

Titus 1:1-3 — “A Jet Tour of Titus: Paul: Owned by God, Obsessed with the Gospel, Occupied with Christ’s Service!”

Introduction

Background to the island of Crete:

- the Cretans believed that their very mountainous island was the birthplace of the majority of the gods: Zeus, the preeminent man became god, was also believed to be buried in Crete.
- In a magnificent island in the middle of the Mediterranean -- approx 181 miles long -- very mountains in the middle but densely populated on the coastal cities, this lush tropical island had citizens who were aggressive, materialistic, hedonistic, worldly, and idolatrous. These “Cretans” earned quite an extensive reputation for deception and vice and greed.
- The ZEUS of Crete was viewed to have an ethical triad. Zeus was a god of: (1) Courage (2) Wisdom & (3) justice!
 - By the time of Titus, CRETE was a Roman Province ruled by a Roman governor.
 - At this time, Cretans apparently lacked ethical principles; abundant in thievery; they harbored robbers and pirates.
- Crete was an island that was distinguished & famed for “the CRETAN lifestyle” -- that is, they were known for their greed, LOVE OF GAIN AND WEALTH.
- Early on, the Greek language created a verb: “*to cretanize*” -- it meant “to be a liar/to deceive”.

Why the Book of Titus?

- There’s a great need on the island of Crete: churches do exist but these young churches *live* in the midst of a very pagan, worldly environment. Titus is basic doctrine [like a “*catechism*”] — instructions for new believers, for a young church, in doctrine, in conduct, church life.
 - ❖Mark it! *The gospel produces good works!*
- In this letter, Paul will deal with: spiritual maturity, true leadership, godliness, priority of the home, wholesome, sacrificial relationships, sexual purity, credibility and public testimony, church discipline, silencing false teachers, the importance of your local church, & the gospel of God’s grace!

Outlines of Titus:

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| 1. Protection of the gospel & leadership (ch.1) | godly leaders | protect sound doctrine |
| 2. Practice of the gospel & life (chs. 2-3) | godly living | practice sound doctrine |

THESIS — From Titus 1.1-3, we’ll learn **Paul’s view of himself & his ministry that God entrusted to him.**

I. PAUL’S OBLIGATION (1a)

A slave of God

II. PAUL’S OCCUPATION (1b)

An apostle of Jesus Christ

III. PAUL’S OBSESSION (1c)

- Paul gives the *purpose*, the aim, the goals, the obsession:
 1. FOR THE *FAITH* of the elect -
 2. FOR THE *KNOWLEDGE* of the truth -
 3. FOR THE *GODLINESS* of the saints -

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IV. PAUL’S **ANTICIPATION** (2)

In the hope of eternal life which God who promised long ages ago

V. PAUL’S **CONVICTION** (2)

God cannot lie.

Remember in the 1st century, the Cretans worshiped the Greek god Zeus:

- The story is told of Zeus assuming the form of the husband of a woman that he is trying to seduce; he fails at trying to seduce her, so he then resorts to DECEPTION to get her.
- Ancient evidence suggests Cretans regarded lying as culturally acceptable.
- It lies behind the coining/creation of the Greek verb: “cretizo” — meaning to play the cretan/to lie/to deceive.
 - ➔ Paul says that God cannot lie [*not able to lie*] — it’s loaded with powerful language and overtones

VI. PAUL’S **PROCLAMATION** (3)

God manifested His Word at the proper time & entrusted this calling to Paul to preach!

God called Paul to “proclamation” of the Word -- God manifested His gospel!

1. Paul is the **recipient** of the gospel (he is entrusted with the gospel; God did the work of calling him; God did the action)
2. Paul locates the source of his commissioning from the ‘**commandment** of God’ (he is under authority // of God!) (This is why Paul can speak forcefully in 1.11; 2.1, 15; 3.10)
3. Paul describes God as GOD OUR **SAVIOR** (the first reference of salvation & it’s a key theme of the letter; cf. 1:3, 4; 2:10, 11, 13; 3:4, 5, 6.

THE REFORMATION HYMN

We will trust **God’s Word alone**, where His perfect will is known;
Our traditions shift like sand while His Truth forever stands.
We will live **by faith alone**, clothed in merit not our own;
All we claim is Jesus Christ and His finished sacrifice.

Glory be, glory be to God alone

Through the church He redeemed and made His own.
He has freed us, He will keep us till we’re safely home
Glory be, glory be to God alone!

We are saved **by grace alone**—undeserved, yet freely shown;
No accomplishment on earth can achieve the second birth.
We will stand **on Christ alone**, the unyielding Cornerstone;
Nations rage and devils roar, still he reigns forevermore!

Glory be, glory be to God alone

Through the church He redeemed and made His own.
He has freed us, He will keep us till we’re safely home
Glory be, glory be to God alone!