

TITUS - A STUDY GUIDE

THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
 - b. Why did He record it for our study?
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1. Are there any important ideas about God found in the book of Titus? Where was Titus working when he received this letter? (Titus 1:5) What was Titus doing there? Was Titus a Jew or a Gentile? What else do we know about Titus? (Galatians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:16-20; 2 Timothy 4:10) According to *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, "Titus was a 'partner and fellow worker' (2 Corinthians 8:23) of the apostle Paul. Although Titus is not mentioned in the book of Acts, Paul's letters reveal that he was the man of the hour at a number of key points in Paul's life."

The following is a chronological listing of the major events concerning Titus that are mentioned in Scripture:

- A.D. 49 - Titus accompanied Paul to Jerusalem for the Jerusalem council. Paul refused to circumcise Titus because he was not Jewish. (Acts 15:2; Galatians 2:1-3)
 - A.D. 57 - Titus was working with Paul at Ephesus while Paul was having so much trouble with the church at Corinth. Paul wrote his third letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 10-13), that very strong letter, and sent it with Titus to Corinth. (2 Corinthians 12:18)
 - A.D. 57 - Paul became very worried about how that strong letter was going to be accepted and set out to find Titus to get the news. Paul found Titus in Macedonia, learned that the Corinthians had accepted his reproof, and wrote another letter to send ahead with Titus. (2 Corinthians 1-9)
 - A.D. 58 - Titus was placed in charge of the collection of the relief offering at Corinth to be taken to Jerusalem. (1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:1-6,16,23)
 - A.D. 65 - After Paul's first imprisonment in Rome, he was released and worked with Titus in Crete. Paul left Titus in Crete and worked elsewhere. A little later, Paul wrote this letter back to Titus asking him to come to Nicopolis. Paul apparently sent this letter with Zenas and Apollos. (Titus 3:12-15)
 - A.D. 67 - Titus joined Paul at Rome during Paul's second imprisonment there and was sent to Dalmatia. (2 Timothy 4:10)
2. Why do you suppose that Titus is so much like 1 Timothy? Why preserve both books in the New Testament?

3. Do you know any church leaders who are “blameless”? (Titus 1:5-9; compare 1 Timothy 3:1-7) Considering what Paul quoted about the Cretans, would it appear possible to get any church leaders from among them? Does this mean that if a minister has one bad child in his family, he cannot serve? Should he resign immediately? After a while how many would we have left? Did God “fail” with one-third of His children?
4. Why did Paul quote an obviously uninspired writer to say something so disparaging about the people of Crete as he said in Titus 1:12 (*NASB*), “One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons’”? Compare the *GNB* translation of verse 12,13: “It was a Cretan himself, one of their own prophets, who spoke the truth when he said, ‘Cretans are always liars, wicked beasts, and lazy gluttons.’”

Was this book only for the private encouragement of Titus? Would Titus dare to read this passage to his congregation? After having heard these words, would the audience listen to anything else that Paul said?

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