

Key to TITUS

1. BACKGROUND:

Writer is the Apostle Paul; the place, Macedonia about A.D. 65.

Titus was one of Paul's trusted helpers. He was a Greek, possibly a native of Syrian Antioch. He was used largely in Paul's ministry to Corinth (II Corinthians 2:13; 7:6; 8:23). Evidently on Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment, Titus joined him. Soon Paul left him to stay in Crete (Titus 1:5) while he, Paul, went on to Macedonia. While in Macedonia Paul wrote this letter along with the first letter to Timothy. We last hear of Titus (II Timothy 4:10) as Paul sends him to minister to the churches in Dalmatia (N.W. coast of Greece).

2. THEME:

This book has much in common with I Timothy. The subject matter is the work of the pastor. Titus was charged to ordain elders, and to train the constituency. There is perhaps a twofold application:

- first to correct churches grown careless as to the truth of GOD; then,
- second, to correct churches who had become lax as to the order of GOD's house.

Here is the divine order for churches of all times.

3. MAIN DIVISIONS:

The qualifications and functions of an elder (1); the pastoral work of a true elder (2; 3).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

It is possible that the church in Crete was founded by one of the converts from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11). Also, it is implied that Paul himself had visited and evangelized on the island.

The Cretians were thought to be akin to the Philistines. They were daring sailors and famous bowmen but with a very bad moral reputation. In Paul's day many Jews lived there. The degree of civilization in Crete was not too high. One of their own poets called them "**liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.**" But Paul felt sure the power of the Gospel could transform lives there too.

Evidently Paul did not purpose that Titus should settle down permanently in Crete but that he might be relieved by either Artemas or Tychicus, for he instructs Titus to meet him at Nicopolis (3:12) where he intended to winter.

5. OUTLINE:

Introduction (1:1-4)
Christian Officers (1:5-16)
Elder
Bishop
False Teachers
Christian Instruction (2:1-3:11)
Conduct in home
Aged
Young
Servants
General
Conduct in Society
Conclusion (3:12-15)

6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The terms "Elder" and "Bishop" are synonymous. One emphasizes the person and the other the office. Very strict and rigid qualifications are required, for this is a most important office in the Church of the living GOD.

The problem of false teachers is again dealt with (1:10-16) with the term "**whole houses**" meaning whole churches. The mouths of the unruly and deceivers were to be stopped by a vigorous proclamation of the truth.

Strong emphasis is given here on "**good works**," not as a means of salvation, but as an evidence. (See 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 3:8). The power of beautiful lives is shown to be a complete answer to the critics of the Gospel (2:8).

Here is the place in the New Testament where the rapture of the church is spoken of as "**the blessed hope**" (2:11-14), and is a compelling motive for godly living.

The "genealogies" referred to evidently concerned false teachers seeking to prove Davidic lineage, or to claim kinship with CHRIST.

7. KEY:

Put yourself in Titus' place as a pastor laboring under difficult circumstances. This letter is instruction from your teacher.

~ end of Titus ~

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