

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

(NT Survey Lesson 183--Titus 1)

Introduction: In Paul's post-imprisonment travels he left Titus at Crete to set in order the things that were lacking there. In this letter, perhaps written from Macedonia (1 Tim. 1:3), Paul encourages Titus, as he did Timothy, to work faithfully in the service of the gospel.

Lesson aim: To discuss the qualifications of elders and why their soundness in the faith is so important.

Introduction and greeting--Titus 1:1-4

1. What does Paul describe himself in the first three verses?
2. For what purpose had Paul been called to be an apostle? Through Paul's work in proclaiming the gospel, what hope do Christians have?
3. When did God first promise this hope? Of what passage(s) might Paul have been thinking?
4. How does Paul describe Titus? See what you can find out about Titus from other N.T. texts.

The qualification of elders--Titus 1:5-9

1. Why was Titus left in Crete?
2. Compare the qualifications here with those in 1 Timothy 3. Are they the same or different?
3. Make a list of the qualifications and give a brief definition of each.

Paul warns of false teachers--Titus 1:10-16

1. About what did Paul warn in verse 10? From among whom did they come? What were they doing?

2. How had one of the Cretan prophets characterized the Cretan people?
What evidence did Paul see of this?
3. What was Titus urged to do about those who were listening to these false teachers? To what were they paying too much attention?
4. What did Paul say about those who were pure? About those who were defiled and unbelieving? How did these attitudes manifest themselves in everyday life?