

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 56 – “Titus”
July 5, 2009

Titus: Some Background Information

The Audience: This is a personal letter from Paul, written to a young ministry colleague serving on the island of Crete. Less is known about Titus than Timothy. Titus is not referred to in the Book of Acts, but is mentioned 13 times in the rest of the New Testament. Titus seems to have been considerably younger than Paul but may have been older than Timothy. Paul refers to him as “brother” (2 Corinthians 2:13) and “partner” (2 Corinthians 8:23) as well as “son” (Titus 1:4). He was a Gentile and very likely a convert of Paul. Interestingly, Paul refused to have Titus circumcised (Galatians 2:2-5), although he made sure that Timothy was circumcised. (Acts 16:1-3). Titus had a history of being dispatched by Paul to handle some tough assignments and proved to be an effective troubleshooter in delicate situations.

The Date of the Letter: Paul’s letter to Titus was written around A.D. 64-66, between his two imprisonments and between the writing of I and II Timothy.

The Purposes of the Letter: Another of Paul’s Pastoral Epistles, this letter was written to encourage Titus (1:4) and also to advise him on how to deal with a difficult church (1:5-16). This letter is similar to I Timothy in content but shorter in length.

The Theme of the Letter: Soundness in Christ. (1:13)

Teachings on Grace: Two of the New Testament’s most prolific “grace” passages are found in this small book—2:11-14 and 3:5-7.

Titus: An Outline

1. Salutation. 1:1-4

2. General Instructions. 1:5-16

- Choosing godly leaders: Qualifications for elders/ overseers. v. 5-9
- Silencing false teachers: Combating the Judaizers. v. 10-16

3. Specific Instructions. 2:1-15

- Instructions for the older men. v. 1-2

- Instructions for the older women. v. 3-5
- Instructions for the younger men. v. 6-8
- Instructions for those who are slaves. v. 9-10
- God's grace: the power for holy living. v. 11-14
- Summation: Teach with authority. v. 15

4. **Concluding Instructions. 3:1-15**

- Living responsibly as a Christian in this world. v. 1-2
 - Our civic responsibility. v. 1
 - Our social responsibility. v. 2
- God's grace: the power of a transformed life. v. 3-8
- Dealing with problem people. v. 9-11
 - Avoid. v. 9
 - Warn. v. 10a
 - Withdraw. v. 10b
- Final remarks. v. 12-15
 - Being devoted to the good
 - Living productive lives
 - God's grace: Something we all need.