

# Titus

## OVERVIEW

Titus, a young minister, is left on Crete (the largest island of modern-day Greece) by Paul to begin the challenging task of organizing new followers of Jesus into local churches. In this letter, Paul shares with Titus some practical wisdom regarding church organization and administration. Instruction is given to choose leaders on the basis of proven character and conduct, detect and remove false teachers quickly, and encourage all members of all ages to live lives worthy of the gospel they claim to believe. Everyone must demonstrate the reality of their faith in God by “devoting themselves to doing good.” (3:8).

## INTRODUCTION

Titus, a young pastor, faces the daunting assignment of setting in order the church at Crete. Paul writes advising him to appoint elders, men of proven spiritual character in their homes and businesses, to oversee the work of the church. Elders are not the only individuals in the church who are required to grow spiritually. Men and women, young and old, are to be living examples of the faith they profess. Everyone has a vital role to fulfill in the church. Throughout the letter, Paul stresses the necessary, practical working out of salvation in the daily lives of all who follow Jesus. Good works are desirable and profitable for every Jesus follower.

## AUTHOR

The letters to Timothy and Titus are considered the Pastoral Epistles. The similarity of these epistles requires that they be treated as a unit on the matter of authorship. The external evidence solidly supports the conservative position that Paul wrote these letters to Timothy and Titus.

## DATE & SETTING

Paul wrote this letter to Titus probably from Corinth around A.D. 63, taking advantage of the journey of Zenas and Apollos (3:13) whose destination would take them by way of Crete.

The Mediterranean island of Crete is 156 miles long and up to 30 miles wide. Its first-century inhabitants were notorious for untruthfulness and immorality (1:12-13). “To act the Cretan” became an idiom meaning “to play the liar.” A2021 Bible Reading Plan number of Jews from Crete were present in Jerusalem at the time of Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11). Some of them may have believed in Christ and introduced the gospel to their countrymen. Paul would not have had opportunity to do evangelistic work during his brief visit in Crete while he was in route to Rome (Acts 27:7-13). The Apostle spread the gospel in the cities of Crete after his release from Roman imprisonment and left Titus there to finish organizing the churches (Titus 1:5). Due to the problem of immorality among the Cretans, it was important for Titus to stress the need for righteousness in Christ. False teachers, especially “those of the circumcision” (1:10), were also misleading and divisive.