

**Bible Synthesis VI**  
(Bible Survey)

**INTRODUCTION TO  
TITUS**

1. INTRODUCTION

Paul called Titus “mine own son after the common faith” (Titus 1:4). He, like Timothy was a younger *minister* who was very helpful to Paul in his work for Christ. He is not mentioned in Acts, but is frequently referred to in the Pauline epistles. He was a Gentile, Greek by birth (Gal. 2:3), and was evidently led to Christ by Paul. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the Jerusalem council (Acts 15; Gal. 2:1). That means that he began serving with Paul before Timothy did.

Titus was sent by Paul on important missions various times, and he is spoken of by Paul in the highest terms. One of the places to which he was sent was Corinth. We may see what Paul says about him and his ministry to that place in (II Cor. 2:13; 7:6, 13-14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18, and 13:14).

In II Timothy 4:10 he speaks of the whereabouts of various of his coworkers. Demas had forsaken him, because he “loved this present world.” Demas went to Thessalonica. He also spoke of Crescens who went to Galatia, and Titus who went to Dalmatia. Whether the last two men joined Demas in fleeing from Paul and the threat hanging over him, or if they had been sent on errands by Paul, we don’t know. It is doubtful that they did. We do know that Titus was not with Paul at that time.

The Epistle to Titus contains instructions concerning the administrative responsibilities of Titus in the Church to which he was sent. Titus was not a Pastor of that Church, he was an Apostolic representatives who had been sent to set things in order.

2. AUTHORSHIP

(1) Paul — Titus 1:1

Without doubt Paul wrote this Epistle. Some have thought that because of its *strong emphasis on works* (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14), Paul did not write it; but 3:5 is a sufficient answer to that objection. It was *written about the same time*, and at the same place as I Timothy.

(2) Authenticity questioned

See Introduction to I Timothy for this.

(3) We can be satisfied that Paul in truth is the writer

See Introduction to I Timothy for this.

3. RECIPIENTS

Titus, called by Paul, “mine own son after the common faith” (1:4). He, like Timothy, as a younger minister served Paul in his work for Christ.

The Epistle to Titus is quite clear that Titus was *one of Paul's converts* (1:4). He must have been converted in the early years of Paul's ministry, for he accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem at the conclusion of their first Missionary journey, seventeen years after Paul's conversion. (See Gal. 2:1.) Thus he served with Paul before Timothy did.

Titus differed from Timothy in many respects. Whilst Timothy had been brought up as a Jew, and was circumcised by Paul. *Titus was a pure Gentile*, and was not circumcised. (Gal. 2:3) He must have been *older than Timothy in years and grace*; and seemed to be a *much more mature person*, for Paul wrote many more personal exhortations to Timothy than he did to Titus.

#### 4. DATE OF WRITING

Those who object to the Pauline authorship (some of them) maintain that there is conflicting data in this book which does not harmonize with the record of Paul's travels and ministries in the book of Acts.

The objection is answered when it is seen that there were two Roman imprisonments for Paul:

58	A.D.	Paul's arrest in Jerusalem
61	A.D.	His arrival in Rome
61-63	A.D.	His first Roman imprisonment
64-67	A.D.	His release and travels. He writes I Timothy and Titus from Macedonia
67-68	A.D.	His second imprisonment and death. He wrote II Timothy before his death in Rome.

NOTE: Homer A. Kent, Jr. also suggests a route of travel for the Apostle in the time between the two imprisonments. This is as follows:

- (1) Release from first imprisonment in Rome.
- (2) Visit to Crete (Titus 1:5).
- (3) Visit to Colosse and perhaps Ephesus (Phile. 22).
- (4) Journey into Macedonia, including a visit to Philippi (I Tim. 1:3; Phil. 1:25; 2:24)
- (5) Probable visit to Ephesus (I Tim. 3:14).
- (6) Winter spent at Nicopolis (Titus 3:12).
- (7) Probable journey to Spain (Romans 15:24, Clement of Rome, Muratorian Canon, Eusebius).
- (8) Return trip to the East, including a stop at Miletus (II Tim. 4:20).
- (9) Visit to Troas (II Tim. 4:13).
- (10) Probably visit to Corinth (II Tim. 4:20).
- (11) Final imprisonment at Rome (II Tim. 1:16-17).

## 5. THEME:

The godly life of the believer

Good behavior

The Epistles of Paul to Timothy emphasize sound doctrine, while his Epistle to Titus emphasizes sound behavior. There is a close relationship between sound doctrine and sound behavior, because “loose doctrine makes for loose living” (H. A. Ironside).

## 6. KEY VERSE:

Titus 2:11-14

## 7. KEY WORDS:

*Sound* (doctrine, faith, speech)—5 times *Good* works—6 times

Good—11 times

## 8. PURPOSES FOR WRITING

Instructions concerning the administration of Churches.

Paul summons Titus to come to him in Nicopolis.

To emphasize Sound Doctrine

Titus 1:9 “holding fast” . . . . . “sound doctrine”

Titus 1:13 “sound in the faith”

Titus 2:1 “sound doctrine” (“become: – to be becoming, seemly, fit.  
“the things which befit sound doctrine”)

Titus 2:7 “in doctrine . . . uncorruptness”

Titus 2:10 “adorn the doctrine (teaching) of God” ( vv. 11 - 14)

3:10 “heretic” ( - Vine: “causing division by a party spirit, factious”)

Emphasize Grace

Titus 1:2-3

Titus 2:11-14

Titus 3:3-7

Emphasize Good Works

Titus 1:16

Titus 2:2-10

Titus 2:12

Titus 3:8

**OUTLINE 1 – TITUS**

Luck

Theme: How to behave in the local church (3:15)

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. SALUTATION                                     | — 1:1-4   |
| 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS                       | — 1:5-9   |
| 3. WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS                 | — 1:10-16 |
| 4. INSTRUCTIONS FOR VARIOUS CLASSES IN THE CHURCH |           |
| — 2:1-3:11  |           |
| -1. Instructions for older men                    | — 2:1-2   |
| -2. Instructions for older women                  | — 2:3     |
| -3. Instructions for young women                  | — 2:4-5   |
| -4. Instructions for young men                    | — 2:6-8   |
| -5. Instructions for servants                     | — 2:9-10  |
| -6. Basis for the above instructions              | — 2:11-15 |
| -7. General instructions for all                  | — 3:1-11  |
| 5. PERSONAL CONCLUSION                            | — 3:12-15 |

**OUTLINE 2 – TITUS**

Robert Lee, London

Theme: God's ideal for a Church: Orderly organization, soundness in faith and morals, and practical works of piety and philanthropy.

God's ideal for a Christian worker: A love of order and method, a healthy and living orthodoxy, a sober mien and chastened speech.

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|--|-----------------|
| 1. AN ORDERLY CHURCH   | — Titus 1       |
| • Emphasis in this section is on CHURCH ORDER. Key verse: 1:5.                                       |                 |
| -1. Paul's loving and suggestive greeting.   | — 1:1-4         |
| • <b>Note:</b> Verse 2 is a striking contrast to the lying character of the Cretians, see verse 12). |                 |
| -2. Object in leaving Titus  | — 1:5           |
| -3. Qualifications for Eldership   | — 1:6-9         |
| -4. Unruly character of Cretians   | — 10:10-16      |
| • <b>Note that</b> suggestive statement in verse 15: "Unto the pure all things are pure."            |                 |
| 2. A SOUND CHURCH  | — Titus 2       |
| • Emphasis in this section is on DOCTRINE. Key verses: 2:1, 2, 7, 10.                                |                 |
| -1. A message for:   |                 |
| (a) Titus  | — 2:1, 7, 8, 15 |
| (b) Aged   | — 2:2-3         |
| (c) Young  | — 2:4-6         |
| (d) Slaves   | — 2:9-10        |

- 2. Backed up by Paul giving, in a sentence, all the Gospel —2:11-14
  - He gives the past, present and future aspects.

### 3. A PRACTICAL CHURCH —Titus 3

- Emphasis in this section is on WORKS. Key verses: 3:1, 8, 14.
- 1. Practical citizenship —3:1
- 2. Practical godliness —3:2
- 3. A sad retrospect —3:3
- 4. What led to our transformation —3:4-7
- 5. Need for practical piety —3:8
- 6. What to avoid —3:9
- 7. Whom to avoid —3:10-11
- 8. Conclusion

## OUTLINE 3 —TITUS

J. Vernon McGee

Theme: The New Testament Church: In this Epistle is found the measuring rod for the Local Church.

The Return of Christ: The blessed hope still possesses the soul of Paul when he writes this Epistle. “This is the hope which occupied the guest chamber in the heart of Paul during all of his life, beginning at the Damascus Road and going on to the Appian Way.”

1. The Church is an organization —Titus 1
  - (1) Introduction — 1:1-4
  - (2) An orderly Church must have ordained Elders — 1:5-9  
who meet prescribed requirements
  - (3) The bad reputation of the Cretans — 1:10-16
2. The Church is to teach and preach the Word of God —Titus 2
  - (1) The Church must teach sound doctrine —2:1-10
  - (2) The Church must preach the Grace of God —2:11-15
3. The Church is to perform good works —Titus 3
  - (1) Good works are evidence of Salvation —3:1-7  
(The works of the Holy Spirit)
  - (2) Good works are profitable for present and future —3:8-15

