





## Titus

Paul advises Titus on how to lead orderly, Godly churches on the island of Crete.

Author: Paul

### In Titus – Jesus is the Foundation of Truth

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy."

=====



#### TEACHER: 3 SHORT CHAPTERS

Titus was a Greek disciple of Paul, whom Paul called a partner and co-worker. He was with Paul and Barnabas in the Jerusalem council when Paul 1<sup>st</sup> met with the disciples after his conversion. Titus spent time in Corinth, Galatia, Crete, Nicopolis and Dalmatia. Paul eventually assigns him to Crete. He raised funds on Paul's behalf at Corinth for the poor in Jerusalem. Paul originally planted the church in Crete, but had to leave because he was needed in some other churches, so he left Crete in Titus capable hands. Titus set up the whole island of Crete with churches and elders and teachers, and lived a long life serving the church until he died in Gortyna. Titus is a short letter only 3 chapters in length. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, and Titus together comprise the "Pastoral Epistles."

=====

#### STUDENT:

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup>in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, <sup>3</sup>but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

<sup>4</sup>To Titus, a true son in *our* common faith:

Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. (NKJV)

=====

#### TEACHER:

Paul then elaborates on the instructions he left with Titus regarding how to appoint elders and organize the churches there.

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>5</sup>I left you in Crete, so that you could put in order the things that still needed doing and appoint church elders in every town. Remember my instructions: <sup>6</sup>an elder must be without fault; he must have only one wife, and his children must be believers and not have the reputation of being wild or disobedient. <sup>7</sup>For since a church leader is in charge of God's work, he should be without fault. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered, or a drunkard or violent or greedy for money. <sup>8</sup>He must be hospitable and love what is good. He must be self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup>He must hold firmly to the message which can be trusted and which agrees with the doctrine. In this way he will be able to encourage others with the true teaching and also to show the error of those who are opposed to it. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The requirements of an Elder.

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| He must be: | 1. Without fault.                       | 10. Must show hospitality.             |
|             | 2. Husband to one wife.                 | 11. Must love what is good.            |
|             | 3. Children must be believers           | 12. Must have self-control.            |
|             | 4. Children must have good reputations. | 13. Must be upright.                   |
|             | 5. Must not be arrogant.                | 14. Must be holy.                      |
|             | 6. Must not be quick tempered.          | 15. Must display self-discipline.      |
|             | 7. Must not be a drunk.                 | 16. Must hold firm the gospel message. |
|             | 8. Must not be violent.                 | 17. Must be trustworthy.               |
|             | 9. Must not be greedy.                  | 18. Must agree with sound doctrine.    |

Continuing in chapter 1 Paul warns Titus about the Jewish converts trying to force the law on new believers, and the basic flaws in Cretan culture.

STUDENT:

<sup>10</sup>For there are many, especially the converts from Judaism, who rebel and deceive others with their nonsense. <sup>11</sup>It is necessary to stop their talk, because they are upsetting whole families by teaching what they should not, and all for the shameful purpose of making money. <sup>12-13</sup>It was a Cretan himself, one of their own prophets, who spoke the truth when he said, "Cretans are always liars, wicked beasts, and lazy gluttons." For this reason you must rebuke them sharply, so that they may have a healthy faith (GNT)

STUDENT:

<sup>14</sup>and no longer hold on to Jewish legends and to human commandments which come from people who have rejected the truth. <sup>15</sup>Everything is pure to those who are themselves pure; but nothing is pure to those who are defiled and unbelieving, for their minds and consciences have been defiled. <sup>16</sup>They claim that they know God, but their actions deny it. They are hateful and disobedient, not fit to do anything good. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 2 Paul runs through much the same lists as we have seen elsewhere in Paul's letters. He often ties sound doctrine with good behavior. We see this again here.

CH. 2

STUDENT:

But you must teach what agrees with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Instruct the older men to be sober, sensible, and self-controlled; to be sound in their faith, love, and endurance. <sup>3</sup> In the same way instruct the older women to behave as women should who live a holy life. They must not be slanderers or slaves to wine. They must teach what is good, <sup>4</sup> in order to train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, and to be good housewives who submit themselves to their husbands, so that no one will speak evil of the message that comes from God. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In this list you should have noticed a new requirement. That older women should behave in such a way as to be an example to the younger wives, teaching them by example how to love their husbands and children. He continues with the young men and Titus himself to behave well with the mindset of being an example.

STUDENT:

<sup>6</sup> In the same way urge the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> In all things you yourself must be an example of good behavior. Be sincere and serious in your teaching. <sup>8</sup> Use sound words that cannot be criticized, so that your enemies may be put to shame by not having anything bad to say about us. (GNT)

STUDENT:

<sup>9</sup> Slaves are to submit themselves to their masters and please them in all things. They must not talk back to them <sup>10</sup> or steal from them. Instead, they must show that they are always good and faithful, so as to bring credit to the teaching about God our Savior in all they do. (GNT)

STUDENT:

<sup>11</sup> For God has revealed his grace for the salvation of all people. <sup>12</sup> That grace instructs us to give up ungodly living and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this world, <sup>13</sup> as we wait for the blessed Day we hope for, when the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ will appear. <sup>14</sup> He gave himself for us, to rescue us from all wickedness and to make us a pure people who belong to him alone and are eager to do good. <sup>15</sup> Teach these things and use your full authority as you encourage and rebuke your hearers. Let none of them look down on you. (GNT)

CH. 3

TEACHER:

Paul ends the letter with this 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter starting with submission to rightly ordained delegated authority.

STUDENT:

Remind your people to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, and to be ready to do good in every way. <sup>2</sup> Tell them not to speak evil of anyone, but to be peaceful and friendly, and always to show a gentle attitude toward everyone. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, and wrong. We were slaves to passions and pleasures of all kinds. We spent our lives in malice and envy; others hated us and we hated them. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior was revealed, <sup>5</sup> he saved us. (GNT)

STUDENT:

It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us. <sup>6</sup> God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that by his grace we might be put right with God and come into possession of the eternal life we hope for. <sup>8</sup> This is a true saying. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Notice how he said to, "remind your people" in verse 1.

**"It's not enough to simply live these truths, but we must spread them." DH**

STUDENT:

I want you to give special emphasis to these matters, so that those who believe in God may be concerned with giving their time to doing good deeds, which are good and useful for everyone. <sup>9</sup> But avoid stupid arguments, long lists of ancestors, quarrels, and fights about the Law. They are useless and worthless. <sup>10</sup> Give at least two warnings to those who cause divisions, and then have nothing more to do with them. <sup>11</sup> You know that such people are corrupt, and their sins prove that they are wrong. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul closes with some personal requests for his friend and one last kick in the pants.

STUDENT:

<sup>12</sup> When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me in Nicopolis, because I have decided to spend the winter there. <sup>13</sup> Do your best to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos to get started on their travels, and see to it that they have everything they need. <sup>14</sup> Our people must learn to spend their time doing good, in order to provide for real needs; they should not live useless lives.

<sup>15</sup> All who are with me send you greetings. Give our greetings to our friends in the faith.

God's grace be with you all. (GNT)

NEXT LESSON PHILEMON

*"We wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of  
our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."*

Titus 2:13



*Most of my research from extra biblical resources comes from the libraries at "Early Christian Writings" and "Early Hebrew Writings." I have purchased the complete digital library, and came across this regarding some early Christian's that were killed around 250 A.D. on the Island of Crete, the descendants of Titus' congregations. Enjoy.*

**During the reign of the Roman emperor Decius from 249 to 251 (about 140 years after Paul and Titus ministered there). Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, who all were from Gortyn, Zoticus from Knossos, Pompilus from Lebena, Agathopus from Panormos, Basilides from Kydonia (Hania), and Evaristus from Iraklion refused to worship at the shrine of the deity of the emperor Decius as god of Rome. The ten were brought before the governor of Crete, also named Decius. At their trial they steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ and refused to worship the emperor and other idols.**

**The men were then imprisoned and tortured for one month. But the torture did not change their opinions, and they continued in glorifying God. They were sentenced by the governor of Crete to be beheaded. Before their death they prayed that the Lord would enlighten their torturers with the light of the true faith. Their executions took place in Alonion, a part of Gortyn now known to have been the main amphitheater of Gortyn.**

**My source is Agioi Deki, (the 10 saints of Crete) from the library "early Christian Writings."**

=====

#### Basilica of Titus

*According to Eusebius, Titus was the first bishop of Crete (Church History 3.4.6, §136). The traditional site where Titus was martyred and buried is marked by the Basilica of Titus, which was built in the 6th century AD by the emperor Justinian. Some fragments date to the 2nd century AD, indicating this was the site of an earlier building. Still visible are the cross floor-plan, the central apse and the barrel-vault construction.*



