

The Book of Titus

Introduction

The Book of Titus was written by the Apostle Paul somewhere between 63-66 A.D. Paul wrote this letter from Nicopolis, after his release from his first Roman imprisonment.

Titus was a Greek convert to Christ (see Galatians 2:3), and it is likely that he was a convert of Paul's since he refers to him in the letter's opening lines as "a true son in the faith" (Titus 1:4). We have no firm confirmation of that anywhere in Scripture, but if he was not a convert of Paul's, he was certainly one of his most trusted companions in his ministry. Titus accompanied Paul and Barnabus when they went up to Jerusalem (Galatians 2:4), and we know that Paul had sent him to Corinth at least once (see 2 Corinthians 7:6-7 and 13-15, and also 8:6 and 16-24).

After Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to minister there, Paul accompanied Titus to the island of Crete, where after evangelizing on the island, Paul left Titus to help organize and pastor the new churches that had formed there.

The Book of Titus is referred to as one of Paul's "pastoral epistles," and his purpose for the letter was to instruct Titus in how to form good leadership in the churches and to encourage him in this pastoral role, while addressing certain issues concerning these new churches that included a moral laxity, doctrinal purity, sound theology and warnings against the false teachers.

Paul also emphasizes to Titus the need to not only teach these things, but to be an example that others are to follow, urging him to clearly instruct the congregation under his care in the need to live a life of holiness. Paul warns that this example of godliness was to be lived out by all of those in a leadership position within the church, and he gives Titus clear guidelines for those who he would appoint in those positions.

Paul's instructions to Titus are all things that we need to take heed to today. While we are in the world, we are not to be "of" the world, and we need to guard ourselves from being pulled into the ungodly influences of our culture. Those, especially, who are in positions of leadership within the church, are to be role models to all. But these truths speak clearly to all of us, as we all have positions of influence over the lives of those who observe us.

I have primarily used the NKJV in writing this study, unless otherwise indicated. As you answer the questions, please keep that in mind and regardless of which version you prefer, make sure to refer to the NKJV for the best clarification of the question being asked.

Please have the first lesson completed when you come to the first study. We strongly encourage you to complete your lesson each week. Don't try to do it all in one sitting but spread it out throughout the week. That will give you more time to glean all that the Lord has for you and to come prepared to share your thoughts in our discussion time.

If for some reason you were not able to complete your study, **we want you to come anyway.** I know that you will receive much from the overview and discussion each week and you can always go back to complete the lesson later.

Take a few moments before you begin your time of study in God's Word to ask Him to quiet your mind from all other distractions and open your heart to the things He wants to show you. Take notes as you read, jotting down those things the Lord impresses on your heart. Keeping a study journal is a good way to do this and I encourage you to use one, or you can use the blank sheet at the back of each lesson for that purpose, as well as for taking notes from the overview.

We are so excited that you are joining us in this study, and we look forward to all the Lord wants to speak to our hearts.

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