

TITUS

Synopsis: *^ Titus is named after the recipient (1:4). The letter contains a strong emphasis on "good works." The letter "includes qualifications for elders, the demand to preach the truth, a guide on how to keep the church pure, an admonition for being examples through righteous living, and reasons for rebuking false teachers."

Author: Paul

Chapters: 3

Background:^ It is obvious from Paul's letters that Titus was a valued co-worker (II Cor. 2:13; 7:6, 13, 14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18; Gal. 2:1, 3; II Tim. 4:10). Titus was a Greek (Gal. 2:3), whom Paul had apparently converted as he called him a "true son in our common faith" (1:4). As Paul seemed to send Titus into hard situations, some have called him "Paul's trouble-shooter."

Paul likely visited Crete between his two Roman imprisonments and left Titus there to "set in order the things that are lacking" in the congregation (Titus 1:5). Crete was an island located southeast of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea. Inhabitants of Crete had a reputation as "liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12).

Paul wrote to tell Titus how to set in order the things that were lacking. The letter likely also served to encourage Titus in the difficult task before him and to back him up with an authoritative apostolic letter.

In addition to the no-nonsense instructions to the members, the book also contains a sobering charge to all preachers (Titus 2:7, 8) and two great doctrinal passages (2:11-14; 3:3-7).

Five Great Lessons*

1. We must avoid factious people.
2. Be ready to every good work.
3. We need older women teaching the younger women.
4. We must correct what is lacking in the church.
5. Faithful brethren are a help and a blessing.

Outline^

- I. PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER BY APPOINTING STRONG LEADERSHIP (1).
 - a. Men who are strong Christian husbands and fathers should be selected (vv. 5-9).
 - b. Men who are able to deal with false teachers should be selected (vv. 10-16; see 3:9-11).

*Butterworth, Ken. *God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook*, 2006.

^Roper, David. *Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures*, 1999.

- II. PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER BY TEACHING SOUND DOCTRINE (2; note vv. 1, 15).
 - a. Sound doctrine commanded (vv. 1, 7, 8, 15).
 - b. Sound doctrine applied to all ages (vv. 2-8) and servants (vv. 9, 10).
 - c. Sound doctrine explained (vv. 11-14).
- III. PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER BY ENCOURAGING GOOD WORKS (3; note vv. 1, 8, 14).
 - a. The need for good works (see 1:16; 2:7, 14).
 - i. As citizens (vv. 1, 2).
 - ii. As evangelists (vv. 8, 14).
 - b. The motive for good works: God's love (vv. 3-7).

Lessons^

The principal things lacking in the church at Crete was strong leadership (1:5). Good leadership is essential for the church to be what it should be. The Bible reveals that God desires churches to be led by a group of qualified men referred to as elders, bishops, overseers, and/or presbyters. More than a title, the reference is to the work such leaders are to carry out.

Meditate on 2:11-14 and 3:3-7. Consider what God has done for us and how this should affect our lives!

Challenging Themes* & Selected Passages

- 1:2 The one great God will keep all His promises.
- 2:7-8 Talk the talk and walk the walk. Why?
- 3:1, 14 Christianity is truly a working religion.
- 3:9-10 We need brethren who will make a stand, defend the right, oppose the wrong, and not allow false teachers to feel comfortable in our midst.

**Butterworth, Ken. God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook, 2006.*

^Roper, David. Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, 1999.