**Metadata**

* 1 Timothy, along with 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon were written to individuals rather than churches.
* The term “pastoral epistle” was first used in 1726, and contains an erroneous, sectarian notion of Timothy’s and Titus’ work as an evangelist.
* The final three epistles Paul wrote were penned some time after his first imprisonment in Rome. Most agree that 1 Timothy was written first. Then Titus. Then, finally, shortly before his death, Paul wrote 2 Timothy.
* As they do with 1 Timothy, Conybeare and Howson give the date of 67 AD to Paul’s letter to Titus.
* Acts ends with Paul in prison. It is impossible to establish with certainty the events in his life following his release from Roman imprisonment. Paul probably wrote his letter to Titus while in Macedonia.
* Titus was a close associate and trusted companion of Paul (cf. 1:4; 2 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 8:23). (Interestingly, Luke does not name him in the book of Acts).
* The phrase *“a true son in our common faith”* (1:4) probably indicates that Paul converted Titus, as he had Timothy (cf. 1 Timothy 1:2).
* Titus was a Greek, and uncircumcised. Indicating that he had never been a Jewish proselyte. (cf. Galatians 2:1-3; Acts 15).
* Paul sent Titus to Corinth to determine the Corinthians response to his first letter (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:5-7).
* Paul left Titus on the isle of Crete (Some tradition exists to indicate Titus was born there) to *“set in order the things that are lacking”* (1:5).
* Crete is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, about 140 miles long, and 35 miles wide.
* The inhabitants were not greatly respected, because of their profane attributes (cf. 1:12). They included some Jews (cf. Acts 2:11).
* It seems that the Christians in Crete were not very strong. Paul left Titus on the island to bolster them in the truth. (cf. 1:5).

**Concise Outline of Book**

*Taken from Marshall Patton’s Commentary on Titus*

1. **Introduction (1:1-4)**- Paul’s apostleship confirmed; Paul’s hope of   
   - eternal life; Salutation
2. **The Appointment of Elders (1:5-9)**- In every city; Qualifications
3. **Warnings (1:10-16)**- False teachers; Nature of the Cretans; Danger from   
   - the Gentiles; Danger from the Jews
4. **Duties Peculiar to Different Relationships (2:1-10)**- Evangelist especially, yet unto all; Elderly men;   
   - Elderly women; Young men; Slaves
5. **Motivation to Right Living (2:11-15)**- Grace – teaches us; Hope – its object; Sacrifice of   
   - Christ for us; Exhortations to Faithfulness
6. **The Submissive Spirit (3:1-7)**- Respect for authority; Proper attitude toward all;  
   - Results: Glorious transition; Ultimate objective
7. **General Exhortations (3:8-11)**- Demand constant attention; Positive and negative  
   - duties; Treatment of the heretic
8. **Personal Matters (3:12-15)**

**Paul’s Purpose in Writing**

* *“…to set in order the things that are lacking”* (1:5). This shows that there is a pattern that Paul indicated should be followed. The Christians on Crete, in some instances, were either ignorant of, or disobedient to that pattern. The nature of the instructions, warnings and duties described by Paul are as needed today as they were then.
* In addition to these instructions, Paul described the qualifications of elders, to help Titus in appointing elders in every city (1:5, 6-9).

**Chapter Synopses**

1. Paul gives his salutation to his *“son in the faith”* Titus, and begins by noting the qualifications of elders. He explains why elders are needed, especially to protect the flock against false teachers, who are described in verses 15-16.
2. Paul exhorts Titus to proclaim “sound doctrine.” This includes the responsibilities of older men, older women, younger women, younger men, and bondservants. He describes the proper response to God’s grace, and exhorts Titus to speak, exhort, and *“rebuke with all authority.”*
3. The doctrinal instructions continue, calling for obedience to civil authority, and the proper treatment of all men. He calls upon those who have been saved by God’s mercy to “maintain good works.” He also calls upon them to avoid strife, and reject those who cause it.

**Suggested Memory Work**

**(1:2),** *“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”*

**(1:5),** *“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.”*

**(1:9),** *“holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”*

**(1:15),** *“To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.”*

**(2:1),** *“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine”*

**(2:11-14),** *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”*

**(3:1-2),** *“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”*

**(3:4-5),** *“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”*

**(3:7),** *“that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

**(3:8),** *“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”*

**(3:10-11),** *“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”*

**Difficult Passages**

* What is intended by the phrase, *“according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth”?* (1:1)
* Explain the prophet’s description of the Cretans (1:12)
* Explain the description given of those who teach things *“which they ought not”* (1:12-16)
* Explain the term *“love”* in (2:4)
* Explain how a Christian’s sin can lead to *“the word of God”* being *“blasphemed”* (2:5)
* Explain the authority of the evangelist (2:15)
* Explain the phrase *“through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”* (3:5)
* To what does the pouring out of the Spirit refer in (3:6)?
* Define the term *“warped”* in (3:11)

**Doctrinal Considerations**

* **God’s scheme of redemption predated the existence of man and the universe, and is fully revealed in the New Covenant (1:2)**
* God can’t lie (1:2)
* The Lord has a pattern He expects us to follow, and not to do so indicates something is *“lacking”* (1:5)
* **The qualifications of elders (1:6-9)**
* **The work of elders (1:9-11)**
* **The proper response to God’s grace (2:11-14, 3:8)**
* Christ’s sacrifice was for our redemption (2:14)
* The Christian’s responsibility towards civil authority (3:1)
* **Salvation by God’s grace (3:4-7)**

**Practical Considerations**

* God’s will is manifested through preaching (1:3)
* The appointment of elders indicates a plurality of men in each congregation (1:5)
* The Evangelist’s responsibilities (1:5, 13; 2:1, 6, 15; 3:1, 9, 10)
* The mouth of those who teach error *“must be stopped”* (1:11)
* *“Sound doctrine”* is necessary in order to please God, and helps us to please God as we live our lives for Him (2:1)
* The responsibilities of older men (2:2)
* The responsibilities of older women (2:3)
* The responsibilities of younger women (2:4-5)
* The responsibilities of younger men (2:6-8)
* The responsibilities of bondservants (2:9-10)
* Looking forward to Christ’s coming motivates us to good works (2:13)
* General responsibilities of Christians (3:1-2)
* The characteristics of the worldly (3:3)
* What is profitable, and unprofitable to men (3:8-9)

**Questions to Consider**

* What does it mean to be a *“steward of God”*? (1:7)
* What are Jewish fables? (1:14)
* What is the correct attitude for Christians to have toward slavery? (2:9)
* What does it mean to *“Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition”* (3:10)
* What is the danger of being *“unfruitful”*? (3:14, cf. John 15:1-8).

**Student Questions**

*(Use the rest of this page to prepare questions and comments for class discussion. Since this is not a “verse by verse” study, make sure that all your questions concerning the text are answered).*

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