

Notes on Titus

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Titus 1:1–4

- Paul begins his letter with an abnormally long greeting, full of rich theology
 - Most of his instructions were directly for Titus but still to be passed onto the churches he was starting and the elders he was appointing
 - Titus' work was much still much younger than Timothy's, not as far along, so Paul was giving him things to pass along rather than writing them directly to the people
- Paul needed to emphasize his credentials and doctrine that Titus could use as he built the work there
 - His perspective — "slave/servant of God"
 - His role — "apostle of Jesus Christ"
 - His audience — "for the faith of God's elect/choice ones"
 - Faith, full knowledge, hope
- Paul believed that he had been entrusted with a specific message and doctrine
 - See 1 Timothy 1:11 and 2 Timothy 2:2
- He used the same phrase to describe Titus as he did Timothy — "legitimate child"
- Back to his common greeting – "grace and peace"; no "mercy" as with Timothy

Titus 1:5

- Crete is Greece's largest island, south of Greece and Turkey in the Mediterranean Sea
- Paul left Titus in Crete to do the work that he was unable to finish
- Specifically, Paul had to leave before appointing elders in the local churches, so Titus needed to do that

Titus 1:6–8

- Since getting elders appointed was Paul's priority, he jumped right in
- Of the 15 character traits listed here in Titus, about half are duplicates of what he wrote in 1 Timothy 3 and half are new or additional

- above reproach – one woman man – not addicted to wine – not a bully – not greedy – hospitable – sensible – self-controlled
- New character traits not mentioned in 1 Timothy
 - Having faithful children
 - Not under the charge of dissipation or rebellion
 - New title: God’s manager
 - Not self-willed, stubborn
 - Not quick-tempered
 - A lover of good
 - Just
 - Devout

Titus 1:9–16

- The elders’ major responsibility in Titus:
 - “Holding fast to the faithful message in accordance with the teaching”**
 - He must be able to encourage believers with healthy doctrine
 - He must be able to expose those who teach against it
 - “Healthy teaching” is a result of proper overseeing and shepherding
- Why was it so important for Titus to teach healthy doctrine?
 - It was necessary to silence false teachers
 - They were ruining entire homes
 - So believers would remain healthy in their faith
- What are some signs of false teaching?
 - Teachings that are not necessary
 - Teachers who are always after people’s money
 - Teachers who focus on myths and traditions rather than Scripture
 - Teachers whose works go against God’s commands

Titus 2:1–8

- In contrast to those false teachings previously listed, Paul told Titus specific things he should be teaching the believers in Crete
 - These are principles that we should continue to obey today

- Paul says these “are fitting for healthy teaching”
- Same four groups of people as in 1 Timothy 5 — **older men**, older women, younger women, younger men
 - Sober
 - Dignified
 - Self-controlled
 - Healthy in faith, love, and perseverance
- Older men, **older women**, younger women, younger men
 - Reverent behavior
 - Not slanderers
 - Not enslaved to much wine
 - Teaching what is good
 - Encouraging the young women
- Older men, older women, **younger women**, younger men
 - Their attention — husband-lovers, children-lovers
 - Their character — self-controlled, pure
 - Their work — busy at home, good
 - Their reputation — submissive to their own husbands
 - So the message would not be blasphemed
- Older men, older women, younger women, **younger men**
 - Self-controlled in all things
 - Titus was to set himself as their example
 - Good works
 - Soundness and dignity in his teaching
 - His message was to be beyond reproach and not give ammunition to their opponents
- Recap:
 - Older men and older women were to have and display certain godly characteristics
 - Older women were to intentionally teach younger women how to live properly
 - Titus was to work on training and being an example for the younger men
 - So what were the older men to do? Probably be serving as elders and deacons

Titus 2:9–10

- Paul gave a special message for slaves
 - Be subject to your own masters in all things
 - Well-pleasing
 - Not talking back
 - Not “holding back,” skimming, stealing
 - Demonstrating all good faith
 - So that they would adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything
 - “God our Savior”; occurs exactly like this in the NT only in
 - 1 Timothy 2:3; Titus 1:3, 2:10, 3:4
 - “adorn” — same concept as women’s cosmetics in 1 Tim 2; **our lives should make our doctrine look good**

Titus 2:11–14

- Why is all this necessary?
- God’s grace has appeared with two results:
 - Brings salvation to/for all people
 - Teaches us that we should live self-controlled, righteously, and godly in this present age
 - By denying ungodliness and worldly lusts
 - While waiting for the blessed hope
- How did God’s grace bring salvation to/for all people?
 - Our great God and Savior = Jesus Christ
 - Gave himself for us
 - So that he could redeem us from every lawlessness and purify a people
 - for himself
 - for his own possession
 - zealous for good works

Titus 2:15

- Four summary commands for this chapter:

- Speak these things (vs 1)
- Encourage/exhort these things (vs 6)
- Expose these things with all authority (1:9, 13)
- Do not let any disregard/look down on you (cp. 1 Tim 4:12)

Titus 3:1–3

- “Remind them...”
 - To submit to ruling authorities
 - To obey
 - To be prepared for every good work
 - To blaspheme no one
 - To be peaceable, kind — demonstrating all gentleness to all people
- Why do we need to be reminded? Because we were:
 - Ignorant
 - Disobedient
 - Being deceived
 - Enslaved to lusts and various pleasures
 - Spending our lives in wickedness and envy
 - Despicable
 - Hating one another

Titus 3:4–7

- When the goodness and love for mankind of God our Savior appeared
 - Not based on works of righteousness which we did
 - But according to his mercy
- **He saved us**
 - Through washing of regeneration
 - And renewal of the Holy Spirit
- Why did he save us? So that we can become heirs
 - Based on our justification by his grace
 - In accordance with the hope of eternal life

- The truths codified in this hymn are Paul's fourth "faithful saying."

Titus 3:8–11

- Paul's desire for Titus: "Speak confidently about these things" — Why?
 - So that those who have believed in God would be intent on being engaged in good works
 - Why? These things are good and beneficial to/for people
- On the other hand...
 - But foolish controversies and genealogies and contentions and fights about laws...**avoid!**
 - They are worthless
 - A divisive person after one or two admonitions...**reject!**
 - Such a person has been perverted and sins being self-condemned

Titus 3:12–15

- When Artemas or Tychicus arrives, Titus was to meet up with Paul in Nicopolis
- Help Zenas and Apollos to continue the work Paul had assigned them to do
 - Paul did not want them to be unfruitful in their shared work