

TITUS

Author: Paul

Date: Early 60s A.D.

Paul writes this letter to Titus, a Gentile who ministers to a group of churches on the Island of Crete. It seems probable that Titus met and may have been led to faith in Christ by Paul during the apostle's first missionary journey. Like Timothy, Titus was one of Paul's closest friends and a trusted traveling associate. Paul sent him on a special assignment to the church in Corinth. Later, Titus ministered with Paul on the island of Crete and was left behind to continue and strengthen the work. Titus is mentioned by name thirteen times in the New Testament. Paul refers to him as "my brother," and "my partner and fellow worker."

As with Timothy, Paul was teaching Titus how to organize and lead churches. This letter is part of that discipleship process. Paul stresses good, sound doctrine and warns against false teachers. This is a brief Christian life manual that emphasizes good deeds and proper conduct of various groups within the church. It serves a great crash course on mentoring as well.

Key verses: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age," (2:11-12, ESV).

OUTLINE

- I. Leadership in the Church (1:1-16)
- II. Righteous Living in the Church (2:1-15)
- III. Righteous Living in the World (3:1-15)

PHILEMON

Author: Paul

Date: 60-62 A.D.

Paul writes this letter from Rome to Philemon, a wealthy man and member of the church at Colosse. Philemon's slave, Onesimus, had stolen from his master and had run away. Onesimus eventually made it to Rome where he meets Paul and becomes a believer. Paul convinces Onesimus that his Christian duty is to return to his master. Paul writes this intercessory letter which is a model of courtesy, discretion, and loving concern for the forgiveness of one who would otherwise face severe consequences. Paul offers to pay the slave's debt to his master. He asks Philemon to accept Onesimus as a Christian brother. Onesimus travels a thousand miles to deliver this letter to his master wondering if he will face forgiveness or the legal punishment of death.

Key verse: "I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ," (Philemon 6).

OUTLINE

- I. Paul's Praise of Philemon (1-7)
- II. Paul's Plea for Onesimus (8-25)