

Beulah Heights University

**Reflection Paper on Titus**

Submitted to Professor Shannon Truelove

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

BI438

Pastoral Epistles Online

by

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March 22, 2020

Throughout the course of the semester we have studied the books of 1Timothy, 2Timothy and now Titus. As we know these three books are known as the pastoral epistles. They are

written by the great apostle Paul, to instruct, encourage, and direct order within the church. The Apostle Paul gave firm directions on how to operate the church when dealing with leadership as well as the members of the church. These letters were written to Timothy and Titus, two sons of the faith. Timothy was the recipient of two of the epistle letters which most scholars are more familiar with. Today we will not focus on Timothy but on Paul other mentee in the Gospel, our fellow brother in Christ Titus.

Titus is described as a early Christian missionary and church leader. He was a companion and disciple of the Apostle Paul. He was the organizer of the churches in Crete. According to Titus 1:5 Paul left Titus in Crete so that he “might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in each town.” Paul was definitely one who sent delegates on missions to organize the church when he wasn’t able to do so himself. He sent a letter to Titus that was not only meant for the churches in Crete but for larger churches as well. The letter was one that instructed Titus to appoint godly leaders. There were false teachings in these churches just as there was in Ephesus. Paul wrote in the letters that there was a combination of selective Jewish observances and the pursuit of controversial Speculations, all of which went against the teachings of grace and Jesus Christ.

As I go through the book of Titus I begin to notice that the book has a resolve for specific social situations at hand. Paul wrote this letter to a new found area of Christianity. This is seen in the fact that Titus was given the responsibility of appointing elders to all of the towns. In 2 Timothy Paul wrote the letter to a place where establishment had been. Titus was in a place of a raw form of Christianity as well as a new location. Crete was a place that Paul wanted Titus to get in order so that he could join him in the winter elsewhere. Crete also was a location that was having a hard time establishing roots of Christianity.

Paul wrote to Titus stating that there were a lot of rebellious people who were all talking a lot of meaningless talk according to Titus 1:10. These were those who were stuck with the Jewish tradition of circumcision. Paul was teaching Titus that he must rebuke those who fail to do good. He must rebuke them sharply so that they would be sound in the faith. This particularly passage of scripture in Titus made me think about today's church and leaders. Many of them are scared to rebuke which is causing many to portray a form of godliness but not possess the spirit. This is the exact thing that was happening in the church in Crete. Paul identifies all of the oppositions of the church in Chapter 1.

Chapter 2 of Titus is where Paul instructs Titus to teach sound Doctrine. He teaches the older men to be temperate worthy of respect self- controlled and sound in faith. He does not exclude the women but understand that the women are apart of the church as well. He teaches them to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanders or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Titus 2:5 is an prefect example of the fact that women shouldn't just hush and sit back. Paul goes into details as to what the women should also do as well as the men. The women have a role of teaching as well. The chapter goes on to instruct every age group from young men to young women as well. This is done so that the church can cater to not just the old , or the young, but to all people. Titus was to teach that God's grace offers salvation to all people.

Paul proceeds by teaching Titus in chapter 3 about the Newness of life in the Holy Spirit. He reminds the people to be submissive to rulers and authorities. Titus gives these instructions for two reasons. First, that instruction was for the practice of prayer and second, it did not deal with living under state authority as much as referring that authority to the care of God. (Johnson 245) Titus in each chapter deals with past, present, and future elements. He rebukes with authority but, yet his tone still offer a form of peace as to what the Grace of God and Jesus Christ

offers. Paul continue his letter wanting Titus to finish up what he's began. He wants him to spend the winter with him on another mission in Nicopolis. Paul prepared his delegates well so that the Gospel could be carried on.

## **Bibliography**

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