

Titus

Titus, like 1 Timothy, was likely written in the time between Paul's first imprisonment (Acts 28) and a second imprisonment which led to his death. If so, Titus would have been written in the mid-60s A.D. around the same time as 1 Timothy, a few years before his death.

The theme of Titus is the inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior. This truth is the basis for its critique of false teaching as well as its instruction in Christian living and qualifications for church leaders.

I. Opening, 1:1-4. What theme of Titus is laid out in verse 1?

II. The need for proper leadership, 1:5-9

From verse 5, in what activity is Titus engaged and which prompts this letter?

What does Paul outline as the qualifications for leadership?

vs 6, "children are believers" refers to minor children living at home, and may mean merely that they should behave in a faithful way (compare 1 Tim 3:4)

vs 8, the list of character traits here is repeated throughout Titus

Why is sound leadership needed? (verse 9)

II. The problem of false teachers, 1:10-16

What does "the party of the circumcision" and "Jewish myths" seem to suggest? In this context, what is the meaning of verse 15? see 1 Tim 4:3-4

The content of the false teaching is not made explicit (as in 1 Timothy). Paul's primary concern is with the practical effect of the false teaching. The adherents of the false teaching did not live lives of godliness flowing out of the gospel but instead lived in a way that proved they did not know God (1:16).

This false teaching, which in some way required ritual purity while allowing for ungodliness, would have found a welcome home in Crete, which was proverbial in the ancient world for immorality and corruption. But Paul expected the gospel, even in Crete, to produce real godliness in everyday life.

What is Paul saying in verse 16?

III. Instructions regarding false teachers and proper Christian living, 2:1-3:8

2:1-10 Proper living by age and gender groups. What in this list applies to you?

2:11-14 Gospel basis for this teaching

What is the relationship between grace and behavior described here?

Christians should live this way because the grace of God that saves also instructs its recipients to live in a new way. One cannot truly claim to be a recipient of saving grace without also being a pupil of "training grace." This change in lifestyle is rooted in the atonement (v. 14) and the expectation of Christ's return.

3:1-2 Proper living with respect to outsiders

How does this verse speak to us during election time?

3:3-7 Gospel basis for this teaching,

What contrasts of right and wrong behavior does this describe?

3:8 Summary,

In what way is this different from what we teach today?

IV. Problem of false teachers restated, 3:9-11

V. Closing, 3:12-15