

A Survey of the Letter to Titus

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Author:

Paul, the apostle (**Titus 1:1**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter. Traditionally we do not know much about the background and intent of the letter, but we know how it was received....very well! The early church accepted it as from the authority of Paul, although modern day scholars like to debate other possible authors and intended purposes.

Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it around 62-65 AD from Macedonia at the same time and location that he wrote the first letter to Timothy. As the book of Acts concludes it is evident that Paul is headed for prison, but wanted to encourage the younger preachers. Therefore, he wrote the first letter to Timothy and this one to Titus just in case he did not return from a Roman imprisonment (**Acts 26-28, Titus 3:13**). After his release, probably in the spring of 63 AD, Paul went east (**Romans 15:22**) and also planned to visit Timothy and Titus (**I Timothy 3:14, 4:13, Titus 3:12**). Since very little of this book deals with a heavy persecution upon the church, I Timothy and Titus were evidently written before Nero blamed the burning of Rome on the Christians (July, 64 AD) when the church was still in its infancy and the most significant problems they faced were within the fellowship, not without.

Theme:

This letter is associated with the "Pastoral Epistles" because of the content. Paul encourages Titus to keep working steadfastly. It was clearly meant for the preacher, not the congregation, but as with the letters to Timothy and Philemon one can see that the whole church could benefit from its content. While Timothy is clearly identified as a younger colleague, Paul speaks to Titus with a different tone and with a shorter message, which gives the assumption that he was older and more mature. Like Timothy, Titus is given authority to appoint elders, rebuke the false teachers, and nurture the flock, but more emphasis is placed on daily living. Paul addresses church unity, morality, and Christian obligations in the community.

Audience:

The letter is personally addressed to Titus whom Paul considered to be a "true son in our common faith" (**Titus 1:4**). Paul had apparently left Titus on the island of Crete to serve the congregations (**Titus 1:5**) and set things in order. We are given insight into the mindset of those in this congregation and community from Paul's own words: deceptive, ignorant, liars, evil, lazy gluttons. They were struggling with leadership, Legalistic false teaching, idolatry, and immorality.

Key Verses:

Titus 1:2, 1:5,-9, 1:15, 2:1-8, 2:11-14, 2:15, 3:1, 3:3-7, 3:9-11, 3:14

Outline:

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| I. Instruction For Church Organization (1) | II. Instruction For Christian Obligation (2) | III. Instruction For Correct Operation (3) |
| A. Preaching The Word of God (vs.1-4) | A. Sound Doctrine For Older Men (vs.1-2) | A. Subject To Authority (vs.1-2). |
| B. Ordaining The Elders (vs.5-9) | B. Sound Doctrine For Older Women (v.3) | B. Saved By God (vs.3-8). |
| C. Silencing The False Teachers (vs.10-11) | C. Sound Doctrine For Young Women (vs.4-5) | C. Steadfast In Good Works (vs.9-11) |
| D. Rebuking The Lazy Cretans (vs.12-14) | D. Sound Doctrine For Young Men (vs.6-8) | D. Serving The Kingdom (vs.12-15) |
| E. Serving The Living God (vs.15-16) | E. Sound Doctrine For Servants (vs.9-10) | |
| | F. Sound Doctrine For Saints (vs.11-15) | |