

***Recipient***

“Titus appears to have been ‘one of the most trusted and valuable helpers of Paul’ (Barclay). He speaks of him (2 Cor 8:23) as ‘my partner and fellow-worker.’ Strangely he is not mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. According to 1:4 he owed his conversion to Paul. It is clear from Galatians 2:1–4 that he was a Gentile, as his was a test case whether gentile Christians should be compelled to be circumcised. At that time Titus was with Paul and Barnabas in Jerusalem. Much later, at the time of Paul’s third missionary journey, he had two delicate missions to carry out for Paul in Corinth, the first concerned with the strained relationship of Paul with the Corinthian Christians, the second related to the gentile collection for the Jerusalem church (2 Cor 2:12, 13; 7:5–16; 8:1–24). If 2 Timothy 4:9–18 deals with the end of Paul’s life then Titus went to Dalmatia after the time of this letter.”<sup>1</sup>

***Date of Letter***

“The traditional date, associated with Pauline authorship, is AD 64–67 (Kelly, *Pastoral Epistles*, 36).”<sup>2</sup>

***Overall Message of Titus***

“Paul handed instructions to Titus on how to establish and secure the new churches in Crete, describing the qualifications for leadership. He also encouraged Titus to confront those who spread false doctrines and brought division to God’s community. Above all, Paul emphasized the need for truth and godliness—orthodoxy of belief and a changed life that validates the power and truth of God.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Titus, Letter To,” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 2073.

<sup>2</sup> Rick Brannan, “Titus, Letter to,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> Knute Larson, *I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon*, vol. 9, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 340.

### ***Central Themes To Consider***

1. The connection between grace, salvation, sanctification, service and glorification (Titus 2:11-14)
2. The importance of Godly leadership to set things in order and refute unbiblical teaching (Titus 1:5,9-11)
3. The importance of engaging in good deeds as Christians (Titus 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:8, 3:14)
4. Knowing the difference between the profession of Christianity and possession of Christianity to preserve the spiritual health of the church (Titus 1:13-16)

### ***Questions for All of Us to Consider***

1. Do you understand the connection between salvation, sanctification, service and glorification?
2. Do you understand and value the importance of Biblical leadership and the impact it should have on your life?
3. Are you committed to living a life of community with other Believers in this local church and do you know what this should look like?
4. Can you distinguish Biblical Christianity from cultural Christianity?
5. How far are you willing to go to align yourself with God's blueprint for your life in relation to this church?