

Titus Chapter One

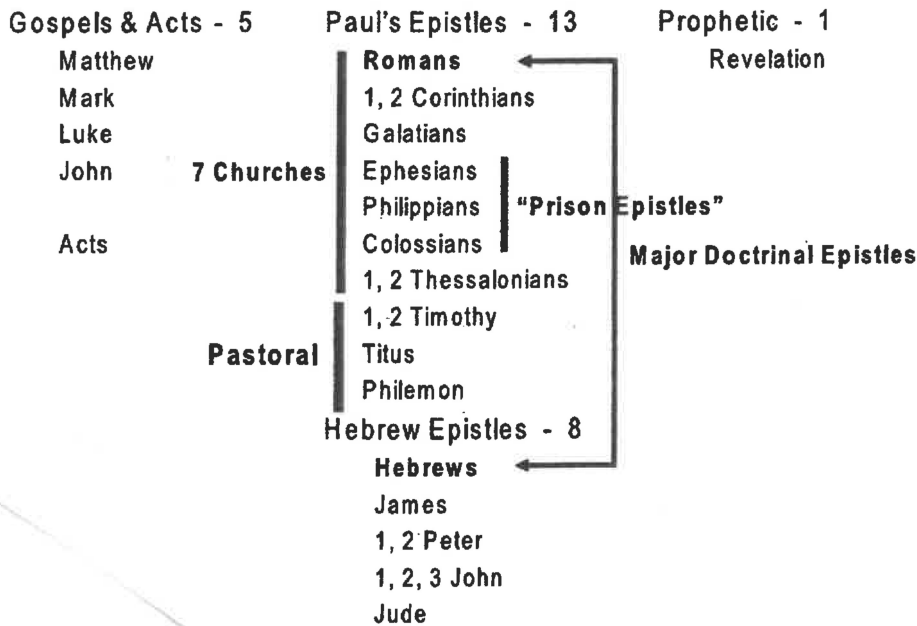
Outline of the New Testament

As you can see there are 27 books

- Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- One Historical Book (Acts)
- 13 Epistles by Paul
- 8 Hebrew Epistles by other authors (Peter, John, James, Jude)
- 1 Book of Prophecy

This chart below gives a further breakdown regarding their emphasis.

New Testament



Introduction

- Titus was a Greek believer, converted to Christianity by Paul
- Titus worked with Paul in Corinth – delivered 2nd Letter
- Titus was to minister to the churches in Crete
- Titus was to set things in order

Outline of the Book

- Chapter One – put things in order
- Chapter Two – Stand on sound doctrine
- Chapter Three – perform and maintain good works

Chapter One

Paul instructs Titus to fulfill three responsibilities

1. Preach God's Word
2. Ordain Qualified Leaders
3. Silence False Teachers

VS 1-4

- Letter is from Paul to Titus
- Paul is an apostle of the faith
- Standing on the truth
- Truth leads to godliness – right living
- God can not lie – also, can not learn, nothing is impossible with God
- Paul preaches according to the commandments of God – not man
- To Titus my “son” after the common faith – what we all share in common, Jesus Christ

Four According to's

1. The faith of God's elect
2. The truth which leads to godliness
3. To the commandments of God
4. To the common faith

Ordaining Qualified Leaders

Biblical Requirements For Clergy

When Paul was towards the end of his earthly ministry he wrote to both Timothy and Titus. In these epistles he gives a number of “criteria” for those who would lead the church. Paul knew that the health and vitality of the church would depend on the quality of the leaders. In fact, compromising these criteria has a profound impact on the church at every level: local, regional and national. Those who govern and oversee the flock are the key. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write regarding the qualification and requirements for clergy (and lay) leadership of the church.

Titus

1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might SET IN ORDER what remains and APPOINT ELDERS in every city as I directed, namely they must be:

- v.6 Above Reproach
Husband of one wife

- Having children that believe
- Not accused of dissipation or rebellion
- v.7 Not self-willed
- Not quick-tempered
- Not fond of sordid gain
- v.8 Hospitable
- Loving what is good
- Sensible
- Just
- Devout
- Self-Controlled
- v.9 Holding fast the faithful word in accordance with the teachings
- Able to exhort in sound doctrine
- Able to refute those who contradict

Titus was given the charge by Paul to set in order the church and appoint leaders in every city. He then gives Titus the criteria for selecting the elders or overseers (*episcopos*). The criteria encompassed ones:

- Character
- Family
- Temperament
- Doctrine
- Ability To Teach

I Timothy

3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer MUST:

- v.2 Be above reproach
- The husband of one wife
- Temperate
- Prudent
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Able to teach
- v.3 Not addicted to wine
- Not pugnacious
- Gentle
- Uncontentious
- Free from the love of money
- v.4 Manage is own household well
- v.5 If a man does not know how to manage his own household how will he take care of the church of God?
- v.6 Not a new convert
- v.7 Good reputation in the community
- v.9 Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience

v.10 Be tested first

Much of what Paul wrote to Titus he repeats to Timothy. In this list Paul adds:

- Not addicted to wine
- Not a new convert
- Not a lover of money
- Respected in secular community

Action Point: Have your vestry review this with you and affirm these characteristics

Again we see that character, family, temperament, doctrine and the ability to teach and communicate the gospel were imperatives.

God's wisdom and standards for leadership are important to understand. When looking for leaders for the church we have a list of qualification and criteria. To the degree in which we uphold these, we will find great blessings. To the degree in which we compromise or ignore these scriptures, we will certainly encounter trouble.

Silence False Teachers (10-16)

- Rebellious men
- Empty talkers
- Deceivers
- Especially from the circumcises (Jews)
- THEY MUST BE SILENCED
- Teaching for sordid gain
- Upsetting families
- Combination of living under the law (works) and righteousness through law, not grace
- Their minds are defiled, and they justify sinful (impure) behavior and belief
- Behavior matters – profession without obedience is worthless