

Titus at Crete

4 August 2019 – Embry Hills

Titus at Crete

- **Background of Titus and the Cretans**
- **Overview of the Letter to Titus**
- **Relationship to Authorities & Everyone**
- **How and Why?**

Titus

- **Greek convert, uncircumcised (Gal 2:3)**
- **Paul's companion from early days of his work (II Cor 8:23)**
If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you.
- **A test case in the early controversy over circumcision (Gal 2:3)**
Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.
- **High integrity (II Cor 8:6, 17)**
(Entrusted with gifts for Judea)
But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.
- **Deep emotional connection to Paul (II Cor 2:13; 7:5)**
I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother...
Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus ...
- **Perhaps more courageous than most (II Cor 7:14-15; 8:17)**
...But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true. ¹⁵ And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him.
...he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.



Cretan Society (and Christians?)

- A Greek Island, under Roman rule, known for dishonesty, greed, immorality, and insubordination, (“Birthplace of Zeus”)
- “Cretans are always **liars**, evil beasts, **lazy** gluttons” (1:12)
 - Elders’ children not to be accused of “riot or insubordination”
 - (Key themes in Titus: Truth Telling & Good Works)
- Defiled & unbelieving: mind and conscience defiled (1:13)
- Deny God by their **works** (1:14)
- Abominable, disobedient, disqualified for **good works** (1:14)
- In the church: many insubordinate [rebellious] (1:10)
 - Idle talkers, deceivers, ...for dishonest gain (1:10-11)

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking... (Titus 1:5)

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Overview of Paul's Letter to Titus

- Introduction—emphasis on Truth (1:1-4)
- Leader qualifications and tasks (1:5-16)
- Character of Christians (2:1-15)
 - Older/Younger Men/Women, Servants
 - *Why: the Grace of God appeared... (2:11-14)*
- **Behavior toward all others (3:1-11)**
 - Toward Rulers & Authority, and all men
 - *Why: the Kindness and Love of God appeared... (3:4-7)*
- Conclusion (3:12-15)

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Relationship to Rulers & Authorities, and Everyone

To Ruler & Authorities

- (1) Be subject (in submission, see 2:5, 9)
- (1) Obey [superiors] = “be persuaded by rank”
- (1) Be ready for every **good work**

To everyone, all men:

- (2) Speak evil of no one
- (2) Be peaceable [not a fighter]
- (2) Be gentle [mild, patient]
- (2) Show humility [meekness]
- (9) Avoid foolish disputes... (unprofitable, useless)
- (8, 14) Careful to maintain [devote selves to; leading in] **good works**

Good Works

- **What are not good works:**
 - Disobedience, disrespect, malice, envy, deceit... (3:1-3)
 - Causing blasphemy of Word (2:5)
 - Enabling condemnation & criticism by opponents (2:8)
 - Contention about irrelevant (vain) issues (3:9)
 - Divisive behavior (3:10)
- **Describing good works:**
 - [Younger men] to be “a pattern of good works; in **doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,** ⁸ **sound speech** that cannot be condemned...” (2:7-8)
 - Puts an opponent to shame, because there is nothing evil to say (2:8)
 - Good and **profitable to men** (3:8)
 - And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to **meet urgent needs**, that they may not be unfruitful. (3:14)
 - “Honest Employment” (3:14; and see II Thess 3:10-13)

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Why? How? (3:3-7)

- Look, with wisdom, at those around us (3:3)
 - *We were also once...*
 - *Foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved, [spending life] in malice, envy, hate...*
- But God's love and kindness appeared (3:4)
 - (Now we are enlightened!)
- ...But we didn't deserve it by our **works** (3:5)
- Our cleansing and hope of eternal life is God's mercy (5) and grace (7)
- Those who believe in God ["our people," vs 14] should be careful to maintain good **works** (8)

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.