

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS

LESSON 1

TITUS 1:1-16

WEEK OF MAY 25 – May 30

GOD'S MAN IN CRETE

Paul wrote 2 letters to Timothy and a letter to Titus to encourage and instruct these young pastors. These books are referred to as the pastoral epistles. The letter to Titus was written at about the same time as 1 Timothy. The letters were written while Paul was free after his first imprisonment in Rome and prior to his second imprisonment in Rome, sometime between 62 and 64 AD. This letter to Titus has been described as a condensed version of 1 Timothy. Titus was engaged in ministry in a difficult and ungodly culture where the Cretans are described as “always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons”. (Titus 1:12) Paul, understanding the culture, gives Titus this very practical instruction for the churches. In Chapter 1, Paul provides Titus with instruction focusing on the qualifications, personal character and conduct of church leadership. In chapter 2 Paul addresses the character and conduct of the true believer. Paul concludes his letter in chapter 3 with practical instruction for the Christian living in an ungodly culture to be an effective witness to unbelievers.

“The letter presents a compact guide to the kind of Christian ministry and personal Christian living that leads the unconverted to salvation. Titus is an evangelistic letter whose ultimate purpose was to prepare the church for more effective witness to unbelievers on Crete.”

MacArthur New Testament Commentary Titus, page, xi

Read Titus Chapters 1-3 as a single unit, noting repeated words or phrases

1. In what verses do you find the words deed(s) (NASB) work(s) (LSB)? What is the context of each?
2. What is the connection between good deeds or works and effective evangelism?

Read Titus 1:1-4. Introduction

Titus was a Greek believer. He served with Paul and was mentored faithfully by Paul. Titus was a trusted companion of Paul and is mentioned several times in the book of second Corinthians. Paul described Titus as my partner and fellow worker. Titus, like Timothy, was a young man trusted by Paul to carry on the work of ministry as Paul had instructed both.

3. How does Paul describe himself and the ministry to which God called him in **verses 1-3**?
4. Like Paul's salutation to Timothy, how does Paul refer to Titus in **verse 4**?

Read Titus 1:5-9. Qualifications and Character of Church Leaders

5. Why did Paul leave Titus on Crete?
6. What are the specific qualifications of the elder or overseer in **verses 6-7(a)**?
7. From **verse 7**, what characteristics are not to be found in the pastor-elder?
8. What are the positive attributes in **verse 8** that characterize the elder?
9. The ministry and duty of the pastor- elder is described in **verse 9**. What is the description of the ministry and the obligation of the elder?

Read Titus 1:10-16 Elders' Responsibility to Protect the Flock

10. How does Paul describe the men deceiving the church and undermining the gospel in **Titus 1:10-16**?
11. The words "*deeds*" and "*deed*" appear twice in **verse 16**. What do the deeds of the false teachers and deceivers reveal about their character and motives?
12. In **verses 11 and 13**, what does Paul instruct Titus and the elders to do about these men?

In contrast to the hypocritical, sinful and deceptive false teachers described in **Titus 1:10-16**, all believers are to strive according to the grace of God to live lives reflecting godly character described in **Titus 1:6-8**.

13. Which of the qualities or attributes in **Titus 1:6-8** do you need to develop as an obedient follower of Christ? What steps will you take to do so?

"God is a saving God, who saves people that they might live godly lives in order that others might also be saved through the proclamation of gospel truth supported by the testimony of transformed lives. God demonstrates his saving power through saved people...the life of every Christian should adorn the doctrine of God our savior in every respect." MacArthur New Testament Commentary Titus, page, xii