

TEACHING
FROM
THE BOOK OF
TITUS



Session 1. Introduction

If you were to have to pick one book of the Bible in which to study, what would it be?

TITUS....Who in the world is Titus?

Why is the Book of Titus important enough to place in the New Testament (one of 27 books)?

Did Titus write the Book of Titus?

Is it a book that is relevant for today?

WHO WAS TITUS?

- Titus, one of the young men who accompanied the Apostle Paul on many of his missionary journeys, first came to Christ as a Greek in the city of Antioch.
- At the time this letter was written, Titus was on the island of Crete (Crete: located in the Mediterranean Sea, South of Greece).
- Titus was a Greek Christian and young pastor whom Paul entrusted to oversee the churches in Crete.

The Letter and the Recipient:

- Letter addressed to Titus, one of Paul's converts (1:4) and a considerable help to Paul in his ministry.
- Paul mentored Titus instructing him on some areas in which Titus needed to address.
- Because these instructions on faith and behavior are particularly relevant in an immoral, worldly society, they still apply to churches and Christians today.
- Paul sent the letter to Titus with Zenas and Apollos, who were on a journey that took them through Crete (3:13), to give Titus personal authorization and guidance in meeting opposition (1:5; 2:1,7-8,15; 3:9), instructions about faith and conduct, and warnings about false teachers. Paul also informed Titus of his future plans for him (3:12).

Note:

- **When Paul left Antioch to discuss the gospel with the Jerusalem leaders, he took Titus with him (Gal 2:1-3); acceptance of Titus (a Gentile) as a Christian without circumcision vindicated Paul's stand there (Gal 2:3-5).**

- Presumably Titus, who is not referred to in Acts (but is mentioned 13 times in the rest of the NT), worked with Paul at Ephesus during his third missionary journey.
- It is likely that he was the bearer of Paul's severe letter to the Corinthian church. Paul was concerned about the possible negative reaction of the Corinthian church to his severe letter, so he arranged to meet Titus at Troas (2Co 2:12-13). When Titus did not appear, Paul traveled on to Macedonia. There he met Titus and with great relief heard the good news that the worst of the trouble was over at Corinth (2Co 7:6-7, 13-14).
- Titus, accompanied by two Christian brothers, was the bearer of the 2 Corinthians' letter (2Co 8:23) and was given the responsibility for making final arrangements for the collection of the saints in Jerusalem, begun a year earlier, in Corinth (see 2Co 8:6, 16-17).
- Following Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment (Ac 28), he and Titus worked briefly in Crete (1:5), after which he commissioned Titus to remain there as his representative and complete some needed work (1:5; 2:15; 3:12-13).
- Paul asked Titus to meet him at Nicopolis when a replacement arrived (3:12). Later, Titus went on a mission to Dalmatia (2Ti 4:10), the last word we hear about him in the NT.

Considering the assignments given him, he obviously was a capable and resourceful leader.

ISLAND OF CRETE: The fourth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, Crete lies directly south of the Aegean Sea. Paul's travels had given him some experiences there in Acts 27:7-13). Apparently Paul introduced Christianity in Crete when he and Titus visited the island. Paul left Titus there to organize the converts.

Themes in the Book of Titus:

- **Faithfully following the gospel leads to godly behavior.**

If a person believes in Christ, their actions will reflect those beliefs. Good works do not save us, but they do reflect our salvation.

- **The church's survival depends on having godly men serve as **pastors and elders**.** Their lives will serve as shining examples to attract others to the gospel.

Paul lists several qualities of effective leaders.

- **Leaders should be good citizens, obeying the laws and treating everyone with kindness.**
- They should devote themselves to good works; avoiding quarrels and division within the church and discipline those who stir up trouble.

This letter provides an interesting little insight as to what went on in the early church, as the apostle traveled about and sent these young men as apostolic delegates to do special work for him in various places.

- **In the background of this letter, we can discover the character of the Cretans.** In one of the most unusual passages in the New Testament, the apostle quotes from one of the ancient writers of his day, a secular Greek poet who describes these people among whom young Titus had to labor. He says,
One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." (Titus 1:12 RSV)
- **Paul is obviously writing a private message to his son-in-the-faith, Titus, and wants him to understand the formidable nature of the problem he is to resolve.**
- **He is dealing with people who are characterized in these three (3) ways (liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons).**
He underscores this by saying, "This testimony is true,"
(Titus 1:13a RSV). These people are like this.
- **As we look at the message of this letter, we see that these three characteristics of the Cretan people seem to be described and amplified in various passages.**

For example, Paul says about certain ones,

To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are corrupted. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their deeds [they're liars]; they are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good deed. (Titus 1:15-16 RSV)

Now this was the kind of society in which the Christian church was living, and this was the kind of national character that Titus was up against. Here were people whose minds and consciences were corrupted -- they profess to know God, but they deny him by their deeds.

Very Important:

When the church has a problem, it is because the world is invading the church instead of the church invading the world.

- The gospel is intended to be a disturbing element, to change society. Therefore, whenever the church is true to its authentic message, it is always against the status quo.
- The church is a revolutionary body -- it always has been -- and we can thus be very much in sympathy with some of the revolutionary movements of our own day.
- But, the difference is that the church challenges the status quo with the power of God, something that no other organization or group can do.

What can the church do without the power of God?

Why do you think the world is trying to get the church to compromise with the world view?

The Power of God is found in his servants who seek His power and are willing to stand for Biblical truth!