

Titus Review

Paul and Titus were sharing the Gospel in various cities of Crete. They established churches in a number of the cities there. God called Paul to go somewhere else. Paul left Titus behind in Crete to complete unfinished business. First on the list of unfinished business was to appoint elders in every city. While Titus was appointing elders in the various cities, he needed to deal with false teaching and false teachers. He also needed to be a model of sound living consistent with the sound doctrine which he was teaching. Cretans were said to be “liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons”. Paul emphasized the need for the Cretans to commit themselves to good deeds. After describing the moral standards for believers, Paul gave the theological motivation for the standards.

Elders

Titus 1:5-9

- Elders needed to be above reproach. (general qualification)
- An elder needed to have his own house in order before he could become a steward of God’s household
- An elder needed to have good moral character
- An elder needed to have a good grasp of sound doctrine with the ability to teach it to believers and to confront false teachers

False Teachers

Titus 1:10-11, 14, 16

- Their character: they were disobedient to the sound doctrine. They professed to know God but their deeds exposed them as denying God.
- Their deeds: they deceived people and were upsetting whole families
- Their motivation: they were false teachers in order to get money. They loved money.
- Their background: there was a Jewish element to some of the false teaching. Some were “of the circumcision”. The people were told to avoid Jewish myths and commands of men (in contrast to the commands of God).
- Titus’ duty: they needed to be silenced

Titus 3:10-11

- Anyone causing division needed to be admonished once.
- If a divisive person did not repent after one admonishment, they were to be admonished a second time.
- If the divisive person still did not repent, they needed to be sent out of the church so that they could no longer do harm to the church.
- A divisive person who does not repent is sinful and self-condemned.

Good Works

- Titus 2:7, Titus was to be a model of good works
- Titus 2:14, the Cretan believers were to be zealous for good works
- Titus 3:8, the Cretans were exhorted to be careful to devote themselves to good works
- Titus 3:14, the Cretans were once again exhorted to devote themselves to good works so that they would help cases of urgent need and not be unfruitful

The Grace of God

Titus was to urge older men, older women, younger women, younger men and slaves to live godly and self-controlled lives that would adorn the doctrine of God. A key part of the doctrine of God is contained in Titus 2:11-14.

Titus 2:11-14

- past
 - The grace of God has appeared. God's grace appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. The grace of God appeared in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - The grace of God brought salvation
 - Jesus gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness
 - Jesus gave himself for us to purify us to be a people of his own possession
- present
 - The grace of God brings salvation to all kinds of people. God's grace is extended to Jews and Gentiles, men and women, young and old, slaves and free.
 - The grace of God trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live godly lives.
 - We wait for our blessed hope
- future
 - Jesus Christ will appear again in glory and by God's grace we will live with him forever

But God Saved Us

Titus 3:1-7

This passage shows us the importance of "the little words" like "for", "by", "but", "because", "therefore", "when" and the like.

- We should be kind to non-believers
- **for** we were once foolish and disobedient non-believers
- **but** God saved us
 - **when** the goodness and God's love for mankind appeared
 - **because** of God's mercy
 - **not because** of works done by us
 - **by** the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit
 - **so that** we might become heirs