

Introduction to NT Books

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XV. The Book of Titus

A. The Authorship

1. External Evidence—basically the same patristics who supported the Pauline authorship of the two Timothy Epistles support Titus.
2. Internal Evidence—Paul declared himself author and apostle, refuting the Higher Critics who argued that the ecclesiology was too advanced for Paul.

B. The Man Titus

1. Titus (Τίτος)¹ was converted through Paul's ministry and was a Gentile (Tit. 1:5; Gal. 2:1-3).
2. Paul and Barnabas took Titus of Jerusalem to demonstrate the conversion of this Gentile (Acts 15:1 ff.; Gal. 2:1-3).
3. Titus had encouraged Paul that the Corinthians had responded to his First Epistle to them (II Cor. 2:13-15; 7:5-16). Paul then wrote II Corinthians and sent it back with Titus who was to also collect money for the Jerusalem assembly (II Cor. 8:16-23).
4. During his two known Roman imprisonments, Paul took Titus to Crete and left him there hoping to rejoin at Nicopolis (Tit. 1:5; 3:12).
5. Titus was with Paul towards the end, but left Rome and went back to minister Dalmatia (II Tim. 4:10).
6. Tradition states that Titus died of natural causes on Crete.

C. The Island of Crete

1. This long and narrow island was in the Mediterranean Sea with Salmone and Fair Havens as significant cities (cf. Acts 27:7-21).
2. Converts from Pentecost presumably went back and planted churches (Acts 2:11).
3. The Cretians manifested wickedness to such an extent that Epimenides their poet said "Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies" (Tit. 1:12).

D. The Time, Place and Purpose

1. On his prosperous journey to Rome (Rom. 1:10), he stopped on Crete, and apparently after his release he wrote I Timothy and came back to the island with Titus (c. AD 62). At some point Zenas the lawyer and Apollos joined Titus in his efforts (3:13)
2. Paul started churches in many cities and left Titus there for several reasons:
 - a. To ordain elders in every church (1:5),
 - b. To refute the false teachers,

¹The proper noun probably means "nurse." It is found 13x in the body of the TR and 2x in the subscripts (II Cor. 13:14 and Tit. 3:15).

- c. To speak sound doctrine to elders, church members, and false teachers,
- d. To encourage the church members about the responsibility of “*good works.*”

E. Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Sound Doctrine and Elders (1:5-16)
3. Sound Doctrine and the Congregation (2:1-10)
4. Sound Doctrine and the Christian Life (2:11-3:8)
5. Sound Doctrine and Heretics (3:9-11)
6. Conclusion (3:12-15)