

## TITUS

*Titus, a young minister, is left on the island of Crete by Paul to begin the challenging task of organizing new converts into local churches. In this letter, Paul shares with Titus some practical wisdom regarding church organization and administration. Leaders must be chosen on the basis of proven character and conduct; false teachers must be quickly detected and removed; church members of all ages must be encouraged to live lives worthy of the gospel they claim to believe. Young and old, leader and laity, must demonstrate the reality of their faith by being “careful to maintain good works” (3:9).*

### TALK THRU THE BIBLE

**Introduction and Title** – Titus, a young pastor, faces the unenviable 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. But elders are not the only individuals in the church who are required to excel spiritually. Men and women, young and old, each have their vital functions to fulfill in the church if they are to be living examples of the doctrine they profess. Throughout his letter to Titus, Paul stresses the necessary, practical working out of salvation in the daily lives of both the elders and the congregation. Good works are desirable and profitable for all believers.

The third Pastoral Epistle is simply titled *Pros Titon*, “To Titus.” Ironically, this was also the name of the Roman general who destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and succeeded his father Verpasian as emperor.

**Theme and Purpose** – This brief letter focuses on Titus’ role and responsibility in the organization and supervision of the churches in Crete. It was written to strengthen and exhort Titus to firmly exercise his authority as an apostolic representative in a situation where churches needed to be put in order, false teachers and dissenters needed to be refuted, and immoral behavior needed to be replaced by good deeds. Paul used this letter to remind Titus of some of the details related to his task, including the qualifications for elders and the behavior expected of various groups in the churches. Paul included three doctrinal sections in this letter to stress that proper belief (orthodoxy) gives the basics for proper behavior (orthopraxy). Because of the opposition Titus would face (1:11,13; 2:15; 3:9-11), this letter was also written to provide official apostolic warrant for Titus’ authority. Paul also used this letter to give Titus certain personal instructions (3:12-13).

**Keys to Titus** –

**Key Word: Conduct Manual**

**Key Verses (1:5; 3:8)** – “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-“ (1:5).

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are god and profitable to men” (3:8).

**Key Chapter (2)** – Summarized in Titus 2 are the key commands to be obeyed which insure godly relationships within the church. Paul includes all categories of people, instructing them to show “all good fidelity, that they mad adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (2:10).

**Outline of Titus**

**I. Appoint Elders.....1:1-16**

A. Introduction.....1:1-4

B. Ordain Qualified Elders.....1:5-9

C. Rebuke False Teachers.....1:10-16

**II. Set Things in Order.....2:1-3:15**

A. Speak Sound Doctrine.....2:1-15

B. Maintain Good Works.....3:1-11

C. Conclusion.....3:12-15