

Growing a Healthy Church



Titus

*...in all things show yourself
to be an example of good deeds...*

Summary : Paul's Pastoral Letters

Letter	From	To	Style	Theme
1 Timothy	Paul 5 th Mission Journey	Timothy in Ephesus	Official Orders	Proper Leadership, Ministry & Teaching
Titus	Paul 5 th Mission Journey	Titus in Crete	Official Orders	Godliness
2 Timothy	Paul Final Imprisonment (Rome)	Timothy in Ephesus	Personal Sharing	Perseverance

Introduction *(first 4 verses)*

DURING : Paul's 5th Mission Journey

FROM : Paul in Macedonia or Ephesus

TO : Titus on Island of Crete

DATE : A.D. 63 (30 years after Christ's death)

STYLE : - Formal

- Letter of Commission
- Business-like
- Direct instruction on what must be done
- Sense of Urgency

Titus



- Greek (Gentile)
- **One of first Gentile Converts @ Antioch**
- Evidence at Jerusalem Council - Gentiles saved without circumcision
- **Important Assistant to Paul & Fellow Missionary for 15 years**
- “As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you” (2 Cor.8:23)
- **Sent (like Timothy) by Paul to Fix problems + Build up Churches**
- Corinth – Brought Church back to repentance (2 Cor.7:6-16)
- Macedonia – Collected Funds for Jerusalem church in famine (2 Cor.8)
- **NOW – Addressing Problems + Building church in Crete**
- Later – Sent to church in Dalmatia (2 Tim.4:10)
- **Spiritually Strong + able to handle problems + minister effectively**

Titus & Timothy Compared

Similarities

Both were YOUNG & gifted.
Both were co-workers of PAUL.
Both served in DIFFICULT church situations.

Differences

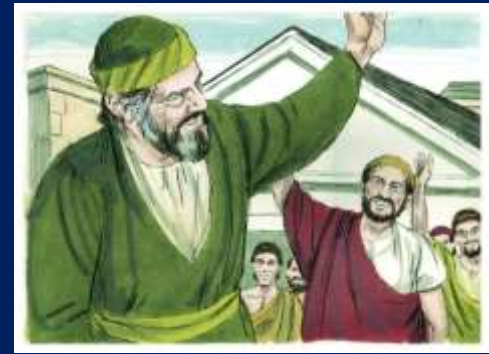
Timothy	Titus
HALF-Jewish	Wholly GENTILE
Circumcised by Paul	Uncircumcised
Served at CORINTH & EPHESUS	Served at CORINTH & CRETE
Timid	Strong & stern
Prominent in Acts	Not mentioned in Acts

Island of Crete

- **Part of Roman Empire**
- One of the earliest civilizations in Europe
- 260km across & 60km north to South
- **Large Island in the Middle of the Mediterranean Sea**
- Titus led church across whole Island: across many towns (Titus 1:5)
- **People: Cretans**
- Quote from Cretan poet : Epimenides =
"Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12)
- In Greek writing – ‘to Cretanize’ = meant to lie
- **Reputation : Dishonesty, Gluttony, Laziness**



Church in Crete



- **Started** by Christians saved @ Pentecost (Acts 2:11)
- **Paul visited** briefly on 4th mission journey to Rome (Acts 27:13)
- **5th Mission Journey** after Rome: Paul + Titus went to Crete
- **Paul left Titus in Crete** to put things in order, when he moved on

Letter to: Titus on the Island of Crete



Problems

False Teaching

- From Jewish teachers (circumcision party – Titus 1:10)
- Different : to Galatians : Severe Legalism
- Similar : to Ephesus (1 Timothy) – Jewish Myths
- **But Main problem = Moral Perversity (Ephesus = 1st teaching)**
- “*detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work*” (Titus 1:16)

Local Culture

- **Reputation : Liars, Gluttony, Laziness**

Church Congregations

- **Disorganized, without proper leadership (Titus 1:5)**

Purpose

Instruct Titus to Sort out :

- ⇒ Proper Leadership
- ⇒ False Teaching
- ⇒ Godly Lives
- ⇒ Clear Grasp of the Gospel Message

Theme =

● Godliness

Godly Leadership + Godly Living

- For : Godly Faith → Godliness in Practice
- For : Godly Belief → Godly Behaviour
- For Cretans to live out the Gospel in daily life
- 6x repeatedly urge to do 'good works'

(very similar to 1 Timothy – but more focus on Godly behaviour)

Structure

Chapters

1. Godly Leadership
2. Godly Living in Church
3. Godly Living Outside Church

Ch. 1. Godly Leadership

- **Appointing qualified Leaders**

- Established Elders in churches in each town across Crete
- Elders – essential to stability + effective functioning of a church
- Requirements – very similar to list in 1 Timothy 3

- **Confronting False Teachers**

- Titus + Elders to - Rebuke + Silence False Teachers
- Teach + Insist on Sound Doctrine
(Gospel Message was now being put together as doctrine & creeds)

Ch. 2. Godly Living in Church

- **Older Men** → disciplined + reliable
- **Older Women** → be examples + teach - not gossip
- **Younger Women** → build their families + self-controlled
- **Younger Men** → self-discipline + integrity + sound speech
- **Slaves** → Respect + Submit + Trustworthy.
Not Stealing. Witness for Christ through
behaviour
- **ALL Believers** → **Live Godly Lives**
- which reflect our **Position in Christ**

Ch. 3. Godly Living Outside Church

- **NOT** to speak evil of Unbelievers or quarrel with them
- **BECAUSE** we were all once disobedient & led astray before saved
- **RECOGNISE** – Saved by God’s mercy NOT our good works
- **THEREFORE** – no place for pride as Christians in the world.
Saved because of his Grace NOT our goodness

(verses 2 – 7)

Key Messages

1. **Godly Elders** are needed for a healthy church (1:5-9)
2. **Challenge any False Teaching** in your church, which is contrary to the Gospel - before it destroys people's faith & lives (1:13)
3. **Now that Saved** by God's grace – devote self to Good Works (3:8)
4. **Put to death** ungodliness & worldly passions
5. **With unbelievers** show respect & courtesy despite worldly thinking & behaviours – knowing that we are saved by God's grace NOT any goodness of our own

Recommended Books : References

1. Benware. 1990. *Survey of the New Testament*.
2. Berding & Williams. 2008. *What the New Testament Authors Really Cared About*
3. Tenney. 1985. *New Testament Survey*.
4. Jensen. 1981. *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament*.
5. Wiersbe. 1992. *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*.
6. Wilkinson & Boa. 2002. *Talk Thru the Bible*.

Revision Questions

- What is the style of this letter ?
- Where was Titus sent to ?
- When in Paul's life was this written ?
- What was the main problem of the churches on this Island ?
- What was Titus instructed to do on this Island ?
- What is the main theme of the letter ?
- What is needed for stable, healthy, growing churches ?
- How should we live once we've been saved by Grace ?
- How should our salvation by grace affect our attitude to unbelievers ?