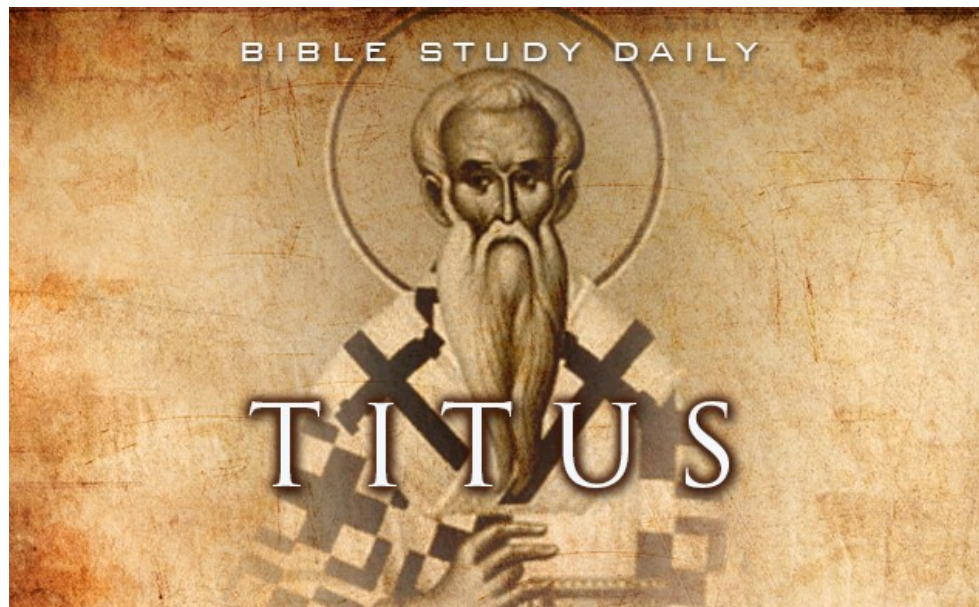




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Titus as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The title “Titus ” comes from the intended audience designated in 1:4, “To Titus, my true son in our common faith.” The the body of the epistle makes it clear that Paul’s intended audience is Titus, with the expectation that Titus will teach others what Paul is teaching him in the letter.

Author

Paul explicitly claims authorship of Titus in 1:1.

Externally, many of the early church fathers attribute the book of 2 Timothy to Paul including: Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Polycarp, and Clement of Rome.

Note: Pauline authorship of the pastoral epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) remained unchallenged until the early 1800’s when liberal scholar J.E.C. Schmidt denied they were authentic to Paul. None of Schmidt’s claim’s supporting his argument of non-Pauline authorship holds up under scrutiny.

Genre

Epistle

Literary Form

The epistle to the Titus is a personal letter that includes sections of encouragement and instruction.

Time Frame

Most conservative scholars believe 1 Timothy was the first of the Pastoral Epistles to be written with Titus, and 2 Timothy written shortly before Paul’s death in A.D. 67.

Paul had been recaptured and was again in a Roman prison when he wrote 2 Timothy.


Emphasis

Titus was a Gentile believer who served with Paul ([Galatians 2:1-3](#)). In A.D. 63-64 Paul left Timothy in Ephesus and took Titus with him to Crete. Paul then left Titus behind in Crete to lead their churches.

The emphasis of the letter to Titus is to give him instructions for teaching and leading the churches in Crete. A recurring theme is the importance of Godly behavior among the Christians as an example to others, especially the completion of good works.

Outline

- Greeting and salutation (1:1-4)

- 
- Qualifications of elders (1:5-9)
 - Characteristics of the false teachers (Judaizers) (1:10-16)
 - Godly behavior among various groups of believers (2:1-10)
 - Salvation and Godly behavior (2:11-15)
 - The importance of good works (3:1-11)
 - Concluding instructions and greetings (3:12-15)

What I Noticed Today (Titus 1-Philemon 1)

Titus 1

In verses 1-4 Paul opens the letter in the usual three-part fashion: he introduces himself, indicates his intended audience (Titus), and extends a greeting. Somewhat different in his letter to Titus is Paul's introduction of himself: he describes his purpose as to build up the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of truth that leads to godliness in the hope of eternal life.


In verses 5-9 Paul stresses the need for elders and their qualifications:

Paul had left Titus in Crete to finish work left undone from their previous visit. Most important was to appoint elders to lead the Christian church.

Paul listed the qualifications for elders:

- Blameless,
- Husband of one wife,
- Faithful children who are not rebellious,
- Not overbearing,
- Not quick tempered,
- Not given to much wine,
- Not violent,
- Not pursuing dishonest gain,
- Hospitable,
- One who loves what is good,
- Self-controlled,
- Upright,
- Holy,
- Disciplined
- Hold firmly to the message as it has been taught,
- Encourage others by teaching the message, and
- Refute those who contradict the message.

Note: In 1 Timothy 3:2-7 Paul listed 15 qualifications for elders. In the Titus passage he lists 17 qualifications (Holy and Upright are the two added in Titus).



In verses 10-16 Paul goes on to warn Titus about false teachers, and specifically about the Judaizers:

- There are rebellious people full of empty talk and deception.
- Silence them because they damage the faith of believers for dishonest gain.
- One of their own prophets (a Cretan) called the Cretans liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons.

Note: The reference to the characteristics of Cretans is taken from the writings of a 6th century B.C. poet named Epimenides. Paul is comparing the false teachers (Judaizers) with this Cretan stereotype of being liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons.


- Paul instructs Titus to rebuke them so they will be sound in the faith (and not like the stereotype).
- That way they will reject the false teachings of Jewish myths.
- To the pure everything is pure.
- To the defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure. They profess to know God but deny Him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, and disqualified for any good work.

Titus 2

In verses 1-10 Paul instructs Titus on how various groups should demonstrate Godly lives:

- Older men are to be level headed, worthy of respect, sensible, sound in faith, love and endurance.
- Older women are to be reverent in their behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to much wine, and teach what is good.
- Older women are to encourage young women to love their husbands and children, be self-controlled, pure, homemakers, kind and submissive to their husbands. All so God's word will not be slandered.
- Young men should be self-controlled.
- Titus specifically (because he was a young man) must be an example of good works, integrity, seriousness, and soundness in his teaching. Your message is to be beyond reproach so opponents will have nothing bad to say about Christians.
- Slaves must be submissive to their masters, and well pleasing, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating faithfulness so that they too are examples of godly Christian life.

Note: The start of verse 1, "But you..." sets up a dramatic contrast between the false teachers Paul just described, and how Titus must instruct



the Cretans to live, in accordance with sound doctrine. This entire section is focused on the believer's behavior needing to be aligned with sound doctrine and an example to others of a Godly life.

In verses 11-15 Paul gives Titus the theological reason for living a Godly life that he describes in verses 11-10:

- The grace of God made salvation available to all men.

Note: Verse 11 should not be read to suggest that all people will be saved; that interpretation does not align with other scripture. Rather, through God's grace the appearance of salvation is made available to all, it is up to the individual to accept God's grace through faith in Christ.

- God's grace should lead us to deny godlessness, and worldly lusts in favor of leading a sensible, righteous, and godly life while we wait for the return of the Lord.
- Jesus gave himself for us, to redeem us for Himself, His possession eager to do good works.
- Paul emphatically directs Titus to teach these things. To encourage and rebuke with all authority, and let no one disregard you.

Titus 3

In verses 1-11 Paul tells Titus to remind the Cretan believers how they were expected to live:

- Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to slander no one, to avoid fighting, to be kind, and to always show gentleness to everyone.

Note: Paul's reminder that the Cretans were always to be ready for every good work refers back to 1:16 and 2:14 when he said the false teachers were disqualified from doing good works.

- Paul humbly reminded Titus of the condition he was first in when he became a believer. He was foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and detested one another.
- But all that changed when the goodness of God for mankind appeared (Jesus), who saved us not by works of righteousness, but by His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. He poured out His Spirit on us through Jesus Christ so that having been justified by grace we became heirs with the hope of eternal life.
- Paul tells Titus to insist on these things so that those have believed in God might be careful to do good works.
- But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels and disputes of the Law for they are unprofitable and worthless.
- Reject a divisive person after two warnings knowing that such a person is

perverted and self-condemned (similar to 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15).

In verses 12-14 Paul issues his final instructions and greetings to Titus:

- Make every effort to come to me in Nicopolis because I have decided to winter there.
- Diligently help Zenas, the lawyer, and Apollos on their journey so they will lack nothing.
- Our people (believers) must be ready to devote themselves to good works for cases of urgent need so they will not be unfruitful.
- All those with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Note: The word “you” in verse 15 is plural indicating Paul’s expectation that others would be read this letter.

Some further thoughts for consideration:

- *Paul mentions the importance of good works six times in the letter to Titus, explaining that these works are evidence of salvation. We do not earn salvation by works, but works are evidence of our salvation.*