

## **Titus: *Adorning the Gospel***

### **Introduction**

**I. The Author**— Titus was written by Paul probably in the fall of A.D. 63 not long after his release from his first Roman imprisonment or house arrest (Acts 28:16-30). The letter was probably written from somewhere in Macedonia or Greece while Paul was en route to Nicopolis in western Greece (Titus 3:12).

**II. The Audience**— Titus was a young pastor in his early 30s when Paul left him in Crete to strengthen the churches there. The churches on the island were evidently started by those who returned after the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11). Titus is mentioned in four books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 2 Timothy and Titus. He is mentioned a total of 13 times in these four books. The final mention of Titus is in 2 Timothy 4:10 where Paul states that Titus had journeyed to Dalmatia which is in the modern area previously known as Yugoslavia. Tradition reveals that Titus later returned to Crete where he died in about 124 at the age of 94.

Paul wrote to Titus on the island of Crete which is just off the southern coast of Greece. Crete, which Homer called the island of 100 cities, is 160 miles in length and varies from 7–30 miles in width. In A.D. 63 the island had a population of approximately 300,000. Along with Cilicia and Cappadocia, Crete had the most unsavory reputation of any place in the Roman empire. All three of these places were infamous for their degradation and debauchery. Crete was the alleged birthplace of Zeus and was awash in pagan mythology and sexual perversion.

The churches on Crete were probably established by Jewish believers who returned there after the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11). Paul had stopped there briefly on his journey to Rome, and it may have been during this brief stay that he saw the need in Crete that later prompted him to visit the island with Titus (Acts 27:7-8)

**III. The Aim**—The primary purpose is to instruct believers how they are to display God's saving power by their good deeds to a wicked, pagan society. This main purpose is derived from the repeated reference to God our Savior (1:3; 2:10; 3:4) and Jesus Christ our Savior (1:4; 2:13; 3:6). God is referred to as Savior every time He is mentioned except in 1:1 and 1:16. Good deeds are specifically referred to 6 times (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14). A secondary purpose is to summon Titus to Nicopolis when he is relieved by Artemas or Tychicus.

### **IV. The Arrangement**—

I. Church Organization—the Pastors (1)

II. Christian Obligation—the People (2–3)

## **V. The Analysis**

I. Church Organization—the Pastors (1)

II. Christian Obligation—the People (2–3)

## **VI. The Application**