

TITUS

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BACKGROUND

Paul had visited Crete on his voyage to Rome ([Acts 27:7-21](#)) and again following his first Roman imprisonment, at which time he apparently established several churches. He left Titus behind to oversee those churches ([Titus 1:5](#)). Though the Cretan believers came out of a very different culture than the Jews, Jewish legalizers were making serious efforts to influence them. Paul wrote this letter to help Titus with that and other church-related issues.

AUTHOR

Paul ([Titus 1:1](#); see [Romans: Author](#)).

DATE AND LOCATION

A.D. 62-66, after 1 Timothy, from somewhere in Greece or Asia Minor where Paul was stopping on his way to Nicopolis ([Titus 3:12](#)). See [1 Timothy: Date and Location](#).

» **See also:** [Illustration: Epistles of Paul, The](#)

PURPOSE

- To encourage Titus to complete the task of organizing the churches in Crete ([Titus 1](#))
- To discuss the teaching of doctrine and the conduct of ministry ([Titus 2:1-3:11](#))
- To advise Titus of Paul's future plans and wishes ([Titus 3:12-14](#))

UNIQUE FEATURES

- Titus shows that grace does not negate the necessity of good works:
 - The book contains classic descriptions of God's grace ([Titus 2:11-14](#); [Titus 3:4-7](#)).
 - But it emphasizes good works as much as James does ([Titus 1:16](#); [Titus 2:7, 14](#); [Titus 3:1, 8, 14](#)).
- In Titus, Paul quoted Epimenides, a Cretan poet ([Titus 1:12](#); compare [Acts 17:28](#)).

COMPARISON WITH OTHER BIBLE BOOKS

2 Corinthians:

- Titus carried 2 Corinthians to the Corinthian church ([2 Cor. 8:16-23](#)); he is the recipient of this letter.

1 Timothy:

- Both emphasize church organization.

1, 2 Timothy:

- All are pastoral letters. 1, 2 Timothy are more personal; Titus is more official.

James:

- Both emphasize good works as the visible proof of saving faith (see [Unique Features](#)).

OUTLINE

- I. ELDERS FOR THE CHURCH ([Titus 1](#))
 1. Salutation ([Titus 1:1-4](#))
 2. Appointing elders ([Titus 1:5-9](#))
 - C. Combating false teachers ([Titus 1:10-16](#))
- II. MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH ([Titus 2-3](#))
 - A. Teaching doctrine ([Titus 2](#))
 - B. The conduct of ministry ([Titus 3:1-11](#))
 - C. Instructions, greetings ([Titus 3:12-15](#))

TIMELINE

| | |
|-------------|---|
| A.D. 35: | Paul's conversion |
| A.D. 60-64: | Paul imprisoned, released, visits Crete, writes Titus |
| c. A.D. 67: | Paul martyred |

[Titus 1:1-4](#) *From Paul, God's servant, to Titus, Paul's child.* Paul greeted Titus, who like Timothy was his "child" in the faith (see exposition on [§1 Tim. 1:1-2](#)). He reminded him of the glorious gospel they both proclaimed, which God had "promised . . . before the world began" (see exposition on [§Ephes. 1:1-6](#)).

[Titus 1:5-9](#) *"Select shepherds who meet the standards."* Paul had left Titus in Crete to bring order to new churches. He was to appoint godly leaders for each church. Concerning the requirements for such leaders ([Titus 1:6-9](#)), see exposition on [§1 Tim. 3:1-13](#).

[Titus 1:10-16](#) *"Here's why we need them."* The appointment of elders was urgent because false teachers—especially Judaizers—were trying to lead believers astray. Titus should soundly rebuke such deceivers. As the context suggests, "everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure" ([Titus 1:15](#)) refers to Mosaic dietary laws, not morals in general (see [Matthew 15:11](#); [Acts 10:15](#); [Romans 14:14](#)). Paul had strong words for those who "claim they know God" but in fact do not ([Titus 1:16](#); see [2 Tim. 3:5](#)). Christ condemned such hypocrites as well (see [Matthew 7:21-23](#); [Matthew 23](#)).

[Titus 2:1-10](#) *Tips for junior and senior saints.* Older men should be serious and sensible. Older women should be godly role models for younger women. Younger men should be self-controlled ([Titus 2:1-6](#)). The pastor himself should be an example in both walk and talk ([Titus 2:7-8](#)). Servants can elevate Christ by obeying their masters ([Titus 2:9-10](#)).

[Titus 2:11-15](#) *What to do while awaiting that blessed hope.* Paul reminded Titus of the good news of grace, showing how grace should affect everyday life ([Titus 2:11-14](#)). He urged him to boldly declare this truth ([Titus 2:15](#)). A proper understanding of grace will produce good works and Spirit-controlled living as we await Christ's return. See exposition on [§Romans 1:1-7](#) and on [§Ephes. 2:1-10](#).

[Titus 3:1-8](#) *Why Christians should be good citizens.* Christians should be models of good citizenship and good character ([Titus 3:1-2](#), [8](#)) because by God's grace and by the presence of his indwelling Holy Spirit ([Titus 3:4-7](#)) we have been saved and are being saved from our sinful, selfish human nature ([Titus 3:3](#)).

[Titus 3:9-11](#) *Avoid both debates and debaters.* Arguments such as those promoted by the Judaizers are useless and should be avoided. Those who promote such things should be admonished not to do so. If they fail to repent, they should be excommunicated (compare exposition on the following passages: [§Matthew 18:15-20](#); [§1 Corinthians 5:1-8](#); [§2 Thes. 3:6-15](#)).

[Titus 3:12-15](#) *"Hope to see you in Nicopolis soon!"* Paul stressed once more that God's grace should motivate good works. He told Titus he was sending someone to replace him for a while in Crete so that he could join Paul in Nicopolis.

TITUS

(PEOPLE TO REMEMBER FROM TITUS)

Key Fact: Ministry associate and disciple of Paul, who addressed a NT letter to him

Occupation: Missionary, pastor

Total Bible References: 12

Key References: [Titus 1-3](#); [2 Cor. 2:13](#); [2 Cor. 7:6-7, 13-15](#); [2 Cor. 8:16-23](#); [Galatians 2:1-3](#); [2 Tim. 4:10](#)

Titus Speaks

Word finally reached me here in Crete today. Paul has been martyred in Rome. I am told Luke, Mark, and Timothy were with him. How sorely we will miss him. I feel I have lost both a spiritual father and a brother. ([Titus 1:4](#); [2 Cor. 2:13](#); [2 Tim. 4:6, 9, 11](#))

Paul encouraged me to be faithful in my ministry here in Crete. Of course I will strive to do just that. But frankly, it is a very difficult place to minister, as I must deal with both the materialistic Cretans from without and the legalistic Judaizers from within. ([Titus 1:4-5, 10, 12](#); [Titus 3:9](#))

But it could be worse. What if I were called to pastor the church in Corinth? What a confused and carnal assembly of believers—though by God's grace I was able to help them a little. ([2 Cor. 7:6-7, 13-15](#))

Lord Jesus, I thank you for Paul's incredible influence in my life. He once exhorted me to "promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching." Through your grace I have and will! ([Titus 2:1](#))

Spiritual Lessons from Titus

- Paul told both Timothy ([1 Tim. 1:3](#)) and Titus ([Titus 1:5](#)) to remain where they were, suggesting that each of them may have desired to leave and assume a less difficult ministry elsewhere. Until unmistakably called elsewhere by God, we should bloom where we are planted.

Key Verses

"You yourself must be an example to them by doing good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. Let your teaching be so correct that it can't be criticized. Then those who want to argue will be ashamed because they won't have anything bad to say about us" ([Titus 2:7-8](#)).