

Bible Study and Notes on Paul's Letter to Titus

OVERVIEW: Titus was a Greek (**Galatians 2:3**) who could have been converted through Paul's ministry (**1:4**). He had accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem (**Galatians 2:1**) where he may have met dogmatic Jewish Brethren that insisted on him being circumcised. Paul stood firm in not allowing it because circumcision was not a requirement for any Gentile to be saved (**Galatians 2:5, 16; Acts 15:1ff**).

Titus had proved a faithful servant of the Lord with Paul during his ministry in Corinth. He had shown great love and blessing to the brethren in Corinth (**2Corinthians 7:13-15; 8:16-18; 12:17-19**). Paul had clearly regarded him highly (**2Corinthians 2:13; 7:6-7; 8:6, 23**).

The evidence from the letter of Paul to Titus shows that Paul had accompanied Titus to Crete and had done some evangelism in a number of cities before Paul left Titus in Crete (**1:5**). It is possible that Titus had written a report to Paul asking for some spiritual counsel having had a difficult time. The letter, which could have been brought to him by Zenas and Apollos (**3:13**), was written urgently desiring him to finish the work in Crete. The letter had been written most likely between 63 to 66AD after Paul's release from imprisonment in Rome and before being rearrested and put to death.

Paul had exhorted Titus to press on in his ministry in continuing to build up the Church in Crete. He had stressed the importance of order and discipline in the local churches. He gave specific instructions to help Titus continue in good works (**1:16; 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 3:8; 3:14**) such as:

- (I) appointing elders in places of leadership in every city bearing in mind what qualified a man to be an elder (**1:5-9**);
- (II) dealing with opposition from false prophets and teachers (**1:10-16**);
- (III) sound teaching to help old men and women to live righteously (**2:1-5**);
- (IV) for Titus to be an example to the young men (**2:6-8**);
- (V) servants to obey their masters (**2:9-10**);
- (VI) all believers living a godly life ready for the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ (**2:11-15**).

Paul reminded Titus of

- (I) the responsibility of citizenship (**3:1-2**);
- (II) what God has done for all who believe (**3:3-7**);
- (III) maintaining good works by looking to what is profitable (**3:8-9**);
- (IV) dealing with heretics (**3:10-11**).

The letter closes with personal requests and greetings (**3:12-15**). Titus was encouraged to join Paul at Nicopolis (west coast of Greece) after a replacement for him being Artemas or Tychicus. Later Titus went on a mission to Dalmatia (part of Albania and Croatia on the coast of the Adriatic Sea) whilst Paul had been imprisoned waiting execution (**2Timothy 4:7-10**). Evidence has shown that Titus was a resourceful leader with much ability to fulfil his assignments in serving the Lord faithfully.

Questions

Chapter One

- Q.1)** What is known of Paul's ministry and the assurance he had in it? See **1:1-4**.
- Q.2)** What is known about Titus in **1:1-5**? It is helpful to read the Scriptural references to Titus in **2Corinthians 2:13; 7:6-7; 7:13-15; 8:6; 8:16-18; 8:23; 12:17-19; Galatians 2:1-5** and **2Timothy 4:10**.
- Q.3)** Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? See **1:5**.
- Q.4)** Show the evidence of false prophets and teachers opposing the work of God in Crete. See **1:10-16; 3:9-10**. Make a list of their faults and failings. See also **Philippians 3:2-3; 2Peter 2:1-22** and **Jude 4-19**.
- Q.5)** Show what is required for a man to be an elder. See **1:5-9** and compare with **Acts 20:28-31; 1Timothy 3:1-7** and **1Peter 5:1-5**.
- Q.6)** How did the gospel reach Crete? See **Acts 2:11**.
- Q.7)** How are we to deal with false prophets and teachers? See **1:11, 13-14** and also **Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17; 1Corinthians 5:1-5**.

Chapter Two

- Q.1)** How should the older believing men live? See **2:1-2**.
- Q.2)** Show how the older believing women should live and how they can help the younger women to live. See **2:3-5**.
- Q.3)** How did Paul exhort Titus to be an example to the younger men? See **2:6-8**.
- Q.4)** How should servants behave towards their masters? See **2:9-10** and compare with **Ephesians 6:6-8** and **Colossians 3:22-25**.
- Q.5)** In view of Jesus Christ appearing again how should we live as believers? See **2:11-15**.

Chapter Three

- Q.1)** How should Christians show their responsibilities as citizens in **3:1-2**?
See also **Romans 13:1-10**.
- Q.2)** Show the kind of people we may have been before we were converted to knowing Jesus Christ as our Saviour in view of what is written in **3:3**. See also **Ephesians 2:1-3**.
- Q.3)** What has God done for us in enabling us to become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ in **3:3-7**? See also **Ephesians 2:8-10** and **Colossians 1:14-15**.
- Q.4)** How are we to deal with a heretic? See **3:10-11** and **Romans 16:17**.
- Q.5)** Why did Paul want Titus to come with him to Nicopolis in **3:12**?
- Q.6)** Show the requests Paul made to Titus in concluding this letter in **3:12-15**.

Miscellaneous Questions

- Q.1)** What does this letter reveal of who God is? See **1:1-4; 2:11-14; 3:4-7**.
- Q.2)** Show from this letter any prophecies that are still to be fulfilled. See **2:11-14**.
- Q.3)** Make a list of any key words written in this letter.
- Q.4)** Look again particularly at **2:1-10** where Paul has demanded righteous characteristics from people. Which characteristics should you covet and develop?
See also **1:5-9; 2:12, 14; 3:1-2, 8**.

Bibliography

The list of resources available will be helpful in finding out more about the letter of Paul to Titus. Please note that the author does not necessarily agree with the views held by the writers of the reading material.

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