

Titus

Summary

Imagine a city where the people are known for being dishonest, lazy, gluttonous, party animals, and ungodly in many ways. Now, picture a church being planted right in the middle of this confused and pagan city. Finally, think about the challenges that the pastor of this church might face. If you can understand this scenario in your mind, you will understand why the apostle Paul wrote this short and powerful book. Titus was a pastor who traveled with the apostle Paul on several church planting trips. Titus helped Paul plant the church on the island of Crete in the Mediterranean. This church was struggling, conflicted, and in need of a strong leader who would follow Jesus in the midst of turmoil. Titus was the right man for the job. The following Scripture is a snapshot of what Pastor Titus was facing in his church and ministry. *Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons* (Titus 1:12). Paul responds to this by writing, *This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith* (Titus 1:13). We hear a message calling a pastor to lead well, to teach sound doctrine, and to call people to transformed lives of holiness and obedience in the midst of a social and cultural cesspool.

Author

The apostle Paul is writing to a pastor, Titus, who is leading a church in a very challenging situation. This book was inspired by the Holy Spirit from the heart of one pastor to another.

Date

This letter was written between A.D. 63-65 after his first imprisonment in Rome.

Primary Characters

Paul (Titus 1-3)

Titus (Titus 1-3)

The Church of Crete (Titus 1-3)

Historical Moments

Paul Writes His Letter to Titus (Titus 1-3)

Major Theological Themes

Faith and Works Go Hand In Hand - Some people emphasize grace and downplay good works and living a life of obedience. Others focus on acts of faithfulness but do not emphasize grace. The book of Titus shows us that it all begins with grace and the salvation that comes through Jesus. As a result, a truly saved person will experience spiritual growth and life-transformation. Faith and works are two sides of the same coin.

The Only Hope for People Caught in a Sinful and Crazy Culture Is the Gospel of Jesus - The city of Crete was deeply pagan and sinful. The gospel had come to this dark place, and the truth was bringing light. There was a need for radical sanctification and growth in holiness. The only hope for salvation and life-transformation was and is the gospel of Jesus. Only His life, death, resurrection, and the unleashing of His grace could offer the power needed for those people and that community to change.

False Teachers Will Always Be with Us and Confrontation Will Always Be Necessary - Every church in every culture will have to face false teachers. This was true in Crete, and it is true where you live today. Godly leaders must learn to let the Holy Spirit empower them, and they must know the truth of Scripture. With these tools, we can confront lies, teach the truth, and call false teachers to repent or be removed from the church.

Lessons Learned from Titus

Practice What You Preach - Our lives should be a continual process of growing to be more like Jesus. Through Scripture, we can know the truth. By the power of the Spirit, we can learn to walk in the truth. This requires a daily and humble yielding to God's will. The world is watching. One of the best ways to show people Jesus, is to make sure that our lives reflect what we claim to believe.

Pastors Need Encouragement - Titus was a pastor in a tough place. He felt discouragement, he faced false teachers, and he battled resistance from the people. He needed Paul to come alongside him and encourage him with words of blessing and wise instruction. Pastors today also need support. Pray for your pastor and offer words of encouragement. Challenge them to maintain sound doctrine as they serve the local church.

Church and Culture Should Look Different - Crete was a broken place with deep needs and problems. This society needed a vibrant church filled with believers who were not only biblical in their beliefs and thinking, but who were also scriptural in their behavior and actions. Just like Crete, your city or town also needs to see Christians whose lives reflect what they claim to believe. Seek to be that kind of a follower of Jesus. Pray for power to live what you believe so that you may be a witness to the world.