

## 1 Titus – Who, What, Why, When?

- ◆ **Written by whom?**
  - Paul, the apostle. Almost every commentary agrees.
- ◆ **Written when and where?**
  - Written after his release from the first Roman imprisonment, between AD63 and AD65. Possibly written from Corinth.
- ◆ **Written to whom?**
  - To Titus, one of Paul's converts. Titus went with Paul to Jerusalem as a Gentile convert. Worked with Paul at Ephesus. Worked briefly in Crete, then was commissioned by Paul to remain there as his (Paul's) representative. Met Paul at Nicopolis (west coast of Greece) and later went on a mission to Dalmatia (modern Yugoslavia). To Paul, he was a trustworthy, efficient, and valued young co-worker. In fact, Paul called him "my true son".
- ◆ **What form?**
  - A personal letter to give Titus authorization and guidance in meeting opposition, instructions about faith and conduct, and warnings about false teachers.
- ◆ **What's it about?**
  - There were two main reasons Paul wrote. One was to let Titus know about the trip through Crete that was planned by Zenas and Apollos. The other reason was to strengthen Titus as Paul's personal representative in carrying out a difficult assignment.
- ◆ **Written for what purpose?**
  - In NT times Crete had sunk to such a low moral level that the dishonesty, gluttony and laziness of the people there were known everywhere. It was necessary to teach them that Christian faith demanded holy lives.

## 2 Titus – Chapter 1– Scripture Questions

1. When did God bring his word, the Gospel, to light? (vs. 3)
2. Why was Titus left in Crete? (vs. 5)
3. List the positive descriptions of elders. (vs. 6-9)
  1. 6.
  2. 7.
  3. 8.
  4. 9.
  5. 10.
4. Why was it necessary to silence the rebellious talkers and deceivers? (vs. 11)
5. How had one of the Cretan prophets described the Cretan people? (vs. 12)
6. What help would it be to rebuke the people sharply? (vs. 13-14)
7. To the pure, all things are \_\_\_\_\_. To those who are corrupted and do not believe, \_\_\_\_\_ is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 15)
8. The troublemakers in the Cretan churches claimed to know God, but what did their actions prove? (vs. 16)

### 3 Titus – Chapter 1- What Did It Mean To Them?

Titus was successful in reconciling the Corinthians with Paul, and evidently served Paul in many ways after that time. A major part of his mission work probably took place in Crete. This letter was not only a personal letter of encouragement to him, however, but was meant to be read aloud to the believers in Crete. Paul's initial greeting to Titus is a reminder of his authority and of the ongoing trouble with Jewish opponents. So, the instructions to Titus were also instructions and teachings for those who heard them.

The Cretan church was in a primitive state, meaning that they had no elders or deacons to guide them. Paul wanted Titus to fix the situation by appointing appropriate people to help guide the struggling church. It was important that the people selected be mature in their faith and experienced in guiding and teaching the immature Christians. The goal, for Paul, was that all would learn the right way to live in response to their salvation.

There were evidently more than a few among them who were converted Jews. These people wanted to force the Gentile Christians to follow Jewish law. Paul was adamant that these people were wrong, they were causing others to falter in their faith, and that they needed to be stopped immediately. Even if they were sincere in their efforts, they needed to learn better and change.

## 4 Titus – Chapter 1 - Application Questions

1. Verse 3 talks about God's 'appointed season' for the gospel light being brought into the world. What do you think God's 'appointed season' for our church is supposed to be producing?
2. In the Greek literature of the time, 'to Cretanize' meant to lie! If there were a saying 'to Garlandize' about our city, what would it mean? What would 'First Christianize' mean?
3. Some of the heretics in Crete had set up arbitrary, man-made rules against things they considered to be impure. What are some things today that people set up as arbitrary rules to judge whether people are good or not? (For instance, recycling is held up as the mark of a right-thinking person.)
4. For personal reflection: true Christian character can be seen by looking at how a person lives. A moral, godly life is a reflection of the heart of the believer. What does the life you live say about your heart?

## 5 Titus – Chapter 2– Scripture Questions

1. In harmony with gospel truth, Titus was supposed to guide the older men to be \_\_\_\_\_, worthy of \_\_\_\_\_, self-\_\_\_\_\_ and sound in faith, in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 1,2)
2. What kind of people were the older women supposed to be? (vs. 3)
3. Evidently Titus couldn't teach the young women directly. What were the older women supposed to teach them? (vs. 4,5)
4. Describe the kind of example Titus was supposed to provide for his congregation. (vs. 6-8)
5. Slaves were supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_ to their masters in everything, not to \_\_\_\_\_ back or to \_\_\_\_\_ from them. (vs. 9,10)
6. How does the grace of God teach us to live, so that the teaching about Jesus will be attractive to unbelievers? (vs. 12)
7. For what are we waiting? (vs. 13)
8. What did Jesus do for us? Why? What should we be eager to do? (vs. 14)

## 6 Titus – Chapter 2- What Did It Mean To Them?

- Paul tells Titus that his job is to help guide, encourage and strengthen the people's Christian ethics and lives, so that their visible activities would reflect the changes that the salvation of Christ has brought to them.
- Older people are to be sober, dignified and wise, with lives of healthy faith, love and endurance. No gossips or drunks! Younger people must live pure lives, showing self-control and using due diligence to take care of their families.
- Titus had to show them how to do these things by living it out in front of them, solid, sane and incorruptible. That way, no-one could find any reason to attack him for the things he taught.
- Paul wanted the slaves guided and taught to be loyal workers, a bonus to their masters. Their good characters would be shining lights.
- God's readiness to give and forgive, his salvation, is available for all. Christians should turn their backs on godless, indulgent lives and live in a way that honors God. When Christ comes back, he will be proud of us as his people.

## 7 Titus – Chapter 2 - Application Questions

1. Have you ever known someone whose life was damaged by ‘slanderos talk’ (vicious gossip)? What happened to them?
2. What do the words ‘self-control’ mean? Give specific examples of self-control.
3. The lifestyle that we lead will either help or hinder the effect of the Gospel on those around us. What are some lifestyles that help? What are some that hinder?
4. Followers of Christ are to show self-control. What are some of the areas where otherwise Christian people fail to show self-control?
5. For personal reflection: if we accept Christ as Savior and Lord, there are consequences. We are called to godly lives of integrity and self-control in an out-of-control world. What have you been unwilling to change about your own life?

## 8 Titus – Chapter 3– Scripture Questions

1. Titus was to remind the people to be: (vs. 1, 2)
  - a. Subject to rulers and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. To be \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. To be ready to do whatever is \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. To \_\_\_\_\_ no one.
  - e. To be peaceable and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. To show true \_\_\_\_\_ toward all.
2. Describe how we were before we were saved. (vs. 3)
3. Why were we saved? (vs. 5)
4. How were we saved? (v. 5, 6)
5. Having been justified by the grace of Jesus, we have become \_\_\_\_\_ with the hope of \_\_\_\_\_ . (vs. 7)
6. Why did Paul want Titus to stress these things? (vs. 8)
7. What is to be avoided? Why? (vs. 9)
8. How many times was a divisive person to be warned? Then what happened? (vs. 10)
9. To what were the people to learn to devote themselves? (vs. 14)
10. Why were they supposed to devote themselves this way? (vs. 14)

## 9 Titus – Chapter 3- What Did It Mean To Them?

In the last chapter, Paul was giving instructions about how Christians should behave inside their own community. In this chapter, he teaches how to live in the larger community outside of their church. The reason for their new behavior is the new life that they now have as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit. This has put them into a new relationship with God and the people around them.

Submission was a regular part of early teaching for new converts. This submission was a reflection of their submission to God himself, and to Jesus as Savior. Christians were to accept established authorities, unless that authority directly conflicted with God's revealed will (Acts 5:29). This did not rule out protest and pushback against unjust and ungodly forms of government.

Paul provides a kind of checklist of vices and sins, one that all people have experienced in one form or another. The list of good and admirable qualities show the characteristics of those who are committed to becoming like Jesus. Using an early baptismal hymn, Paul emphasizes how people were saved by God. He intervened in human history to accomplish what was needed.

The idea of renewal or regeneration by the Holy Spirit was critical. The baptism itself was symbolic of the spiritual change that occurred when the Holy Spirit acted. Through this action, the person was literally changed from one type of being to another, and this new being had salvation and the Spirit itself as a part of this new being. We are now all heirs of the hope of eternal life.

Near the end of his letter, Paul takes a parting shot at the troublemakers. He uses strong language towards them, calling them foolish, quarrelsome, divisive, warped and sinful. Titus is told to give them a chance to change, but if they refuse then they are to be cut out of the life of the community.

## 10 Titus – Chapter 3 - Application Questions

1. According to Paul, the practice of good works is the logical outcome of a true understanding of the grace of God. What counts as a ‘good work’?
2. Titus was warned not to get involved in ‘foolish controversies’ and ‘arguments and quarrels about the law’. When does an honest discussion become a foolish controversy?
3. Paul seems to say that people who deliberately refuse to accept correction (after they have been lovingly encouraged and taught better) are to be dropped, or at least not have any more effort spent on them. How can we tell the difference between this kind of wrong-headed stubbornness and someone who is simply persistent in their opinions?
4. Paul planned to send someone to replace Titus, so that Titus could come work with Paul in Dalmatia. What are some of the benefits of having pastors assigned to churches by higher authorities? What are some of the problems?