide Titus in his leadership over churches in several cities throughout the island of Crete. Paul was particularly concerned with false teaching (1:10-16) and immorality, two themes common in many of his other letters. Paul urged Titus to appoint leaders of character and sound doctrine within the churches, confront false teaching, and promote good works as the expected fruit of grace and salvation. Paul emphasized the winsome affect believers can have upon those outside of the church through sound living within the church, home, and society.



Date and Place of Writing - The historical references of this book fall outside the Book of Acts and between Paul's two Roman imprisonments (Acts 28:30-31; 2 Timothy). The events between these two imprisonments may be reconstructed from various information throughout the pastoral epistles.

1. Paul was released from his first imprisonment c. A.D. 62-63(Acts 28:30).
2. He then journeyed to Asia Minor, visiting Ephesus and Colossae in the spring and autumn of the same year (1Tim. 1:3, Philemon 22)
3. After leaving Timothy in Ephesus, he traveled to Macedonia where he spent the winter (1 Tim. 1:3, Phil. 2:24)
4. In A.D. 64 he revisited Asia Minor on his way to Spain (Rom. 15:28)
5. He returned from Spain in A.D. 65-66 and spent some time on Crete.
6. Sometime later he departed for Asia Minor, leaving Titus (A.D. 66).
7. Shortly after his arrival in Asia Minor, Paul wrote a personal letter to Titus (A.D. 66).
8. Paul spent the winter of A.D. 66/67 in Macedonia in the city of Nicopolis where Titus was to rejoin him (2 Tim. 4:13, Titus 3:12).
9. Paul was re-arrested in A.D. 66-67 and sent to Rome.
10. Near the time of his death under Nero's reign in c. A.D. 67-68, Paul's last letter was written (2 Tim. 4:20).⁵

We can project that Paul wrote Titus from Asia Minor perhaps in the summer or autumn of c. A.D. 66.

Recipient - Unfortunately, little is known of Titus' family or background other than that he was an uncircumcised Greek (Galatians 2:3). Titus was likely one of Paul's early converts to the Christian faith, and Paul became like a spiritual father to the young man ("my true child in a common faith" in Titus 1:4). Titus appears throughout Paul's writings as a key partner and representative in the ministry (2 Corinthians 8:23). He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem as proof of God's extension of salvation to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:1-2). He also repeatedly carried correspondence from Paul to the Corinthian church and later reported to Paul the repentance of the Corinthian church that provoked Paul's writing of 2 Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7:5-16). Paul also charged Titus with several key responsibilities including completing the collection for the poor of Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:6). After Paul's departure from Crete, he left Titus behind to establish order on the island of Crete by appointing elders and teaching sound doctrine and good works (Titus 1:5). Eventually Paul dispatched Titus to Dalmatia, a region located in modern day Yugoslavia (2 Timothy 4:10). Tradition holds that Titus later returned to Crete. The island of Crete is situated 160 km south of the Greek mainland. Many have speculated that Crete might have been Caphtor, from where the Philistines originated (Amos 9:7). Romans captured the island in 68-66 B.C. and made it a Roman province. In Titus 1:12, Paul quotes the Cretan poet Epimenides of Knossos who wrote that "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." Such an unflattering description highlighted the lifestyle of excess within the culture that presented Titus with such a great challenge.

⁴ Much of this survey material is from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.

⁵ Taken from outline by Dr. Danny Akin.