

Titus

Breakdown

- The epistle of Titus is another letter by Paul, but instead of writing to a church, he wrote to his ministry partner who was stationed on the island of Crete.
- Titus was a Gentile who was introduced to Christ through Paul's ministry. Paul had established some churches in Crete, and he left Titus on the island to set up order in the churches.
- This letter to Titus is believed to have been written around 65 A.D., sometime between Paul's first and second imprisonment.

Main Points

- Jesus came to the earth and became our substitutionary sacrifice, taking our place, and defeating Satan for us. He didn't save us because of anything good we had done - in fact, we hadn't done a single thing that was good. He saved us because of His own goodness and loving kindness, but we now have a responsibility to devote ourselves to good works based on what Jesus did for us.
- In this letter, Paul gave Titus a concise argument for good deeds: the people of the Church should behave differently from the people of the world because God has changed them. Though we don't attend church in Crete, we have undergone the same transformation as those early Christians. Jesus is the Savior for anyone who believes in Him.

Did you know?

- Paul considered Titus a partner in his ministry of strengthening churches. How did Paul describe Titus?
- Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders in the churches in Crete, but he gave a very specific set up qualifications for anyone who fills the role. What did Paul tell Titus to look for in the candidates?
- Paul gave advice for personal living that Titus should give to several groups of people. Which group did Paul say had trouble with slandering and addiction to wine?
- One of the men of Crete described the people who lived there in very unflattering terms, and Paul agreed with him. How did he describe them?
- Paul said we should live in this evil world devoted to God and looking forward with hope. What did Paul say is the hope we should be looking for?
- Even in the closing of his letter, Paul once again gave an argument for why people should devote themselves to good works. What did Paul say the people should do?

Further Thought

- Paul wrote some strong words to describe the people of Crete. Read Titus 1:16. How can we avoid the same trap the Cretans were in? What can we do to be sure we don't deny God by the way we live?
- By seeking a daily renewal of our minds by the Holy Spirit we can develop into Christians that honor God by the way we live. In fact, Paul told Titus to insist that the people of Crete do this. How can we renew our minds by the Holy Spirit every day?