

Titus 1:1-16 **Paul to Titus – Establish the Churches in Crete – Appoint Bishops**

Personal identification; Bondservant, Apostle – faith, truth, hope, manifestation; Greeting

¹ Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, ³ but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

⁴ To Titus, a true son in our common faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Left in Crete to establish Church leadership –Qualification for leadership

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Enemies in the Church already present in the time of the Apostles

¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

¹⁵ To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

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Facts Revealed:

Personal identification; Bondservant, Apostle – faith, truth, hope, manifestation; Greeting [Titus 1:1-4]

✠ Paul's introduction of himself to Titus includes many aspects of his relationship with God and his ministry which are known to Titus.

✧ **Bond servant**, speaks of his total submission to God and the calling on his life as one compelled to serve.

✧ **Apostle**, speaks of his position as one specifically appointed by Jesus Christ to carry the message of the Gospel to the Gentiles.

✧ **The message**, is according to the **faith** of God's elect, for without faith one cannot please God. Salvation is based on faith of those who believe. [Hebrews 11:6, Romans 3:21-31, 5:1-2, Galatians 3:26, Ephesians 2:8]

✧ **Acknowledgment of the truth of the Gospel message**, is in full agreement with godliness.

- ✧ **Faith** and **Truth** come together to produce **Hope** of eternal life as promised by God Who cannot lie.
- ✧ God established the promise of eternal life before time or creation began. [Ephesians 1:4, 2 Timothy 1:3-9, Titus 1:2, 1 Peter 1:18-21]
- ✧ The revelation of God's plan for eternal life was manifested in the proper time through His Word and the preaching of the Gospel message.
- ✧ The message was committed to Paul according to the commandment of God our Savior.
- ✧ The letter is addressed to Titus, who is a Gentile convert of Paul who calls Titus a true son in our common faith.
- ✧ **Titus** was completely Greek making him a Gentile, both parents were Greek. Titus was not compelled to be circumcised according to the decision of the Apostles in Jerusalem and written in letter regarding circumcision of Gentiles. [Galatians 2:5, Acts 15:13-29]
- ✧ The greeting is in the form of a blessing given in the name of God and Jesus. "Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior."

Left in Crete to establish Church leadership –Qualification for leadership [Titus 1:5-9]

- ✧ Paul left Titus in Crete with the assignment to establish Church leadership and organization in every city.
- ✧ **Crete**, is a small island 158 miles long, 6-30 miles wide, located south of the Aegean Sea in the Mediterranean Sea midway between Cyprus to the east and Malta to the west with the west end of the island located south of Athens Greece.
- ✧ **Qualifications for the Elder Bishop:**
 - ✧ **Perfectly blameless**, his life must be without reproach in every aspect from both outside and inside the Church circle for the reputation of the Church and to avoid slander against the Gospel of Christ.
 - ✧ **Husband to one wife**, he has a wife so his sexual drives are satisfied at home to avoid any sexual misconduct to stain his testimony in the community, and no more than one wife so his attention to the work of the Lord is not distracted by competition at home.
 - ✧ **His children must be** faithful, to demonstrate that he is able to guide the lives of others in righteousness and mature enough to lead the members of the Church body.
 - ✧ **His children must not be** accused of insubordination or dissipation (unrighteousness, immorality, debauchery, corruption, depravity, etc.)
 - ✧ **A Bishop must be** blameless, as a steward of God.
 - ✧ **A Bishop must not be**; self-willed, quick-tempered, given to wine, violent, or greedy for money.
 - ✧ **A Bishop must be**; hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded (serious), just, holy, self-controlled.
 - ✧ **A Bishop must** hold fast the faithful Word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict and oppose the truth.

Enemies in the Church already present in the time of the Apostles [Titus 1:10-16]

- ✧ Many deceivers in the Church at the time of the Apostles are identified by their fruits:
 - ✧ Insubordinate, idle talkers and deceivers, especially those holding the doctrine of the Judaizers called the circumcised.
 - ✧ They must be silenced, because they subvert (destabilize, undermine) whole households, by teaching things they ought not teach, for the sake of dishonest gain.
 - ✧ One of the Judaizer prophets (Epimenides a Cretan poet) said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." Paul confirmed the statement as true.

- ✧ Paul commanded Titus to rebuke them sharply so they would be sound in the faith, not listening to Jewish fables and commandments of men. [Titus 1:13-14, Matthew 15:8-9, Mark 7:6-9]
The Judaisers turn from the truth for the sake of Jewish tradition.
- ✧ **To the pure all things are pure.**
- ✧ **To those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.**
- ✧ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.