

# Titus

## Original Historical Setting

**Author:** Paul

**Written:** ~62-65 A.D.

**Audience:** Titus, who was on the island of Crete

**Occasion:** The churches on the island of Crete were unorganized, though there appear to have been Christians in many of its cities. Paul wrote to Titus to encourage him in his task of setting the churches in order which included dealing with false teachers. The Cretans had a reputation for being idle and somewhat corrupt. These traits apparently characterized some of the Christians as well as the false teachers. So another part of Titus' task consisted of motivating them to change.

### **Timeline:**

- ~35 AD – Paul's conversion
- ~50-53 AD – Paul second missionary journey
- ~60-62 AD – Paul imprisoned in Rome
- ~62-66 AD – Paul released and writes Titus
- ~67-68 AD – Paul arrested

## World Events that occur simultaneously

- ~64 AD – Rome burns; Nero blames Christians
- ~66 AD -- The Zealots play a prominent part in the uprising which expels the Romans from Jerusalem
- ~66 AD -- Josephus is in Jerusalem at the start of the rebellion against the Romans/he would later describe its suppression in his *Jewish War*
- ~68 AD – Nero commits suicide

## Key text(s)

**1:12** – Cretans are always liars

**2:13** – Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing

**3:1** – Remind them...to be ready for every good work

## Genre/Literary style

An epistle (letter) written in (Koine) Greek

## Features and Structure:

The letter has three brief chapters and only 46 verses.

- I. – Church organization and Elder qualifications (1)
- II. – Advice regarding various groups in the Church (2)
- III. – Reminder of what sound doctrine includes (3)

## What to look for

- Scattered throughout 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are five “faithful sayings” which were probably confessions used in public worship. Titus 3:5-7 contains the last of these “faithful sayings.”
- This letter is a seasoned minister's advice to a young minister.
- Paul knew that bad leaders could kill a congregation, so he listed qualifications for those leaders (Elders). Notice that the list is not exactly the same as that of 1 Timothy 3 indicating that this was a general description of godly character rather than a checklist.

## Interesting facts

- Half a million people live in Crete today, and most consider themselves members of the Orthodox Church of Crete, a branch of the Greek Orthodox Church. There are more than 3,000 Orthodox churches on the island.
- The Titus that this book is named for was a close friend of Paul's and is not to be confused with the Roman Emperor, Titus. Co-ruling with his father, Emperor Titus served in Britain and Germany and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- It is estimated that as of January 10, 2010, there are **14,932** people named Titus in the United States and the number of Titus's are increasing by **127** people every year.

## Memory Verse: Titus 2:11-13