

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

SOUND DOCTRINE AND HOLY LIVING

A Quick Look at the Pastoral Letter to Titus

Fast Facts on Titus

Written by? 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)

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*



Source: ESV STUDY BIBLE

Some things and some people just go together like Adam and Eve... Tarzan and Jane ... Batman and Robin ... Jack and Jill. Not seeing 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.**" (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 heavily emphasizes 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.