

Paul's Letter to Titus

*. **Who wrote the letter?**

Paul is stated as the author in the opening words of the letter.

*. **When was it written?**

This letter appears to have been written about 63-64 AD. Paul had previously been imprisoned in Rome during which time he wrote the Prison Letters (Col., Phm., Eph., Phil). After serving his time, he was released from house arrest and allowed to visit the churches which he had previously founded. During this time after his Roman imprisonment, Paul set down to write Titus.

*. **Why was it written?**

Crete is the largest of the Greek Islands. Because of its location, it served as a significant port for seafarers and the shipping industry. The island was known for its licentious lifestyle. We are uncertain of who founded the church on Crete, though tradition traces the founding of the church to Paul's sending of Titus to the island (though it is impossible to confirm this).

Though we do not know how or when Titus went to Crete, he apparently had grown very weary while serving the church. Perhaps this was due to the moral culture of the island that allowed various difficulties to infiltrate the church.

Paul wrote this letter to encourage Titus to continue with the difficult ministry in Crete. He also provided Titus with directions for the organization and leadership of the church.

*. **What is the main topic?**

God's grace has changed us; therefore, the church and the leadership of the church should reflect that change.

Titus 1:1-9:

¹ Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, ² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, ³ but at the proper time manifested, *even* His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, ⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Titus 2:11-15:

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. ¹⁵ These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Titus 3:3-7:

³ For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.