

Paul's Epistle to Titus

Faith Covenant Church

Class Outline

Lesson	Subject	Verses
1	Intro & Selection of elders	Intro, 1:1-9
2	Matters of the congregation	1:10-2:15
3	Exhortations and conclusion	3:1-15

Titus

But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus (2 Corinthians 7:6)

Introduction

Lesson 1

Martin Luther is quoted as saying of Titus *“This is a short epistle, but it contains such a quintessence of Christian doctrine, and is composed in such a masterly manner, that it contains all that is needful for Christian knowledge and life”*

The epistle was written by Paul, to Titus, sometime between 64AD and 66AD, and is part of the Pastoral Epistles within the New Testament of the Bible. We know much about the Apostle Paul, but who is Titus? Precious little is known about him, due to his omission in Acts, however he is mentioned 13 times in the rest of the New Testament. So, what we do know is that when Paul left Antioch to discuss the Gospel with the Jerusalem leaders, he took Titus with him (Galatians 2:1-3). We also learn in those verses Titus was Greek, and uncircumcised, and he may have been the bearer of Paul’s severe letter to the Corinthian church, which is now lost, though Paul refers to it in 2 Corinthians 2:3-4. Paul was distressed about the Corinthians reaction to his severe letter, so he arranged to meet Titus at Troas (2 Corinthians 2:12-13), when Titus did not appear, Paul went on to Macedonia, where he met Titus, and was relieved to hear the good news that the worst of the trouble was over in Corinth. (2 Corinthians 7:6-7, 13-14) Titus was the bearer of 2 Corinthians, along with 2 Christian brothers and given the responsibility for making the final arrangements for the collection, begun a year earlier. (2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17, 23) Following Paul’s release from prison, he and Titus briefly worked together in Crete (Titus 1:5) after which he commissioned Titus to remain there as his representative, and complete needed work. (Titus 1:5, 2:15, 3:12-13) Paul asked Titus to meet him at Nicopolis, when a replacement arrived. (Titus 3:12) Later Titus went on a mission to Dalmatia (now Croatia) (2 Timothy 4:10) which is the last heard of him in the New Testament. Considering the assignments given to him, he obviously was a capable and faithful leader, trusted by the Apostle Paul.

Titus received this letter from Paul while he was serving on Crete, which is the 5th largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, and the birthplace of both the mythological king of the Olympian gods and of modern European civilization. This letter was probably written sometime after Paul’s release from his first Roman imprisonment. (Acts 28) During this time Crete had sunk to a deplorable moral level. The dishonesty, gluttony, and laziness of its inhabitants had

Titus

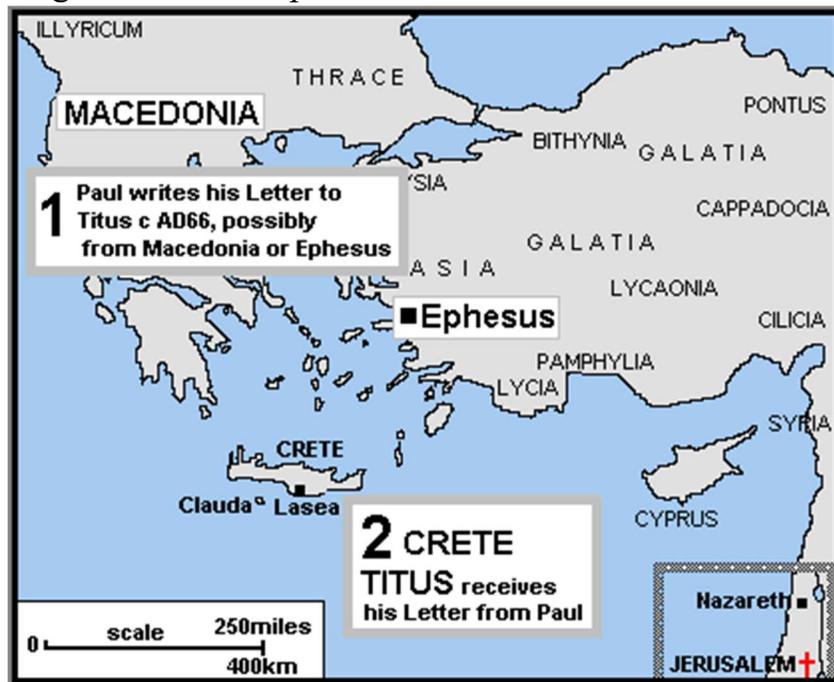
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Introduction

Lesson 1

become proverbial, even to the Cretan philosopher Epimenides, Titus 1:12, who is also quoted in Acts 17:28, saying “for in him we live and move and have our being” when speaking of God. It seems Paul sent this letter to Titus by Zenas and Apollos, who were on a journey that would take them through Crete. (Titus 3:13) It is significant to note, considering the Cretan heresy, the repeated emphasis on loving, and doing and teaching “what is good” (Titus 1:8, 16; 2:3, 7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14) and the classic summaries of Christian doctrine, stressing the grace of God. (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Here is a map showing Crete in relation to Ephesus, Galatia, Macedonia, and Jerusalem, during the time this epistle was written.



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Introduction

Lesson 1

Salutation

Read Titus 1:1-4

1. What is the significance of Paul identifying himself as a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ?

As a servant Paul identifies himself as a slave to the Supreme Master, a personal choice of submission, and as an apostle he is an envoy in authority of the Sovereign Lord by divine appointment

2. What does “Further the faith of God’s elect” and “Their knowledge of the truth” mean to you?

God’s elect-God chose/knew those who would be in Christ before the foundation of the world

Further the faith of God’s elect-may mean bring them to faith in the first place or leading them on in faith after salvation, basically evangelism. Their knowledge of the truth- education leading to spiritual growth.

3. Why would Paul call Titus his “true son in our common faith”? Do you know of anyone else Paul addressed this way?

Paul may have been instrumental in Titus’ conversion, also addressed Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2) this way; may also mean he exhibited the spiritual qualities similar to Paul, and in Christian service there was a bond, Paul also called Onesimus a son (in Philemon 10)

4. How have you experienced Grace and Peace from God the Father, and Christ Jesus our Savior?

Personal. For me eternal life starting now (John 5:24) “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life; Set free from my sin (Romans 6:18) You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Lesson: _____

Caring for God’s elect is a family effort.

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Introduction

Lesson 1

Selection of Elders

Read Titus 1:5-9

5. Romans 3:23 tells us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” so how can elders in a church be found blameless?

Unquestioned integrity, no charge of false doctrine, or irregular behavior can be proved against them. If they do minor wrongs they are prompt to make them right.

6. Why would it be necessary to have an Elder who is faithful to his wife, and his children believe, and are not disobedient?

He is found blameless, and faithful, not a polygamist. As a family man he can deal more intelligently with family matters within the congregation.

7. Where do you see the “fruit of the Spirit” in the selection of Elders? (See Galatians 5:22-23)

Just in dealings with others, holy in relation to God, and self-controlled in respect to himself. Every passion and appetite under control to obey Christ.

8. What might be some differences between the “elder” in verse 6, and the “overseer” in verse 7?

The terms were basically interchangeable, however the term elder indicates qualification (maturity and experience) while overseer indicates responsibility (watching over God’s flock)

9. How are you holding firmly to the trustworthy message that is/has been taught to you? With these qualifications in mind, where can you improve to be used by God within the congregation?

Personal.

Lesson: _____

A true elder is deeply and vitally involved in the spiritual life of the church.

Challenge: What steps will you take this week to get active within the church?

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The Congregation

Lesson 2

Two weeks ago we were introduced to Paul's true son in their common faith, Titus. Paul set forth qualifications for elders in the church on the Island of Crete. Today we will look at issues that arose within the Cretan congregation, those who err, doing good, and the firm foundation.

Error in the congregation

Read Titus 1:10-16

1. What characteristics do you note in regards to the rebellious people within the church?

They are full of meaningless talk; Belonged to the circumcision group, who believed it was necessary to be circumcised and observe ceremonial law to be saved; They seek dishonest gain; They pay attention to Jewish myths (verse 14); Their minds and consciences are corrupted.

2. Who are the pure?

Those who have been purified by the atoning death of Christ.

3. Why would all things be pure to those who are pure?

Everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4) though not all things are pure, there are vile things, that men try to distort to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:16)

4. How do your actions prove your claim to know God, or deny Him?

Personal.

Lesson: _____

What comes out of a person's heart is what makes him impure.

Exercise in the congregation

Read Titus 2:1-10

5. What is sound doctrine for older men? What is sound doctrine for older women? Sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, love & endurance. Likewise women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teach what is good, and urge younger women.

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The Congregation

Lesson 2

6. How might a young woman “malign the word of God”?

Act out of control, impure, idle, mean, not subject to their husbands.

7. Why is it important for church leaders to set a good example? (See James 3:1)

So that those opposed might be ashamed, and have nothing bad to say. Teachers will be more strictly judged.

8. What example are you called to set within the church? How are you doing at it? (See John 13:12-17; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 Peter 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:12)

Personal.

Lesson: _____

What church members do and say matter, so set the example!

Foundation for the congregation

Read Titus 2:11-15

9. What does the Grace of God teach us?

To say no to ungodliness and worldly passions. To produce lives of holiness.

10. What is meant by “this present age”? (See 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 1:4)

A time of sin & darkness which rules the world in the control of Satan, until Jesus returns to rule.

11. What are you doing as you wait for the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ? (See 1 Timothy 6:12-14; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Personal.

12. How does someone obey the command “do not let anyone despise you”?

Have no qualms about their age, background, or natural ability. Speak, live, and trust the word of God.

Lesson: _____

Jesus is the church’s foundation, which can never be moved.

Challenge: How will you seek to live a life wholly for Jesus this week?

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Exhortations and conclusion

Lesson 3

Last week we looked at issues within the Cretan congregation that Titus faced, this week we will study Paul's urging for believers to do good, and how to handle divisiveness, and finally Paul's conclusion of the letter.

Exhortations concerning believers in general

Read Titus 3:1-8

1. If believers are citizens of Heaven, why would Paul want Titus to remind the people to be subject to the Cretan rulers and authorities? (See Philippians 3:20; Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13)

God has established the rulers and authorities, and calls for believers to promote a well-being within the community.

2. How did God save believers? Why would God save believers?

When the kindness and love of God appeared. Because of His mercy, love, & kindness.

3. If you have been saved, how do others know?

Baptism. Renewal by the Holy Spirit, creating a difference in me.

4. Whether good or other, what are you devoting yourself to?

Personal.

Lesson: _____

Believers are saved in order to do good.

Exhortations concerning spiritual error

Read Titus 3:9-11

5. What are believers to avoid?

Foolish controversies, and genealogies, and arguments, and quarrels about the law.

6. Why would arguments or quarrels be unprofitable and useless?

Because such people are set in their sinful ways, and warped.

7. Why are believers to warn a divisive person a second time?

To try to win them over as per Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17

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Exhortations and conclusion

Lesson 3

8. Is it possible to reject someone and still love them? Explain.

Yes/No. Personal.

Lesson: _____

Do not argue with the sinful person, they are self-condemned.

Conclusion

Read Titus 3:12-15

9. What do you know about Paul's chosen replacement(s) for Titus on Crete?

Tychicus- went to Ephesus (2 Timothy 4:12), dear brother, faithful servant/minister in the Lord, messenger for Paul (Ephesians 6:21, Colossians 4:7), from province in Asia (Acts 20:4); Artemas-Nothing.

10. How are believers to show hospitality to other believers? (Refer to other scripture you may know)

Welcoming, give them everything they need, without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9), helping those in need (Romans 12:13)

11. How are you putting what you are learning into practice?

Personal.

12. What does "Grace be with you" mean to you personally? (See Romans 6:14; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Timothy 1:9)

Personal. God's gift that I am free of sin to honor Christ with my life.

Lesson: _____

Believers are called to care for each other in the grace of God.

Challenge: How will you reflect the grace and love of Jesus to others?

