

THE BOOK OF TITUS

Introduction

EVANGELISM THROUGH HOLY LIVING

THE AUTHOR

The author of this letter is self-named in the opening lines as Paul the Apostle. This lengthy introduction, as introductions go, clearly states Paul's specific calling by God to preach the gospel. Paul's position as the apostle to the gentiles gave him the authority to exhort, command, and even discipline the churches in Crete.

Paul's life is the story of one who was transformed from the persecutor into the pastor.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW



While Paul's exact education is difficult to pinpoint, he was not, as some of the other Apostles are described, "an uneducated man." He was intelligent and educated, especially in the Old Testament Scriptures, as a result of his pharisaical training.



RADICAL IN HIS ZEAL

The Scriptures describe Paul as having a deep zeal for the things of God. He was energetically passionate about following God's law and pursuing holiness. He retained this trait after his conversion.

Jesus dramatically interrupted Paul's life and changed the focus of his zeal by calling him to a ministry of evangelism.

A DEVOUT JEW



Paul was a strict observer of the Torah and its laws. He lived his life in obedience to the Jewish law, both in lifestyle and in ceremonial purity. He even went as far as saying that according to the law, he was blameless.

PAUL WAS A MAN ON A MISSION

Paul's conversion was supernatural. His obedience to the calling of ministry was zealous. He had been given a mission, trained through the revelation given by the Holy Spirit, and filled with a passion for the lost of this world. Paul was equipped by God to change the gentile world.

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IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE BOOK OF TITUS

- It is a letter from Paul to Titus and the churches in Crete.
- Titus was a young pastor who had served with Paul.
- Its purpose was to encourage this young pastor.
- Its goal was to define proper church organization.
- Its authenticity is confirmed by 31 pieces of ancient text.

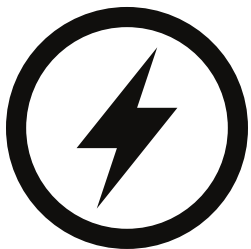
The book of Titus is a brief yet incredibly deep summary of how a church that is living an active witness should look. It weaves together encouragement for Titus, as well as detailed instructions for guiding the churches under his care to be effective at evangelizing their local area.

THEMES WITHIN THE BOOK



- Salvation by God's grace through faith
- Jesus Christ/God as the Savior
- Qualifications for elders
- Intra-congregational discipleship patterns
- The importance of sound doctrine
- Confronting false teachers
- Congregational pursuit of good works

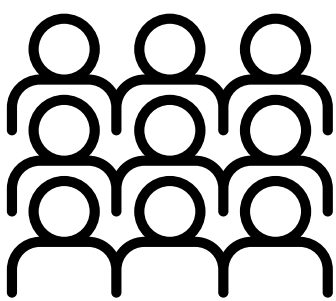
THE WEIGHT OF APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY



One of the major purposes behind this letter is for Paul to put the weight of his apostolic authority fully behind the leadership of Titus. This authority makes his writing relevant to today's churches.

Paul focused on exhorting a young pastor to organize and order the church for effective ministry.

THE APOSTLE ADDRESSED BELIEVERS DIRECTLY



More than just instruction to his young protege, Paul instructed the believers directly. His instructions transcend beyond their original audience to the modern church without losing any of their truth or apostolic force.

EVANGELISTIC LIVING REQUIRES PURPOSE AND EFFORT

Paul made it clear in this letter to Titus, the church is not to simply exist. It has a purpose and must strive to accomplish that purpose. Anything less is sin on the part of the body. All believers are called to be active in this pursuit for the purpose of spreading the gospel.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

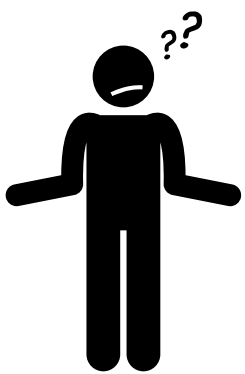
- It was written around the mid-60s AD.
- The audience was Christians living on the Isle of Crete.
- Crete is a large island in the Mediterranean Sea close to Greece and Asia Minor.
- The inhabitants of Crete had exposure to Greek and Roman culture.

The churches on Crete were relatively new and filled with immature believers. It is possible they were planted by Jews from Crete who were converted at Pentecost. These churches had been left under the care of Titus by the Apostle Paul to ensure solid teaching and proper growth in the faith.



PAUL'S FINAL MISSIONARY JOURNEY

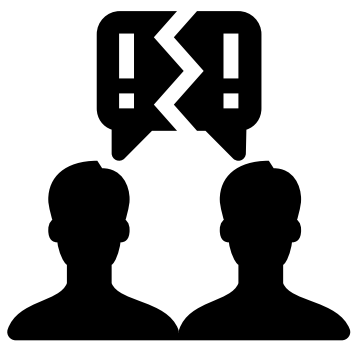
Paul's visit to Crete and subsequent stationing of Titus as the lead pastor of Crete occurred on his final missionary journey. It was at the conclusion of this trip that Paul would find himself a prisoner in Rome and eventually be beheaded by Nero.



PAUL FOUND LEADERLESS CHURCHES

When Paul came to Crete, he found immature churches that desperately needed leadership. His letter to Titus indicated that his hope for these churches was that they would become mature.

Paul's mission was always to push the gospel forward. While he loved each of the churches that he ministered to, it was his protege that was charged with leading the church on Crete. Paul's own calling was ever forward to share the gospel with a new audience. However, his love for this church is evident in his writing.



OPPOSITION ABOUNDED

Titus needed this encouragement. His task of pastoring these churches called upon him to continually put down the false teaching of the circumcision party, who taught that all believers must practice strict adherence to the law of Moses.

THE ROLE OF PASTORS HAS NOT CHANGED

From the very beginning of the church, the role of pastors has not changed. It is the faithful care and shepherding of the people of God, teaching solid doctrine, and refuting false teachers in order to protect the flock from harmful false doctrines and beliefs.