

Titus 1

Introduction:

-How do we know that Titus was a Gentile? The masculine singular Latin ending on his name

He may have been a close relative to Luke

- Remember the Jewish conference in *Acts 15* – Titus was present, according to *Galatians 2.3-5*; but he was not mentioned by Luke
- In fact, there is no passage in *Acts* where Titus was mentioned by name (same with Luke – he never mentioned his own name in the *Gospel of Luke* or in *Acts*)
- Maybe Titus was a brother or a cousin of Luke
- Titus is mentioned many times in letters of Paul (*2 Corinthians, Galatians, 2 Timothy, Titus* - 7 chapters in total)

Titus seems to have been a “troubleshooter” for Paul

- When congregations had problems, Titus was often sent there
- Example: *2 Timothy 4.10, 2 Corinthians 12.18* (he was sent to Corinth for a while)

Date for the letter:

Mid 60's – A.D. (64-67 A.D.)

- It is believed that Paul might have written this letter from Ephesus
- Titus was on the island of Crete

Goal of the letter: To give Titus advice in straightening out a number of internal problems among the churches on Crete

- The people of Crete were known as being unruly and quarrelsome – this carried over into the churches there (theme is similar to *1 Timothy*)

Titus 1.1-4

V1 – **Typical introduction of Paul?** Three parts: from whom, to whom, a blessing

- Paul has a long introduction here
- Why?** To give the Cretan Christians reason to believe what Titus was going to tell them
- How did Paul identify himself?** Bond-servant (in total submission to God) and an apostle
- Why was he writing?** For the faith (to help the church)

V2 – **What hope did Paul have?** Eternal life

- Is there anything that God cannot do?** He cannot lie
- Very interesting – we can totally trust the word of God
- Sometimes we “lie” without even realizing it because we have been given the wrong information, but that cannot happen with God
- When was eternal life promised?** Long ago

V3 – **When was the promise “manifested”?** At the proper time (First Century – when the gospel came)

V4 – **How was Titus identified?** “Child” of Paul (maybe baptized by Paul)

- Then the blessing

Titus 1.5-9

V 5 – Where else had Paul spoken about elders? *1 Timothy 3*

-Had Paul ever been to Crete? Yes

-**Implication?** Without elders, things are not in order – Titus was to “appoint elders”

-*Acts 20.28* – Holy Spirit appointed elders

-**How does the Holy Spirit appoint elders today?** Through the qualifications that are given here and in *1 Timothy 3* – Titus was to carry out these instructions

-In every city all congregations should have elders

-Some congregations go for decades without elders, even though there are qualified men present

-**Why does that happen?** Because some men know that they are not qualified and realize that with the men's business meeting they will no longer have any power

-Therefore, they continue to say, "We can't have elders, because no-one here is qualified"

-There are some congregations that will never have elders because of the entrenched power of men who do not want to give up their power in the monthly men's meeting

-But the truth is that God's plan for church organization is better than man's plan, and as soon as at least two men meet all the qualifications to a reasonable degree, an eldership should be established

V 6 – Qualifications begin

-Above reproach – no complaints against him

-The husband of one wife

-**Can a divorced man become an elder?** Yes, if his divorce was for the Scriptural reason (his wife was unfaithful to him) and if his wife also has Scriptural grounds to be married to him

-If that is the case, then he is the husband of one wife, according to the Scriptures

-Having children who believe (at least one baptized child who has remained faithful to the church)

-**Must he have at least 2 children?** *Genesis 2.17* – Sarah nursed “children” (but only had one child)

-No dissipation or rebellion

V 7 – Above reproach as God's steward – honest and faithful

-Not self-willed – not stubborn or head strong

-Not quick tempered – can control his temper

-Not addicted to wine

-Not pugnacious – will not hit another person or be argumentative

-Not fond of sordid gain – no obsession to get rich

V 8 – Hospitable – **Read Hebrews 13.1-2**

-Loving what is good

-Sensible – not silly in his behavior

-Must have integrity in dealings with fellow men

-Devout

-Self-controlled – shows moderation

V 9 – Very Important: *Holding fast the sacred word...*

-**Meaning?** He must hold to sound doctrine – he can stop the false doctrines and those who “contradict”

-**What does this suggest about Crete?** Many false teachers

Titus 1.10-16

V 10 – Three classes of problem people:

1. Rebellious = they don't like to obey rules
2. Empty talkers – they talk too much
3. Deceivers – outright false teachers

-**Where did many “deceivers” come from?** The Jews

-Reference to Judaizing teachers (remember *1 Timothy 1*)

-These false teachers were just about everywhere that Paul went – they were vicious

V 11 – **Results of these false teachers?** Whole families were being upset

-**Why?** Sordid gain (in other words, for money)

-**Paul's conclusion?** The false teachers must be silenced

-**How?** By using sound doctrine (v 9)

-They were not to just let these people continue and say, “We love them too much to do anything about it – we're tolerant” - an attitude of Christians in Corinth (see *1 Corinthians 5* – the wrong attitude)

-“*They must be silenced*”

V 12 – A statement by Epimenides of Gossus of Crete – poet and philosopher of sixth century B.C.

-**What was his comment about Cretans?** Liars, evil beasts, gluttons

-So even the Cretans saw their nature

-**What does this quote tell us about Paul?** He was highly educated

-In some denominations (the Amish, for example), there is a belief that a Christian should not be highly educated

-The Amish only let their children go to school through the 8th grade – a great shame for them

V 13 – **Paul's conclusion about the quote?** True

-**What would Titus have to do?** Severely reprove them – like surgeon dealing with a disease, a mild measure is not going to work

-**The desired result?** To produce soundness in the faith

-It was going to be like working with wood – the wood must be sound (no loose knots or rotten places)

V 14 – **What should Cretan Christians turn away from?** Jewish myths and commandments of men

V 15 – Everything that God created was good

-**But what had evil people done?** Corrupted God's blessings

V 16 – **Did these false teachers claim to be Christians?** Yes

-**How could people tell they were not Christians?** Look at their deeds

Lessons from Chapter 1

-Appoint elders and refute the false teachers

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