

Titus: The Practice of Grace

Introduction

Writer and Readership

- Titus has: 3 chapters, 46 verses, and 921 words in your King James Bible
- Titus 1:1—states that the Apostle Paul is the author of the book. There is no scriptural reason to think that Paul did not write the book.
- Titus 1:4—the book is clearly addressed to Titus
- Titus had been one of Paul's close companions in ministry.
 - II Corinthians 2:13, 7:6, 8:1-6, 16-17—Titus was sent by Paul to deal with serious irregularities in the church at Corinth, and particularly with their delinquency as stewards of the material wealth God had entrusted to them (Stam).
 - Galatians 2:1-3—He accompanied Paul as the Gentile representative to the great council at Jerusalem, whence Paul had been sent to defend Gentile liberty from circumcision and the Law (Stam).
- Titus was someone who was very near and dear to Paul's heart

Date

- Titus 1:5—Titus is stationed on the island of Crete when Paul addresses this letter to him.
- Crete is an island in the Mediterranean Sea off the north coast of Africa (see map).
- The island of Crete is 156 miles long and up to 30 miles wide.



Date

- Its first century inhabitants were notorious for untruthfulness and immorality (Titus 1:12-13) and the expression “to act the Cretan” became an idiom meaning to “lay the liar.”
- Acts 2:11—while there were Jews from Crete present at Pentecost it is unlikely that they are responsible for the founding of local churches on the Island of Crete.
- Acts 27:7-9, 12-13, 21—Paul was on Crete during this Journey to Rome for his first imprisonment.
- It appears unlikely that Paul would have been at liberty to establish churches on Crete at this time.

Date

- Titus 1:5—notice that Paul left Titus on Crete which implies that he went back after his first imprisonment.
- Most people generally agree that the book was written between Paul's first and second imprisonments. Approximately between 62 and 67 A.D.

Theme/Purpose

- Titus has much in common with the two letters addressed to Timothy. I and II Timothy the emphasis is on doctrine whereas in Titus it is on good works that are produced by the doctrine living in you (Titus 3:8, 14).
- I Timothy—The local “Church” and its “Minister”
 - Charge
- II Timothy—The True Minister and His Reactions
 - Challenge
- Titus—The Local Church—Its Leaders and Members
 - Caution— a strong and urgent reminder that sound faith must be accompanied by good works.

Theme/Purpose

- These three “Pastoral” epistles are really a trinity in unity, exhorting us to “guard” the precious “deposit” of the body of truth committed to the Apostle Paul.
 - I Timothy—we are to protect it
 - II Timothy—we are to proclaim
 - Titus—we are to practice it
- According to Titus the ideal church: 1) has an orderly organization, 2) is sound in doctrine, 3) is pure in life, ready to every good work.

Titus at a Glance

FOCUS	APPOINT ELDERS	SET THINGS IN ORDER		
REFERENCE	1:1 ————— 1:10 ————— 2:1 ————— 3:1 ————— 3:15			
DIVISION	ORDAIN QUALIFIED ELDERS	REBUKE FALSE TEACHERS	SPEAK SOUND DOCTRINE	MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS
TOPIC	PROTECTION OF SOUND DOCTRINE		PRACTICE OF SOUND DOCTRINE	
	ORGANIZATION	OFFENDERS	OPERATION	OBEDIENCE
LOCATION	PROBABLY WRITTEN IN CORINTH			
TIME	C. A.D. 63			

THE EPISTLE TO TITUS
The True Local Church—Its Leaders and Members

A CAUTION—"MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS" (iii. 8, 14).

Opening benediction i. 1-4.

1. AS TO ELDERS IN THE ASSEMBLY (i.).

As to the office—eldership (verse 5).

As to the men—blameless (verses 6-9).

As to the need—gainsayers (verses 10-16).

2. AS TO CLASSES IN PARTICULAR (ii.).

The older men and women (verses 2-3).

The younger men and women (verses 4-8).

Those in service to Masters (verses 9-14).

3. AS TO THE MEMBERS IN GENERAL (iii.).

Good works of every kind (verses 1-2).

The supreme inspiration (verses 3-8).

Avoid the unprofitable (verses 9-11).

Parting remarks—iii. 12-15.

Basic Workable Outline

- J. Vernon McGee presents the following outline:
- **Chapter One**: the church is to be an orderly organization (Titus 1:5)
 - Saved by Grace
- **Chapter Two**: the church is to teach and preach the word of God (Titus 2:1)
 - Live by Grace
- **Chapter Three**: the church is supposed to produce good works (Titus 3:1)
 - Grace motivates believers to produce good works
- All problems in a local church can be traced back to a deficiency in any of these categories.

The House of Doctrine
Romans 16:25-26 Basic Plan
of Believers Establishment

Glory of God's
Grace
How prophecy and
mystery fit
together

"The Scriptures of the
Prophets"

The Coming

Goal of God's
Grace
Eph. 3:6-9

"Preaching of Jesus Christ
According to the Revelation of
the Mystery"

The believer must understand
the mystery of the Body of
Christ
Ephesians 3:9

The Church

Grace
I Cor. 3:9-10

"My Gospel" Paul's gospel
forms the foundation

The Cross

The Cross

The Church

The Coming

Doctrine: what we believe

Romans

Ephesians

1&2 Thess.

Reproof: fixing poor behavior in light of doctrine

1&2 Corinthians

Philippians

When God raptures the church we will be with Him in heaven and no longer need Reproof or Correction

Correction: fixing bad doctrine

Galatians

Colossians

Grace

Goal

Glory

Instruction in Righteousness

The Congregation

1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Godliness