

Purpose

To advise Titus in his responsibility of supervising the churches of Crete

Author

Paul

To Whom Written

Titus, a Greek (he had become Paul's special representative to Crete)

Date Written

64 AD, around the same time *1 Timothy* was written; probably from Macedonia when Paul traveled between his Roman imprisonments

Setting

Paul sent Titus to organize the churches on Crete; this letter tells Titus how to do this job.

Key Places

Crete and Nicopolis

Key Verse

"I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you." *Titus 1:5*

Special Feature

Titus is similar to *1 Timothy* with its instructions to church leaders.

An Overview (3 Chapters)

- Leadership in the Church (*1:1-16*)
- Right Living in the Church (*2:1-15*)
- Right Living in Society (*3:1-15*)

Major Themes

- *A Good Life:* The Good News of salvation is that we can't be saved by living a good life; we are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ. But the gospel transforms people's lives, so that they eventually perform good deeds. Our service won't save us, but we are saved to serve.
- *Character:* Titus's responsibility in Crete was to appoint elders to maintain proper organization and discipline, so Paul listed qualities needed for the eldership. Their conduct in their homes revealed their fitness for service in the church.
- *Church Relationships:* Church teaching must relate to various groups. Older Christians were to teach and to be examples to younger men and women. People of every age and group have a lesson to learn and a role to play.
- *Citizenship:* Christians must be good citizens in society, not just in church. Believers must obey the government and work honestly.