

Introduction to the Letter of Paul to Titus

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul

DATE: 63-66

Historical Background

The probable order of significant events is this:

(1) Paul was released from his house arrest in Rome (where we find him at the end of Acts), probably because his accusers did not choose to press their charges against him before Caesar ([Acts 24:1](#); [28:30](#)). Their case, therefore, was lost by default, and Paul was freed.

(2) Paul visited Ephesus, left Timothy there to supervise the churches, and went on to Macedonia (northern Greece).

(3) From there he wrote 1 Timothy ([1 Tim. 1:3](#)).

(4) He visited Crete, left Titus there to supervise those churches, and went to Nicopolis in Achaia (southern Greece, [Titus 3:12](#)).

(5) Either from Macedonia or Nicopolis, he wrote this letter to encourage Titus.

(6) He visited Troas ([2 Tim. 4:13](#)), where he was suddenly arrested, taken to Rome, imprisoned, and finally beheaded.

(7) From Rome, during this second imprisonment, he wrote 2 Timothy.

Who Was Titus?

A Gentile by birth ([Gal. 2:3](#)), Titus was converted through the ministry of Paul ([Titus 1:4](#)). He accompanied Paul to Jerusalem at the time of the apostolic council ([Acts 15:2](#); [Gal. 2:1-3](#)). He was Paul's emissary to the church at Corinth during the third missionary journey ([2 Cor. 7:6-7](#); [8:6](#), [16](#)).

Titus and two others took the letter we call 2 Corinthians to Corinth and urged the Corinthians to make good their promise to give to the poor in Jerusalem. Paul left Titus in Crete to use his administrative gifts to consolidate the work there. Artemas or Tychicus probably relieved Titus in Crete so he could join Paul in Nicopolis ([Titus 3:12](#)), from where Paul sent him to Dalmatia, the former Yugoslavia ([2 Tim. 4:10](#)). Tradition says he returned to Crete and died there.



Contents of the Letter

Important topics discussed in the letter include:

- qualifications for elders ([1:5-9](#))
- instructions to various age groups ([2:1-8](#)),
- relationship to government ([3:1-2](#))
- the relation of regeneration to human works and to the Spirit ([3:5](#)).

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The Letter of Paul to Titus

The Gospel as Fulfillment of the Promised Word

I. Opening Greetings, 1:1-4

- A. ¹Paul, a bond-servant of God and
- B. an _____ of Jesus Christ,
1. _____ for the faith of those chosen of God and
 2. the knowledge of the _____
 3. which is:
 - a. according to _____,
 - b. ²in the hope of eternal life,
 - 1) which God, who cannot _____,
 - 2) promised long ages ago,
 - 3) ³but at the proper _____ manifested,
 - 4) *even* His word, in the proclamation
 - a) with which I was entrusted
 - b) according to the _____ of God our Savior,
- C. ⁴to Titus,
1. my true child in a _____ faith:
 2. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.



Apostle: *Original Word: apostolos* **Usage Number:** 1
Strong's Number: <G652> **Usage Notes:** is, lit., "one sent forth" (apo, "from," stello, "to send"). "The word is used of the Lord Jesus to describe His relation to God, [Heb. 3:1](#); see [John 17:3](#). The twelve disciples chosen by the Lord for special training were so called, [Luke 6:13](#); [Luke 9:10](#). Paul, though he had seen the Lord Jesus, [1Cor. 9:1](#); [1Cor. 15:8](#), had not 'compared with' the Twelve 'all the time' of His earthly ministry, & hence was not eligible for a place among them, according to Peter's description of the necessary qualifications, [Acts 1:22](#). Paul was commissioned directly, by the Lord Himself, after His Ascension, to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of OT & NT Words*

Paul is describing for us the kind of men who are "above reproach". Most of the lists that he gives us in the New Testament are, while very descriptive, ambiguous & not all inclusive. Thus they paint a picture of the "right stuff" as an example for others to follow. Thus, we seek the kind of men that are best suited to the overall picture the lists provide us while not taking our "literal interpretation" of Scripture too far into a legalistic approach. A good "for instance" is the fruit of the Spirit list in Galatians chapter 5.

Instructions Regarding the Church 1:5-3:10

II. Appoint Elders, 1:5-9

- A. **Their Desirability, 1:5**
1. ⁵For this _____ I left you in Crete:
 - a. that you would set in _____ what remains and
 - b. appoint _____ in every city as I directed you,
- B. **Their Qualifications, 1:6-9**
1. ⁶namely, if any man is:
 - a. above _____,
 - b. the husband of one wife, (*see notes on 1 Timothy*)
 - 1) having children who _____,
 - 2) not accused of dissipation or _____.
 2. ⁷For the overseer must:
 - a. be above _____ as God's steward,

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) not self-willed, 2) not quick-tempered, 3) not addicted to wine, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) not pugnacious, 5) not fond of sordid gain, 6) ⁸but hospitable, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) loving what is good, 8) sensible, 9) just, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10) devout, 11) self-controlled |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
 - b. ⁹ _____ fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching,
 - c. so that he will be able both to:
 - 1) _____ in sound doctrine and to
 - 2) _____ those who contradict.

III. Reason: to counteract false teachers, 1:10-16

- A. ¹⁰For there are many _____ men,
1. _____ talkers and _____,
 - a. especially those of the circumcision,
 - b. ¹¹who must be _____ because they are
 2. upsetting whole _____,
 3. teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid _____.
- B. ¹²One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said,
1. "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
 2. ¹³This testimony is true.
- C. For this _____ reprove them severely:
1. so that they may be sound in the _____,
 2. ¹⁴not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.
- D. ¹⁵To the _____, all things are _____ --; but
- E. to those who are _____ - and _____,
1. _____ is pure, but
 2. _____ their mind and their conscience are _____.
 3. ¹⁶They _____ to know God, but
 - a. by *their* _____ they _____ - *Him*,
 - b. being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any _____ deed.



IV. Sound Doctrine Manifested in Right Living, 2:1-15

A. Duties of the Minister to lead others rightly, 2:1-10

1. ¹But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for _____ doctrine.

a. ²Older _____ are to be

- 1) temperate,
- 2) dignified,
- 3) _____,
- 4) _____

- a) in faith,
- b) in love,
- c) in perseverance.

b. ³Older _____ likewise are to be

- 1) reverent in their behavior,
- 2) not malicious gossips
- 3) nor enslaved to much wine,
- 4) teaching what is good,
- 5) ⁴so that they may encourage the

c. young _____ to

- 1) love their husbands, to
- 2) love their children, ⁵to be
- 3) _____,
- 4) pure,
- 5) workers at home,
- 6) kind,
- 7) being subject to their own husbands,
- 8) ⁶so that the word of God will not be dishonored. ⁶Likewise urge the

d. young _____ to be

- 1) _____;
- 2) ⁷in all things show yourself to be an example
 - i. of good deeds,
 - ii. with purity in doctrine,
 - iii. dignified,
 - iv. ⁸_____ in speech which is beyond reproach,
- 3) ³so that the opponent
 - i. will be put to shame,
 - ii. having nothing bad to say about us.

e. ⁹Urge _____ to be

- 1) subject to their own masters in everything, to be
- 2) well-pleasing,
- 3) not _____,
- 4) ¹⁰not pilfering, but
- 5) showing all good faith
- 6) ⁶so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

B. The Basis of Behavior: A Response to God's Grace, 2:11-15

1. ¹¹For the grace of God

- a. has _____,
- b. bringing salvation to all men,
- c. ¹²instructing us

- 1) to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and
- 2) to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
- 3) ¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing
 - a) of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

d. ¹⁴who gave Himself for us

- 1) to _____ us from every lawless deed, and
- 2) to _____ for Himself a people
 - a) for His own possession,
 - b) _____ for good deeds.

Something
Worth
Protecting:

The Examples

The Word

The Testimony

The Gospel

ὑγιαίνω
hugiainō
hoog-ee-ah'ee-no

The word "sound" used here several times refers to being completely healthy as well as to be uncorrupted by anything.

Matt 24:45/Lk 12:42 says, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."



¹⁵These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

V. Instructions for Godly living based on the saving work of God 3:1-11

A. Demonstration of Good Works, 3:1-8

1. In relation to authority, 3:1

- a. ¹Remind them:
1. to be subject to rulers, to authorities,
 2. to be obedient,
 3. to be ready for every good deed,

2. In relation to all people, 3:2-8

- a. ²to malign no one,
1. to be peaceable, gentle,
 2. showing every consideration for all men.

a. ³For we also once were

1. foolish ourselves,
2. disobedient,
3. deceived,
4. enslaved to various lusts and pleasures,
5. spending our life in malice and envy,
6. hateful, hating one another.

b. ⁴But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

1. ⁵He _____ us,
 - a) not on the basis of deeds which we _____ done in righteousness,
 - b) but according to His _____,
 - c) by the
 - 1) _____ of regeneration and
 - 2) renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- ~⁶whom He _____ out upon us richly
~through Jesus Christ our Savior,

2. ⁷so that being _____ by His grace

3. we would be made _____
4. according to *the* hope of eternal life.

c. ⁸This is a trustworthy statement; and

d. concerning these things

1. I want you to _____ confidently,
2. **so that** those who have believed God
 - a) will be _____ to
 - b) _____ in good deeds.

e. These things are good and profitable for men.

B. Final Instructions to Good Works and Regarding False Teachers, 3:9-11

1. ⁹But avoid

- a. foolish _____ and genealogies and
- b. _____ and _____ about the _____
- c. for they are _____ and _____

2. ¹⁰Reject a _____ man

- a. after a first and second warning,
- b. ¹¹knowing that such a man
 1. is _____ and
 2. is _____,
 3. being self-_____.



What is "FACTIOUS"?
 αἰρετικός = aihretikos
Thayer's Definitions:
 1) fitted or able to take or choose a thing
 2) schismatic, factious, a follower of a false doctrine
 3) heretic
Schismatic: (eng. Def.) relating to, involved in, or causing the division of a group through disagreement or difference of opinion, especially when leading to open conflict

IV. Personal Instructions and Greetings, 3:12-15

- A. ¹²When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you,
 1. make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis,
 2. for I have decided to spend the winter there.
- B. ¹³Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos
 1. on their way
 2. **so that** nothing is lacking for them.
- C. ¹⁴Our people _____ also _____
 1. to _____ in good deeds
 2. to meet _____ needs,
 3. **so that** they will not be _____.
- D. ¹⁵All who are with me greet you.
- E. Greet those who love us in *the* faith.
- F. Grace be with you all.

