

Titus

Introduction, Background, and Argument

1. Title and Destination

1.1 The title is ΤΙΤΟΣ ΤΙΤΟΝ - "To Titus"

1.2 The recipient is Titus (1:4).

1.3 Titus was a convert of Paul, just like Timothy. He was also faithful (1:4).

1.4 Many mention Titus was from Syrian Antioch, but we don't know (11:26).

1.5 Titus was a Gentile. Paul took him to Jerusalem to help resolve the Gentile circumcision debate (Gal 2:1-3). He was not compelled to be circumcised (2:3).

1.6 While Paul was at Ephesus dealing with the Corinthians by letter, he departed to find Titus, and not finding him at Troas, he pressed on to Macedonia (2 Cor 7:5-6) where he found him and refreshed his spirit (7:13).

1.7 He sent 2 Corinthians via Titus to the Corinthians.

1.8 Paul also sent Titus to Corinth to complete the collection for the saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:6, 16; 12:18).

1.9 After this letter was written Paul requested he join him in Nicopolis upon the arrival of Artemas or Tychicus (Titus 3:12).

1.10 Titus left Paul during his second imprisonment in Rome to go to Dalmatia (2 Tim 4:8).

1.11 Tradition says Titus died in Crete as archbishop of Gortyna at an advanced age.

1.12 Crete was an island about 150 miles long and between 6 and 35 miles in width in the Mediterranean Sea. Inhabitants made their living by fishing and shipping, though they were lazy.

1.13 The church on Crete probably began with converts on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11) since Paul's visit to Crete on the way to Rome was not long enough to establish a church.

1.14 Crete was known for its low character. Livy describes their avarice; Polybius their ferocity and fraud and mendacity. "To Cretanize" is another way of saying, "to lie." Crete was included in the proverbial three infamous initials "K" or "C" "Cappadocia, Crete, Cilicia." It was a Nazareth among the Gentiles.

2. Authorship

2.1 External Evidence

2.1.1 Ignatius

2.1.2 Clement of Rome

2.1.3 Irenaeus

2.1.4 Theophilus of Antioch

2.1.5 Clement of Alexandria

2.1.6 Tertullian

2.1.7 Justin Martyr

2.1.8 Marturorian Canon

2.2 Internal Evidence

2.2.1 Paul is mentioned as the author in 1:1

2.2.2 The style is consistent with Paul's personal letter to Timothy, even addressing the same topics, indicating it was written about the same time.

3. Date

The letter was probably written while Paul was at Corinth. He was planning to go to Nicopolis for the winter, but he may not have departed yet. It was probably written after 1 Timothy since his plans seem more established in Titus (3:12) than when he wrote 1 Timothy (1 Tim 3:14). The date is probably between AD63-66.

4. Occasion

After Paul's release from his first imprisonment in Rome he traveled to Crete, an island he had visited briefly during his voyage to Rome (Acts 27:7, 12, 13, 21). When he departed he left Titus to set things in order. This was necessary because the Cretan Christians were disorderly, had been influenced by the culture of Crete, and were being led by elders who were not qualified. Paul commanded Titus set things in order so they could become productive Christians.

5. Purpose(s) of Writing

Paul wrote to encourage Titus to select elders and set in order various structures for the local church.

6. Argument

It is important to have an established order of elders and roles within the church along with teaching of sound doctrine in order to promote good works that contrast with false teaching.

7. Theme(s)

7.1 The main theme is good works.

7.1.1 A sub-theme is salvation

7.1.2 A sub-theme is orderliness

7.1.3 A sub-theme is sound doctrine

8. Outline

- 8.1 Salutation (1:1-4)
- 8.2 Order for Good Works (1:5-3:11)
- 8.3 Benediction (3:12-15)

9. Uniquenesses

- 9.1 This letter emphasizes good works more than any other of Paul's letters (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14)
- 9.2 Paul quotes the pagan poet Epimenides in Titus 1:12.
- 9.3 The letter contains three distinctly doctrinal sections (1:1-4; 2:11-14; 3:4-7).
- 9.4 The letter has the longest salutation by Paul, excepting Romans (1:1-4).
- 9.5 The letter expresses similar concerns as 1 Timothy.

10. Keys to Titus

- 10.1 Key Word(s): Good works
- 10.2 Key Verse(s): Titus 3:8 "This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."
- 10.3 Key Idea: Select godly elders and assign responsibilities in roles to encourage good works which shore up defenses against false teaching and make believers productive.