

Paul's Epistle to

Titus

1. Who is Titus?

- Titus was selected to go with Paul and Barnabas when they went to Jerusalem to consult with the apostles and elders about the question of whether the Gentiles were required to be circumcised before they could be saved (Acts 15).
 - Titus was a Gentile convert, and Paul chose to take him as a test case. After the discussion, Titus was not required to be circumcised or to keep the law of Moses in any way (Gal. 2: 1-3).
 - Later, during the third journey, Paul wrote to the Corinthians from the city of Ephesus, and he sent it by the hands of Titus. Then Titus joined Paul in Macedonia, giving a report from Corinth, and Paul sent him back with a second letter (see 2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:5-7; 8:16-24). Now he has been left in Crete to do a needed work (Tit. 1:5).
- [Go Tell the Good News](#) (Waldron), p 243

2. 1 Timothy and Titus have many common themes and directions from Paul to these two young preachers. Identify a few of these similarities.

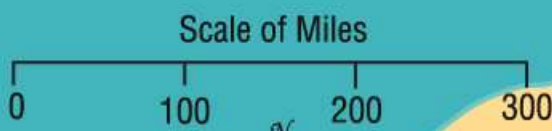
- Written to young preachers Paul had mentored.
- Written about the same time, same considerations on Paul's mind in given environment.
- Qualifications of Elders. (Only 1 Tim discusses Deacons.)
 - Big Responsibility: Promote sound teaching & stop false teachers/teachings!
- Instructions on how these evangelists behave themselves. (Effect has on msg.)
- Relationships: how men/women, young/old, etc. are to conduct themselves, and how these preachers are to interact/treat them.
- Stay away from worthless, distracting arguments, some may not even have answers. They distract from the message.

3. Who delivered the letter, and why had Paul left Titus in Crete?

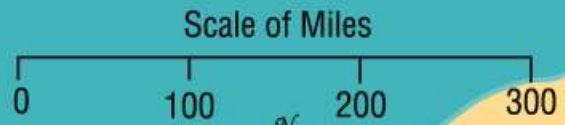
- 3:12 → Artemas or Tychicus
 - Tychicus carried epistles from Paul to the Ephesians, to the Colossians, to Philemon (Eph 6:21-22; Col 4:7-9)
- 1:5 → “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you...”



Paul's First Journey

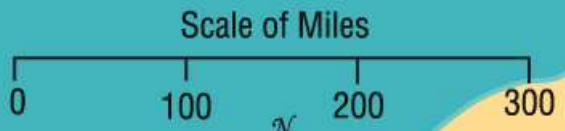


Paul's Second Journey

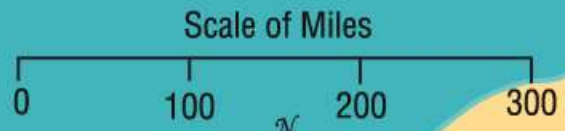




Paul's Third Journey



Paul's Rome Journey



4. *[Jason]* Can a congregation exist without elders?

Yes, for a time.

- **Authority:** these churches already existed; Timothy and Titus are being instructed to go back and help establish elderships w/in them.
- Must **not** be content to remain w/o elders. But may need time to "grow" them.

5. [Seth H.] What if a congregation cannot identify among their number men who meet all the qualifications. Can they select men who get closest to these qualifications or “close enough”?

No

- v7 → “For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward...”
- 1Tim 3:2 → “An overseer, then, must be above reproach...”

6. [Seth H.] What are the consequences of appointing unqualified men to this role within the church?

- v7 → “For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward...”
- v9 → “...so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.”
- Elders must be able (i.e., qualified) to perform the work of the job. They are God's stewards, w/ significant, serious responsibilities.
- Example: if he is not above reproach (or any of the others), he could become a blight to the church rather than a respected example/positive influence.
- *Bad leadership can be worse than no leadership.*

7. [Chris D.] What kind of environment/culture has Paul left Titus to evangelize in, and what are these soon-to-be established eldership going to be up against?

Titus 1:10-16

- there are many **rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision
 - ***must be silenced***
 - upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of dishonest gain
- “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”
 - This testimony is true.
 - For this reason reprimand them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.
- ...those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and **worthless for any good deed**.

Silencing “things they should not teach...”

Paul's Epistle to Titus

8. [TBD] How are each of these to behave?

- Older Men: temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.
- Older Women: reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to...
- Young Women: love their husbands, to love their children, *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.
- Young Men: sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

9. [Paul G.] What is the “grace of God” being addressed in 2:11-14?

- What → 2:11
“...has **appeared** to all mankind, **bringing salvation** to all people”
- How → 2:12-14
 - instruction + time (how to behave)
 - hope (what to look forward to)
 - Christ Himself (sacrificial gift)
- grace = gift → great mystery revealed: blessed hope of appearance of Christ

What is the ultimate point Paul is making in reminding us of this, especially within the context of chapter 2 as a whole?

Being blessed w/ God's grace should naturally lead us to live by God's standards, so as to not bring dishonor upon the name of Christ by our example. Rather we should be "***eager for good deeds.***"

10. [Chris Z.] How was Titus to proclaim this “sound doctrine?”

- 2:1 → “But *as for you*, **proclaim** the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.”
- 2:15 → “These things speak and exhort, and rebuke **with all authority**. No one is to disregard you.”
- *Almost like bookends to this chapter. Preach w/ boldness, addressing both right and wrong!*

11. *[Joshua]* What specifically is Titus to remind them in how to live? (3:1-2)

3:1-2 → "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every **good deed**, to slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people."

12. [Allen] What was our previous state prior to God's mercy?

3:9 → “For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”

- We were of the world/like the world around us.
- So consider that in how you treat those you are trying to teach. Don't water down the gospel, but do consider the kindness and love that God our Savior showed us.

What changed us? (3:3-8)

3:5-7 → “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

13. [Todd] Again, what is to be avoided and rejected? (3:9-11)

- 3:9 → “But **avoid** foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are **useless** and **worthless.**”
- 3:10-11 → “**Reject** a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is **sinning, being self-condemned.**”

14. *[Daniel]* In Paul's closing statements, what does he emphasize that "our people" must learn to do that is in direct contrast to a particular trait noted about the Cretans in 1:12?

- 3:14 → "Our people must also learn to *engage in good deeds* to meet pressing needs, so that they will *not be unproductive*."

-- VS --

- 1:12 → "...Cretans are always liars, *evil beasts, lazy gluttons*."

Further Study from Our Website...

Class Audio Recordings, September 2015:

- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #20 → (last half) Ch1: Titus Salutation
- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #21 → Ch1: Elders
- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #22 → Ch1: Silencing “things they should not teach...”
- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #23 → Ch2: Proclaim Sound Doctrine: Roles/Behavior
- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #24 → Ch2: Grace of God
- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #25 → Ch3: Godly Living
- I & II Timothy and Titus, Class #26 → Comparison of these 3 letters, main themes

Sermon, November 2018:

- Living Among Cretans → Applications for today