

Titus

Lesson 1: Introduction and Titus 1

Christ said in Matthew 16:18, “I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” Christ has done just that. However, He has also entrusted the church to faithful men who were tasked with leading the church that He built. Paul was one of those faithful men. But Paul knew that he needed to pass the baton to faithful men who would continue the difficult task of establishing strong churches. Titus was one of those faithful men that Paul passed the baton to. Paul’s epistle to Titus is the second to last letter that Paul wrote before his death. His purpose in writing was to instruct the church on how it must operate and behave. Paul first addressed the character and conduct of the leadership in the church. Second, he addressed the congregation of the church and how they are to behave within the church. Finally, he addressed the whole church on how they are to live and behave in the world. Let’s dive into chapter one and see what Paul has to say about establishing godly leadership in the church.

Introduction

➤ Facts about Titus

- Titus was written between AD 62-64 from Nicopolis.
- Paul left Titus in Crete to strengthen a church that was under much opposition from ungodly men.
- Titus was tasked with appointing faithful elders in the churches (1:5).



➤ Read Titus 1:1–4

1. In verse 1, how does Paul identify himself?
2. In verse 1, what is Paul’s purpose for writing?
3. According to verse 2, what do Paul and all those “chosen of God” have in common?

4. What does Paul tell us about God in verse 2? How does that encourage you?
5. According to verse 3, what was Paul entrusted with?
6. In verse 4, how does Paul describe Jesus Christ? Compare that with 1:3, 2:10, and 3:4. What does that tell you about Jesus?

Application: Paul was an evangelist who was entrusted with the gospel and commanded to preach it. What are ways you can grow in evangelizing the lost?

➤ **Read Titus 1:5–9**

7. According to verse 5, why did Paul leave Titus on the island of Crete?
8. According to verses 6–8, what must an elder *be*?
9. According to verse 9, what must an elder *do*?

Application: According to verses 5–9, what role does natural ability, intelligence, status, or education play in the selection of elders? Why is this important to note?

Application: Why is it important for elders to “exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict it”?

➤ **Read Titus 1:10–16**

10. According to verses 10–11, what were false teachers doing? What were the elders commanded to do with false teachers?

11. According to verse 11, what was the motive of the false teachers?

12. In verse 12, Paul quotes Epimenides, a Cretan born poet from the 6th century BC. How does he describe the false teachers?

13. According to verse 13, what is the goal in reproving false teachers severely?

14. According to verse 14, the Jewish leaders are “men who turn away from the truth.” What does that tell you about these men? (Hint: see Acts 20:29–30; 1 John 2:18–19)

15. In verse 15, how does Paul describe the “defiled and unbelieving”?

16. In verse 16, how do false teachers show they don't belong to Him?

Application: What are some practical ways Christians can (and should) “refute” and “silence” false teachers in the church today?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.