

Book of Titus

Synopsis



Introduction

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| Book No | 56 |
| Name | Titus |
| Written By | Paul |
| Testament | New |
| Category | Epistles |
| Date Written | Approx. 64 A.D |
| Place Written | Macedonia |
| Audience | Titus |
| Purpose | To advise Titus in his responsibility of supervising the churches on the island of Crete |
| History Covered | NA |
| Chapters | 3 |
| Verses | 46 |
| Key Verse | For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee (1:5) |
| Key People | ❖ Paul ❖ Titus |
| Key Places | ❖ Crete |

Purpose of the Book

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. And he knew that eventually he would not be there to build, encourage, discipline, and teach. So he trained young pastors to assume leadership in the churches after he was gone. Paul urged them to center their lives and preaching on the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and to train others to carry on the ministry (2 Timothy 2:2).

Titus was a Greek believer. Taught and nurtured by Paul, he stood before the leaders of the church in Jerusalem as a living example of what Christ was doing among the Gentiles (Galatians 2:1-3). Like Timothy, he was one of Paul's trusted traveling companions and closest friends. Later he became Paul's special ambassador (2 Corinthians 7:5-16) and eventually the overseer of the churches on Crete (Titus 1:5). Slowly and carefully, Paul developed Titus into a mature Christian and a responsible leader. The letter to Titus was a step in this discipleship process. As with Timothy, Paul told Titus how to organize and lead the churches.

Paul begins with a longer than usual greeting and introduction, outlining the leadership progression: Paul's ministry (1:1-3), Titus's responsibilities (1:4-5), and those leaders whom Titus would appoint and train (1:5). Paul then lists pastoral qualifications (1:6-9) and contrasts faithful elders with the false leaders and teachers (1:10-16).

Next, Paul emphasizes the importance of good deeds in the life of the Christian, telling Titus how to relate to the various age groups in the church (2:2-6). He urges Titus to be a good example of a mature believer (2:7-8) and to teach with courage and conviction (2:9-15). He then discusses the general responsibilities of Christians in society: Titus should remind the people of these (3:1-8), and he should avoid divisive arguments (3:9-11). Paul concludes with a few matters of itinerary and personal greetings (3:12-15).

Difficulties in the church are compounded when there are problems with the leadership. This letter teaches that the supreme aim of church government is the preservation of revealed truth and the safeguarding of ethical standards. Therefore, church leaders must be exemplary in life-style and sound in doctrine. This letter also

stresses the close connection between sound doctrine and morals. Truth is always intended to determine life and to promote godliness.

Paul's letter to Titus is brief, but it is an important link in the discipleship process, helping a young man grow into leadership in the church. As you read this pastoral letter, you will gain insight into the organization and life of the early church, and you will find principles for structuring contemporary churches. But you should also see how to be a responsible Christian leader. Read the letter to Titus and determine, like Paul, to train men and women to lead and teach others.

Overview

- ❖ 56th book of the BIBLE, 17th in the New Testament, 12th of the 21 epistles and 12th of the 14 epistles written by Paul
- ❖ Titus is not mentioned in the Book of Acts.
- ❖ Titus is mentioned 13 times in the writings of Paul.
- ❖ Apparently Titus was a convert of Paul. 1:4
- ❖ He may have been from Antioch in Syria.
- ❖ On three different occasions Paul sent Titus to Corinth.
- ❖ The island of Crete, located in the Mediterranean Sea:
 - Was 156 miles long.
 - Was up to 30 miles wide.
- ❖ A number of Jews from Crete were present in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost when the church was established. Acts 2:11
- ❖ Paul was involved in evangelizing in Crete after his release from his first Roman imprisonment and then left Titus on the island to finish organizing the congregations.
- ❖ Paul wrote to Titus from Corinth in A.D. 63 in order to take advantage of the journey of Zenas and Apollos who would be traveling by Crete.
- ❖ Frequently used words in the Book of Titus.
 - "Good works" - 7 times.
 - "Savior" - 7 times.
 - "Salvation" - 7 times.
 - "Sound doctrine" - 7 times
- ❖ Paul is the only New Testament writer that quotes from heathen writers. 1:12; Acts 17:28

❖ Paul instructs Titus:

- To maintain proper order in the church.
- In the qualifications of elders.
- To preach the truth.
- To be ready to every good work.
- To keep the church pure.
- To live as a faithful example.
- To rebuke false teachers

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Titus

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Underlying the instructions of Paul is the theme that Christ is building His church, carefully choosing the stones that make up this habitation for God. Paul also emphasizes Christ as our Redeemer (2:14; 3:4–7), and presents His Second Coming as an incentive to holy living (2:12, 13).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is understood throughout the entire epistle. The Cretans cannot change themselves (1:12, 13), and regeneration can only be the work of the Holy Spirit (3:5). The one who experiences a new birth receives the Holy Spirit in order to maintain a victorious life-style patterned after that of Christ (3:6–8).

Mega Themes of Titus

A GOOD LIFE

The Good News of salvation is that we can't be saved by living a good life; we are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ. But the gospel transforms people's lives, so that they eventually perform good deeds. Our service won't save us, but we are saved to serve.

A good life is a witness to the gospel's power. As Christians, we must have commitment and discipline to serve. Are you putting your faith into action by serving others?

CHARACTER

Titus's responsibility in Crete was to appoint elders to maintain proper organization

and discipline, so Paul listed the qualities needed for the eldership. Their conduct in their homes revealed their fitness for service in the church.

It's not enough to be educated or to have a loyal following to be Christ's kind of leader. You must have self-control, spiritual and moral fitness, and Christian character. Who you are is just as important as what you can do.

CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS

Church teaching must relate to various groups. Older Christians were to teach and to be examples to younger men and women. People of every age and group have a lesson to learn and a role to play.

Right living and right relationships go along with right doctrine. Treat relationships with other believers as an outgrowth of your faith.

CITIZENSHIP

Christians must be good citizens in society, not just in church. Believers must obey the government and work honestly.

How you fulfill your civic duties is a witness to the watching world. Your community life should reflect Christ's love as much as your church life does.

Life Lessons in Titus

| Truth | Lesson |
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| <p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Titus calls us to be champions of grace, diligently teaching that good works cannot save us. Yet, we are equally to be champions of godly living, giving clear guidelines for righteous conduct and behavior. Grace is never to be an excuse for ungodly living, but we are to live in godliness because Jesus has forgiven us and set us free by His grace. God's grace and the power of</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that legalism actually disqualifies you for good works. Do good works in response to the grace of Jesus Christ. When we do things out of legalism to try to earn salvation or favor with God, essentially we are saying that Christ's work on the cross was not enough. ❖ Submit to authority, be ready to do good works for the Lord, and do not speak evil of others. |

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| <p>His Spirit enable us to lead peaceful, godly lives in humility and truth.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Seek to live in peace—to be gentle to others with humility. ❖ Do good works because Jesus has mercifully forgiven you, washed away your sin, and made you new by the power of the Holy Spirit. ❖ Avoid arguments and fights about questions that pertain to legalism and outward forms of religion. |
| <p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Complete surrender of our lives to Jesus frees us to love Him and devote ourselves to God wholly. This is the meaning of “bondservant.” When we love God unreservedly, our devotional lives are set ablaze with the fire of God. The Holy Spirit is free to mold and shape us and use us beyond what we thought possible. Devote yourself to God afresh today. Give Him all of you; do not withhold anything from Him. Give yourself to your Master as a bondservant of God.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Be a bondservant of God. Understand that to be a bondservant is to voluntarily become a slave to your Master. Be willing to submit yourself to Jesus as Lord and Master of your entire life. Devote your whole life to Him, and follow Him fully. ❖ Worship God, who promised us eternal life even before time began. Place your hope confidently in His promise, for He cannot lie. He is trustworthy. ❖ Worship Jesus; give Him all of your devotion and love. Know that Jesus expresses God’s kindness and love toward us. |
| <p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>We have been made holy to live holy lives. God’s grace teaches us to do good works not to earn salvation, but because we are free from sinful behaviour and free to do good things for God.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that Jesus rescued us from evil and from repeatedly falling into sin. He has made us holy. He has made us His own, special people. ❖ He has also made us to burn with zeal and enthusiasm to do good works by His grace. Be zealous, therefore, and do good things for God. |

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| <p>This is the privilege and inheritance of God’s people, not a harsh law to be followed and fulfilled. Holy living is the response of God’s chosen and special people to the redeeming love and immeasurable grace of Jesus Christ.</p> | |
| <p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Some think walking by faith only has to do with bold acts of power in the Holy Spirit. While these are part of our faith journey, walking by faith also calls us to everyday interaction with and leading of God’s people. Paul left Titus in charge of resolving the problems in the church in Crete. He charged him to confront those living in ungodliness, teaching deceptive doctrines, and causing division in the church. Carrying out this demanding responsibility no doubt required great faith. Leaders must walk in faith as they interact with and lead God’s people.</p> <p>In faith, rely on God when it is necessary to confront any form of ungodliness, remembering to have the love of Jesus as your motive and example.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that we all face problems that need to be resolved and set in order. In faith, go to God, pray, and ask Him to use you and to give you wisdom and insight that will help to solve the problems you or those around you face. ❖ Remember that the goal of all rebuke is to restore the person in deception back to sound, healthy faith. Give correction in a manner that will bring restoration. ❖ Encourage faith, exhort people to live in godliness, expose deceptive doctrine and divisive behavior, convict through the power of the Spirit, and reprove in order to restore to full, strong faith. ❖ Warn those who bring division in the church to stop. The Bible’s language is strong: After one or two warnings by leadership, fellowship is to be broken with one who continues to be divisive. ❖ Understand, division in the church is seen as perverse behavior. Seek unity in the body of Christ. |
| <p>Lessons for leaders</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Leaders appoint qualified elders to share ministry with you |

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| <p>Christian leaders are not called to lead alone. Rather they are to involve other faithful qualified persons to help them oversee the people of GOD. The primary role of the Christian leader is teaching. He is to instruct others in godly living, regardless of his station in life. Also he is to guard GOD's church from false teachers and deceivers who take advantage of the people of GOD. The godly leader's teaching is to be first through the life that he lives. People should be able to look at the Christian leader and say that is how I am supposed to live. Also he needs to be an able communicator of truth</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Make sure they practice truth and are able to communicate it effectively ❖ Leaders silence the rebellious ❖ Identify and rebuke sharply those whose lives are only talk and who seek to deceive others ❖ Aggressively prevent the ruination of homes and churches by disallowing such to teach false doctrine ❖ Leaders take an active role in teaching others how to live self controlled exemplary and fruitful lives ❖ Leaders teach both by precept and example ❖ Exemplify excellent character and self control ❖ Do not allow your words to provide an occasion for accusation ❖ Leaders teach your people to be excellent employees not stealing not rebelling against their employer's authority. Always being loyal and never injuring their employer's reputation |
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Praise Points in Titus

- ❖ The truth, which leads to godly living (1:1)
- ❖ His promise of eternal life, made before the world began (1:2)
- ❖ God's truthfulness (1:2)
- ❖ The power we have to turn from godless living (2:12)
- ❖ The blessed hope of christ's promised return to earth (2:13)
- ❖ His love for us as his very own people (2:14), redeeming and rescuing us from our foolishness (3:3-5).

Worship Insights in Titus

Paul required those who desired to lead worship and teach doctrine to live devout and disciplined lives (1:6-9). Even their teaching was to promote right living (2:1-10). But is this in keeping with the Good News of Jesus Christ, which offers forgiveness by grace alone? As if anticipating this question, Paul responded, “He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy” (3:5).

- ❖ Our confidence in God’s promise of eternal life leads to worship (1:2).
- ❖ Sound doctrine results in encouraging others with right teaching (1:9).
- ❖ The hope of Christ’s return motivates believers to live a holy life (2:12-13).
- ❖ Instruction in worshipful living should be geared to people of all ages, sexes, and walks of life (2:2-10).

An Outline of Titus

I. The Christian and Truth: Tit. 1:1-2:1

- A. The Doctrinal Basis of Truth: [Tit 1:1-4](#)
- B. The True Leader: [Tit 1:5-9](#)
- C. Confronting False Teachers: Tit. 1:10-2:1

II. The Christian and Goodness: [Tit 2:2-14](#)

- A. Goodness in Maturing: [Tit 2:2-3](#)
- B. Goodness in Marriage and Family: [Tit 2:4-5](#)
- C. Goodness in Christian Leaders: [Tit 2:6-8](#)
- D. Goodness in Christian Slaves: [Tit 2:9-10](#)
- E. The Doctrinal Basis for Goodness: [Tit 2:11-14](#)

III. The Christian and Good Works: Tit. 2:15-3:15

- A. Good Works and Good Citizens: Tit. 2:13-3:2
- B. The Doctrinal Basis for Good Works: [Tit 3:3-7](#)
- C. The Usefulness of Good Works: [Tit 3:8-11](#)
- D. Good Works in Action: [Tit 3:12-15](#)