



Paul's Letter to Titus

Chapter 1

a verse by verse study

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New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

7 Churches

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3 John

Jude

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

"Prison Epistles"

Major Doctrinal Epistles



New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Pastoral

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3, John

Jude

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

Events in Paul's Life

- Held coats while Stephen stoned
- Converted on road to Damascus
- In Arabian desert during next 3 years
- Forced to flee Damascus in a basket
- Spends 10 years in Tarsus
- Barnabas brings him to Antioch
- 1st Missionary Journey

Events in Paul's Life

- The Council in Jerusalem
- 2nd Missionary Journey
- Timothy joins Paul
- 3rd Missionary Journey
- Arrested in Judea (58 AD)
- Imprisoned in Caesarea for 2 years
- Appealed to Caesar
- Shipwrecked enroute to Rome

Events in Paul's Life

- On Malta for 3 months
- House arrest in Rome Acts 28:30-31
 - (The Book of Acts breaks off at the beginning of this imprisonment)
 - Wrote the “Prison epistles”
 - *Ephesians, Philippians, & Colossians*
- Acquitted of charges and released
 - Wrote *1st Timothy* and **Titus** from Macedonia
- Arrested and put in a dungeon
 - Wrote *2nd Timothy* (apparently his final one)

Introduction

- While Timothy was laboring in metropolitan Ephesus, Titus was on the island of Crete
- Titus was a Greek believer **Gal 2:3**
- He, too, had been won to Christ by Paul **Tit 1:4**
- He had served Paul on special assignments in Corinth **2 Cor 7:13-14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18**
- In fact, Paul wrote: “As for Titus, he is my *partner* and fellow worker among you.” **2 Cor 8:23**
 - Many are “fellow workers;” but few are really partners—fiduciaries.

Crete

- Crete was not an easy place to work. There was a great deal of mythology and tradition on this Greek island.
- According to tradition, Minos was the source of their laws. He conquered the Aegean pirates who were there and established a navy.

Crete

- After the Trojan War, the principal cities of the island formed themselves into several independent republics, including Knossos, Cydonia, and Gortyna.
- There were apparently churches in all of these places. Crete was annexed to the Roman Empire about 67 B.C.

Introduction

- Paul had assigned Titus to set things in order. Jews from Crete were present at *Shavout* (the Feast of Pentecost), **Acts 2** and these may have been the core group who had returned to their land.
- This letter is a condensed version of Paul's 1st letter to Timothy, written about the same time, about 64-67 AD
- He will emphasize “the Blessed Hope” **2:13**

Titus: Paul's Troubleshooter

- One of Paul's most trusted workers
- Accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the difficult visit to Jerusalem Council Gal 2:1-5
- Sent on the diplomatic mission to Corinth
 - Took the severely worded letter tackling their unruliness
 - Given instructions to enforce at Corinth
 - Upon meeting Paul in Macedonia, much had been accomplished 2 Cor 2:12-13; 7:5-16
- Paul left him in authority in Crete

Titus

Maintain Good Works

- As to Elders in the Assembly 1
 - Put things in order
- As to Classes in Particular 2
 - Adorn the doctrine
- As to Members in General 3
 - Maintain good works

Paul's Epistle to Titus

Chapter 1: All things set in order

Chapter 2: Sound in doctrine;

Chapter 3: Perform good works.

Chapter 1

- Paul reminded Titus of three responsibilities he had to fulfill:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Preach God's Word | 1:1-4 |
| 2. Ordain Qualified Leaders | 1:5-9 |
| 3. Silence False Teachers | 1:10-16 |

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

Titus 1:1

- Paul used the phrase “a bonds slave (*doulos*) of God”
- And Apostle “sent one” “given instructions”
- “According to” - a key Greek preposition, *kata. kata*
 - (1) “According to the **faith** of God’s elect”
 - (2) “The **truth** which is [according to] godliness”

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie,
promised before the world began;

Titus 1:2

- It is not wrong to have hope in something better than the here & now!
- We have so much to look forward to, this is just a 'shadowland'
- 'God said it and HE can't lie!'
- "Promised before the world began."

Eph 1:4

But hath in due times manifested his word
through preaching, which is committed unto me
according to the commandment of God our
Saviour;

Titus 1:3

“Preaching” = Greek word *kh, rugma kerugma*,
“herald” or “trumpet;” Proclamation.

(3) “According to commandment of God”

– God reveals His message through preaching

1 Cor 1:21

This was given by God and not by men

Gal 1:10-12

“Savior” - frequent term in Titus:
a Savior is what sinners need.

To Titus, *mine* own son after the common faith:
Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Titus 1:4**

(4) “After the common faith”

- “Common” = to have in common. This faith is the possession of *all* of God’s people. Different labels, the same faith.

Cf. Jude 3

4 “According to’s”

- (1) “According to the faith of God’s elect”
- (2) “The truth which is [according to] godliness”
- (3) “According to commandment of God”
- (4) “After the common faith”
 - As you review these four elements, (and all three Pastoral Epistles) you can recognize how Paul related everything in his ministry to **the Word of God.**

- Paul reminded Titus of three responsibilities he had to fulfill:

1. Preach God's Word **1:1-4**

2. Ordain Qualified Leaders **1:5-9**

3. Silence False Teachers **1:10-16**

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Titus 1:5

- No one church (congregation of believers) has it all right!
- The congregations in the various churches on Crete had things lacking
- Titus was to address this through encouragement and pastoral leadership
- The pastor is appointed by God, the Elders are appointed by the pastor to help and support the work of the pastor that the whole congregation should grow together in knowledge and grace

If any be blameless, the husband of one wife,
having faithful children not accused of riot or
unruly.

Titus 1:6

Any church elder should have a good reputation that is not tarnished. They must be disciplined and the Fruit of the Spirit must be evident in their lives and that of their family.

We are to represent Christ who has just one Bride, who loved her and gave Himself for her

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Titus 1:7

- A bishop (*episkopos*) and an elder (*presbuteros*) are almost synonymous terms: A mature person both physically and spiritually; an overseer.
- A bishop could be considered an elder with additional responsibilities, but also appointed by the pastor, hence Paul lays out the 9 qualities Titus should look for

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Titus 1:7

- (1) “Blameless” (*anegkletos*) one that cannot be called into to account, unproveable, unaccused, have no appearance of evil!
- (2) “Steward of God” - A steward does not own, but manages all that his master has put in his hands. He is a *fiduciary*.

A Biblical Example: Joseph

- Biblical example: Joseph, who had complete control over all of Potifphar's business

Gen 39:1-9

- The most important characteristic of a steward is faithfulness

1 Cor 4:1-2; Matt 25:21; Luke 16:1-13

- An elder must never say, "This is mine!" All that he has comes from God

John 3:27

- *All Christians ought to be faithful stewards, not just Pastors!*

(3) “Not self-willed” - not overbearing.

There’s no room for arrogance here.

(4) “Not soon angry” - Not touchy; not

have a quick temper. There is a

righteous anger against sin Eph 4:26

But that’s not usually our problem.

- “Temper is such a wonderful thing that it’s a shame to loose it.”

But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men,
sober, just, holy, temperate;

Titus 1:8

(5) “Lover of good men” – good: books, music,
causes, et al.

(6) “Just” – upright; a man of integrity who sticks by
his word and who practices what he preaches.

(7) “Holy” - unstained. “Be ye holy, for I am holy”

1 Pet 1:16

Root meaning: “different.” Different from the lost
because we are new creations by the grace of God

1 Cor 5:17

(8) “Temperate” - self-controlled; disciplined. This
includes our discipline of *time*, and our *desires*.
 (“temperance” means “self-control”) Gal 5:23

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 1:9

(9) “Holding fast the faithful word” - God’s Word is faithful because He cannot lie **v.2**

- In addition to building up the Church in “healthy doctrine,” Paul now turns to the need to refute false teachers who spread unhealthy doctrine.

Chapter 1

- Paul reminded Titus of three responsibilities he had to fulfill:

1. Preach God's Word 1:1-4

2. Ordain Qualified Leaders 1:5-9

3. Silence False Teachers 1:10-16

For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Titus 1:10

- Titus faced the same type of false teachers as those acknowledged in **1 Timothy**: a mixture of legalism, man-made traditions, and mysticism
- “Unruly” = rebellious; self-appointed, without authority.
- “Vain talkers.” Impressive, but vapid hot-air.

Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Titus 1:11

- The great tragedy is that this *deceived* people.
- “Whole houses” = home meetings were the norm.
- Watch out for strange doctrines from strangers...
...for money motives.

One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

Titus 1:12

- Paul is quoting one of their own poets, Epimenides, born in Crete several centuries earlier.
 - There was a Greek word, *kretizein*, which means to speak like a Cretan, which was synonymous with being a liar.
 - Another poet wrote, “Crete, with a hundred cities doth maintain, and cannot deny this, though to lying given.”
- Note the adjectives: Not just beasts: *evil* beasts. Not just gluttons, but *lazy* gluttons.

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Titus 1:13

- Contend for the faith... **Jude 1:3**
- Priscilla and Aquila corrected Apollos
Acts 18:26

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and
commandments of men, that turn from the
truth.

Titus 1:14

- The teaching of legalism in two phases:
 - that you are *saved* by the law;
 - and that you are to *live* by the law.
- Laws are for a nation; Christians are saved—and are to live—by grace.

Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Titus 1:15

- More than just money motives: minds and consciences defiled. **1 Tim 4:2**
- One of the most miss-applied verses to defend ungodly practices. Paul was refuting the false teaching of legalists with reference to dietary laws. **1 Tim 4:3-5**
- Refusing “forbidden food” did *not* make you holier. **Mt 15:18-20.**
- Pornography cannot be justified;
“in the eye of the beholder.”

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Titus 1:16

- “Abominable” = detestable, disgusting.
- “Disobedient” = they cannot and will not be persuaded.
- “Reprobate” = not able to pass the test.
 - (Same word is used in **1 Cor 9:27**: “castaway;” an athletic term meaning “disqualified.”)

Summary

- What was Titus *to do*? Not stand by quietly.
- He was to “exhort and to convince” by means of “sound doctrine.” Tit 1:9
- He was to “stop their mouths” 1:11
- and rebuke them sharply 1:13
- Paul would give this same advice to Timothy in his final letter: “Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine” 2 Tim 4:2

Sound Doctrine

- Doctrine is the difference between life and death; *eternally*.
- You can choose what you want to believe, but you cannot change the consequences
- “Sound Doctrine” brings us to **Chapter 2**

