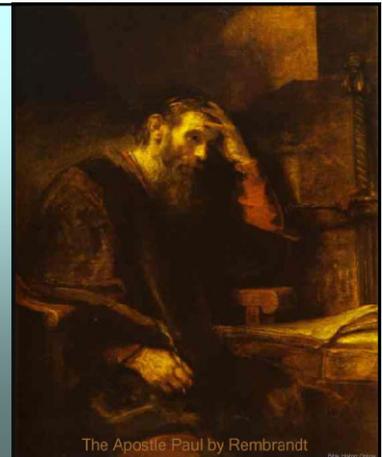


TITUS

MY TRUE SON IN THE COMMON FAITH

Paul's letter to Titus is classified as one of the Pastoral letters along with 1st and 2nd Timothy
Written from Nicopolis
About AD 63



What do we know about Titus?

1. Titus was a Greek convert to Christianity and accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey including Corinth – at least twice (Cor 2,7,8 and 12)
Jerusalem – (Gal 2:1)
After his trip to Rome Paul spent time with Titus in Crete (some writers think Titus came from Crete) before leaving him there to carry on the work

2. Was called Paul's true son in the common faith! (Titus 1:4).
- This would indicate that Titus was baptised by Paul personally and that he was proud to call him a son.

- Could also indicate sadness that other sons had not remained 'true' and hence the need for the letter to Titus.

3. Was missed by Paul on more than one occasion and was asked to meet him in Nicopolis when he had finished his task in Crete.

To help Titus continue in his faith in Christ, Paul suggested Titus come to Nicopolis and bring with him two other members of the church (Titus 3:12-13).

4. Was trusted by Paul

- Titus made two trips to Corinth to collect a contribution for the poor saints in Jerusalem and Paul commended him as a faithful helper (2 Corinthians 7-8).

5. Some verses showing how Paul felt about Titus:

2 Cor 2:12 – *I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there.*

2 Cor 7:6 – *But God who comforts the downcast comforted us by the coming of Titus.*

2 Cor 7:14 – *I had boasted to you about Titus.*

2 Cor 8:23 – *As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you.*

6. Was left in Crete by Paul to

- organise the church
- appoint elders in each town
- ensure responsible leadership
- warn against false teachings and immoral behaviour
- assist both men and women in their walk toward the kingdom

7. Recognised as the first Bishop of Crete in the town of Gortyn.

Gortyn was the site of the largest Christian basilica on Crete, the Basilica of Saint Titus, dedicated to the first Christian bishop in Crete.



CRETE

- Known for being a barbarous nation
- Full of liars and cheats
- Would do anything for money
- Cretans had been converted on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10-12) probably Jews living in Crete who had come for the feast
- Paul had been a prisoner on the ship docked at Fair Havens near Lasea (Acts 27:8) heading for Phoenix in Crete to winter there- but was shipwrecked and ended up on Malta
- Paul had visited the converts at some time - not disclosed in the Acts or his letters and left Titus there to help build the church

- the Old Testament refers to Crete as Caphtor, the original home of the Philistines who migrated to the land of Canaan some time before the Israelites began to enter the land (Deuteronomy 2:23; Jeremiah 47:4; Amos 9:7).
- The island of Crete is extremely mountainous, with mountain ranges as high as 8,000 feet covering the length of the island.

- The letter to Titus quotes one of Crete's prophets as saying,
- "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12).
- Historians tell us that this writer was a prophet and poet by the name Epimenides who lived around 600 BC.
- None of his writings has survived, except as quotes and allusions by other Greek authors.

The indictment of Cretans by Epimenides had to do with the fact that he was affirming the immortality of the Greek god Zeus whereas Cretans denied Zeus's immortality.

Some ancient authors have attributed to Epimenides the following hymn of praise to Zeus (quoted by Richard. N. Longenecker, *Acts of the Apostles* [*Expositor's Bible Commentary*; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981], 476):

*They fashioned a tomb for thee, O holy and high one—
The Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies!
But thou art not dead; thou livest and abidest for ever,
For in thee we live and move and have our being.*

CRETANS – NOT A GOOD REPUTATION

Other ancient authors have also made equally disparaging comments about Cretans, who apparently had a reputation for lacking ethical principles, stealing, and harboring robbers and pirates (William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles, Word Biblical Commentary*; [Nashville: Thomas])





Paul's message to Titus

- As was the case with 1 Timothy Paul is writing to encourage and to guide a young brother in dealing with the difficult circumstances facing the growing church.
- There appeared to be quite a few churches on Crete – spread out over the very mountainous island.

- Vital to **WALK THE TALK**

- Paul outlines how to select church leaders.
- He details the qualities of a dynamic leader and warns that leaders have a huge responsibility to guide their flocks in the true gospel.
- He warns about those who want to lead for the sake of filthy gain.

- Vital to **WALK THE TALK**

- Titus 1:7-9 - *Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, and one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and discipline. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (NIV)*

- **A good leader leads by example**

- You cannot expect people to follow you when you are living a hypocritical life.
- True Christian leaders live by the gospel and their actions reflect their faith.
- Be examples to make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive. (Tit 2:10)

- **Say NO to ungodliness**

- Live godly lives in this present age
- Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us from wickedness
- He wants us to be a people eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)

- **Be respectful to the authorities and live godly lives in peace**

- Titus 3:1-2 –
- *Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good to, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle towards everyone.(NIV)*

- **Beware of false teachers and divisive people**

- *Warn the divisive person once and then twice **and then have nothing to do with them.** (Tit 3:10)*
- Paul's message of unity is stressed here as in his letters to the other ecclesias we have discussed previously.

- **ENCOURAGE IN THE HOPE OF CHRIST**

- *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.*
- *4 But when the kindness and love of God and our Savior appeared,*
- *5 he saved us, **not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.(Tit 3:3)*

WHO AM I?

CASTING CROWNS

