

A Study of The Letter To Titus

We're going to have a detailed look into the book of Titus written by Paul. This is one of his instructional epistles written to his fellow workers and partners in Christ, for the establishment, nurturing and survival of churches planted throughout different countries during Paul's ministry.

We will go over who Titus was, the purpose of the letter, the instruction base given, and the warnings for the protection of the church and its believers, as well as how they are to represent the church. We'll also see some parallel passages of these same principles, and get an idea of the scope of Paul's ministry.

We'll start with a high level outline of this epistle:

Chapter 1	
Verses 1-4	Greeting and Declaration
Verses 5-16	Titus' Charge, the qualifications for elders and warnings/comparison of rebellious men.
Chapter 2	
Verses 1-15	What Titus (and elders) are to teach to the believing congregation
Chapter 3	
Verses 1-11	The call for, and importance of good deeds, and a reminder of who they are
Verses 12-15	Ending instructions and final greeting

Let's start by reading Chapter 1.

Who was Titus?

Let's go over briefly who Titus was, as it will lend to our understanding of his purpose in the letter, and Paul's ministry. Titus was close to Paul, at least at one point, and was one of his students and ministry partners. In verse 4, Paul calls Titus his "**true child in a common faith**", a term only Timothy shared with him (**1Ti 1:2**).

We're going to take a quick look into how Titus is mentioned in other epistles and how he was integrated with Paul's history and ministry.

Titus was a Greek/gentile believer. (**Gal 2:3**),

Gal 2:3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

in contrast to Timothy, who had a Jewish mother, but a Greek father, as stated in (**Act 16:1**).
[We won't go there, but you can check it out on your own if you wish]

To Paul, Titus was many things:

A brother (**2Co 2:13**)

Partner and Fellow worker. (**2Co 8:6, 23, 2Co 12:18**)

A source of comfort from God (**2Co 7:6, 13-14**)

We can see Paul, feeling the stress of his ministry, is comforted by Titus coming to him, as well as Titus himself being refreshed.

And finally a True Child (**Tit 1:4**) in our passage.

*Tit 1:4 To Titus, **my true child** in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

Interestingly, we see that Titus leaves Paul to go to Dalmatia near the end of Paul's ministry (**2Ti 4:9-12**).

This is Paul writing to Timothy:

2Ti 4:9 Make every effort to come to me soon; 10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. 12 But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

Although Demas was negatively mentioned here, it does not indicate Titus was on similar terms at the end. He may have gone to Dalmatia on his own (2Co 8:17, showing Titus visiting other churches on his own accord), or on Paul's order, as Illyricum (Dalmatia) was a Roman province located northwest of Macedonia on the Adriatic Sea and possibly visited by Paul during his missionary journeys. In this passage we simply see he is no longer with Paul. However, we see Paul, in need of fellow workers, still supervising his ministry partners, including instructing Timothy to come to him and pick up Mark, as well as sending Tychicus to Ephesus.

We can now see that Titus traveled with Paul to multiple places, including Galatia, Corinth and Crete, to learn and aid Paul in his missions.

Purpose of the letter

Paul's wide ranging ministry was to proclaim the gospel and plant churches throughout different countries, and never stayed in one place too long. This was a monumental task God gave to Paul, due to the amount of attacks on the truth and the churches themselves and its leaders. We can see this throughout the new testament epistles. A great deal of Paul's teaching was battling falsehood and protecting the truth. It is no different here.

Ultimately, Paul is charging Titus to appoint multiple leaders in EVERY city on the isle of Crete. This is in defense of the truth and the gospel of eternal life which is indeed under attack, and instructing the leaders and the congregation on Godliness, so they may reflect God, His ways and His will. This leads to good deeds that are fruitful, which we will see later in the letter, as opposed to unfruitful, worthless deeds by the unbelieving oppressors in this passage.

Faith, The truth, Godliness and eternal life

Paul opens with these important things that Titus must instruct and defend (**Tit 1:1-3**), and pass this duty onto the newly appointed elders. We will see why Paul mentions these. Let's go over these individually to get a foundational understanding to better interpret this letter.

for the faith of the chosen of God...

All believers are 'chosen of God, a fact that Paul and Peter declare in many passages. Let's see a few:

(**COL 3:5-13**), (**2TH 2:13**), (**2TI 2:10**), (**1PE 1:1-2**)

Knowledge of the truth according to Godliness...

Faith, True knowledge and Godliness go hand in hand.

(Tit 1:1)

*Tit 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for **the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,***

(**2PE 1:1-3, 6**)

We have faith in the truth. True knowledge is taught and leads to Godliness, which is **learning and living** the spiritual life God has called us to live. The believer's conduct is a large part that reflects and supports the truth.

"Godliness is sound doctrine leading to virtuous behavior. Proper conduct ensures that the church will remain the pillar and support of the truth." - Pastor John Farley
(1Ti 6:3-6)

We will see later where Paul is instructing Titus to teach by being **an example** (Tit 2:7). Living Godly requires effort, striving, but is fruitful.

In the hope of eternal Life, which God, Who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.

Paul emphasizes here that God cannot lie, a part of His essence (veracity), as there was a lot of lying and deceiving going on in Crete. Not only from the rebellious deceiving unbelievers, but by the Cretan believers too. (Tit 1:10-13)

*Tit 1:10 For there are many **rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of **sordid gain**. ¹² One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "**Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons**." ¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be **sound in the faith**,*

Let's look at this phrase "long ages ago". It is expressed slightly differently in the KJV from the NASB. (Tit 1:2)

*in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised **long ages ago**,*
(NASB)

*In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised **before the world began**;*
(KJV)

We can see this in (Micah 5:2-4).

And from our current Thursday passage in Isaiah (Isa 49:6),

And where the gentiles are now included for those who are chosen (Eph 1:3-4).

(Tit 1:3) Eternal life here is manifested through Jesus Christ the savior, promised long ago.

This is the mystery given to Paul to proclaim.
(ROM 16:25-26)