

Titus (Colin) Bible Study

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.

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.

Setting the scene

The big problem facing the early church was: Should gentiles follow Jewish law.

Read Acts 15.1-31

- Q1) Who were the ones insisting on this (v5)?
- Q2) What was the response of the church in Jerusalem (v6)?
- Q3) Peter was one of the leaders of the church. What was his response (v7-11)?
- Q4) What was the next action of the church (V12)?
- Q5) What was James' response (v13-21)?
- Q6) What authority did James quote to back up his argument (v15,16)?
- Q7) What four things did the church decide, on the issue (v28,29)?
- Q8) How was the decision communicated to the gentile churches (v23-29)?
- Q9) What happened at Antioch (v30-32)?
- Q10) What relevance has this for us today?

Read Galatians chapter 2

- Q11) How did Paul view those pressing for gentiles to be circumcised (v4)?
- Q12) What was Paul's attitude to this pressure (v5)?
- Q13) What incident occurred between Paul and Peter (v11-14)?
- Q15) How was Titus involved in this controversy (v1,3)?

Read Acts 16.1-3

- Q16) Why, after all this, did Paul have Timothy circumcised?

Read Titus Chapter One

- Q.1) How did Paul see his own faith and calling (V1-4)?.
- Q.2) How did Paul regard Titus (V5 ,2Corinthians 2.12,13 ,7.5-7 ,8.23)?
- Q3) How did the gospel get to Crete (Acts 2.11)? How widespread was Christianity in Crete (v5)?
- Q4) What problems were there with false prophets/ teachers in Crete (v10-14)?
- Q5) How does this compare with here and now, with woke teaching?
- Q6) From chapter 1 can we say that these teachers were within or without the church? See Acts 20.29,30)

Q7) What does Jesus say about false teachers in the sermon on the mount (Matt 7.15-23)? What can we say about the 'cancel' culture today?

Q8) Titus was, "To set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city", (V5), to combat false teachers. How were they to do this (v6-9)?

Q9) What did Paul say about the spiritual state of these false teachers (v15,16)? Were they believers who were deluded or 'wolves in sheep's clothing'?

Read Chapter Two

Q1) How should the older believing men live (v1-2)?

Q2) How should the older believing women live and how should they help the younger women to live (v3-5)?

Q3) How did Paul exhort Titus to be an example to the younger men (v6-8)?

Q4) How should servants behave towards their masters (v9-10)? See Ephesians 6:6-8 and Colossians 3:22-25. In Titus 1.1, and other letters, Paul describes himself as a bondservant of God. Should Christian slaves/ servants have the same attitude to their earthly masters?

Q5) In view of Jesus Christ appearing again how should we live as believers (v11-15)?

Q6) Some people suggest that believing in the imminent return of Jesus (Pretribulation view) encourages idleness and bad behaviour. How should we answer them?

Read Chapter Three

Q1) How should Christians show their responsibilities as citizens (v1,2)? See also Romans 13:1-10.

Q2) What kind of people were we before we were converted to knowing Jesus Christ as our Saviour (V3)? See also Ephesians 2:1-3.

Q3) What has God done for us in enabling us to become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (v3-7)? See also Ephesians 2:8-10 and Colossians 1:14-15.

Q4) How are we to deal with a heretic (v10-11)? See also Romans 16:17.

Q5) Why did Paul want Titus to come with him to Nicopolis (v12)?

Q6) What did Paul mean by, 'And let our people also learn to maintain good works to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful'?

Miscellaneous Question

Q1) What can we learn about God from this letter (1.1-4, 2.11-14, 3.4-7)?