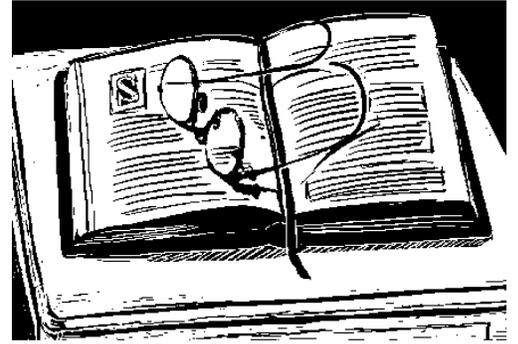


Paul's Letter to Titus



Titus, Introduction & ch. 1

Titus is mentioned numerous times in the New Testament as one of Paul's most trusted co-workers and helpers. Although we don't know for sure where he came from, it may be that he came from Antioch Syria, since he appears to have accompanied Paul from Antioch to the important meeting in Jerusalem over the question of whether Gentiles should be required to conform to the Mosaic Law. He is not mentioned by Luke in Acts, but Paul points to Titus as his "exhibit A" in his letter to the Galatians, that Gentiles need not be circumcised to be saved (see Galatians 2:1-3).

He is mentioned about nine times in 2 Corinthians as a trusted brother in the project of gathering a collection for the poor Judean churches.

Lastly, Titus was often a dispatched missionary to churches, which seem to have been started by Paul, but in which he could not stay to teach, fortify, and encourage in the faith. In 2 Timothy Paul notes that Titus had been with him in the Roman imprisonment that ended in his death, and that he had sent Titus to Dalmatia. And of course, in the book of Titus, Paul tells us that he had sent Titus to Crete to set things in order in the Cretan churches.

This letter, it is thought, may have been written to Titus ministering in the island of Crete prior to his second Roman imprisonment. Paul hoped to meet Titus in Nicopolis, perhaps for another work of ministry over the winter.

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, ² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, ³ but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS...

- When Paul describes himself as a "bond-servant" what is he saying?
- What is an apostle?
 - Greek meaning?
 - Biblical definition?
- For what reason is he a bond-servant and an apostle?
 - for the _____ of those _____ of God

entrusted according to the commandment of
God our Savior,

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

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you
would set in order what remains and appoint

- ...the _____ of the
_____ which is according to

- Summary...

- ...in the _____ of _____

- What does Christian hope refer to?

- How certain does Paul tell us that this
hope is?

- How long ago did God promise this?

- Why wasn't it proclaimed before now?
"but at the _____ time
_____"

- What proclamation was entrusted to
Paul by God?

- In what sense was Titus a true child of
Paul's?

TITUS' COMMISSION...

- Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete?

- What sorts of things needed to be set
in order?

- appoint _____ in every city

- What does "in every city" mean?

elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

- What other things can we suppose Titus might need to "set in order"? What else does Paul talk about in the following chapters?

QUALIFICATION OF ELDERS...

- What does it mean...
 - be above reproach
 - the husband of one wife
 - having children who believe
 - not accused of dissipation (what's this?) or rebellion
 - A good steward
 - Not self-willed
 - not quick-temperd,
 - not addicted to wine,
 - not pugnacious,
 - not fond of sordid gain,
 - but hospitable,
 - loving what is good,
 - sensible,
 - just,
 - devout,
 - self-controlled,

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, ¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

- holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching,
- Why? ...so that he will be able both to _____ in sound doctrine and to _____ those who contradict.

WHY WOULD THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO REFUTE SOMEONE?

- Who did Paul seem to be the most concerned about as being rebellious, empty talkers, and deceivers?
- What remedy does Paul call upon Titus and the elders he appoints to enforce upon such men?
 - What were their teachings doing?
 - What was their motivation?
- Why is Paul so concerned about the faithfulness of these churches?
 - What does it mean to "reprove"?
 - What did they need to learn not to pay attention to?
 - How is v. 15 connected to Paul's previous verse about ignoring Jewish myths and traditions?
- How does one confess or deny without words?