

# Titus 1

## Verse by Verse

# In Favor of Organized Religion

Introduction

Greeting  
1:1-4

Elders  
1:5-9

Cretans  
1:10-16

Conclusions

St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)



# Introduction

## The Pastoral Epistles

- The **Letters to Timothy and Titus** are related.
- Both of these younger men were Paul's assistants and apostolic delegates.
- Just as Paul left **Timothy** to finish a job he had started in **Ephesus**, Paul left **Titus** on the island of **Crete**.
- All three letters address pastoral issues such as:
  - Finding good leaders
  - Teaching sound doctrine
  - Encouraging good works among believers.

Ministry in  
Crete

Paul's Letter  
to Titus

Key Verses



# Ministry in Crete



- Crete is the largest of the Greek Islands and forms the southern boundary of the Aegean Sea.
- The island was once home to the Minoans, who date back thousands of years B.C.
- They were possibly the oldest European civilization.
- They later gave birth to the Philistines.
- By Paul's time, the people of Crete had already had a long reputation for being rude and obnoxious.
- According to Paul, this reputation was well-deserved.

**Cretans in  
History**







<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/the-lesser-known-side-of-crete-greece>





orms

no date

<https://endorfeen.com/the-highest-mountain-in-crete/>



# Cretans in History

- **Cicero** (100 - 43BC) wrote in *De Republica* that Cretans "consider piracy and brigandage honourable."
- **Polybius** (200 - 118BC) said, "So much in fact do sordid love of gain and lust for wealth prevail among them, that the Cretans are the only people in the world in whose eyes no gain is disgraceful."
- In this chapter Paul will quote **Epimenides of Cnossus** who goes back to around 600BC.

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# Paul's Letter to Titus

- **Titus**, like **Timothy**, was a younger convert of **Paul**.
- He is not mentioned in the book of **Acts**, but his name appears **12 times in Paul's letters** before this.
- According to **Galatians 2:3**, Titus was a Greek – a Gentile convert.
- Titus's job was to bring more order to the churches of Crete.
- This would not be easy for, as we have seen, Cretans were a disorderly bunch.

Good Works

What's in  
Titus 1?



# Good Works

- The Phrase "**good work(s)**" appears **six times** in the **three chapters** of **Titus**.
- By comparison it appears **six times** in the **ten chapters** of **1 & 2 Timothy** combined.
- Other than the **Gospel of John** (2x), it never appears more than once in any New Testament book.
- While good works are important in the **Pastoral Epistles**, they are especially important in **Titus**.

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# What's in Titus 1?

- Paul begins with a long, doctrinally rich greeting.
- He gets right down to business expecting Titus to try to find qualified elders "in every town."
- He ends the chapter by reminding Titus that this might not be easy.
- Crete was a difficult spiritual environment, so there would certainly be opposition to Titus's work.

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## Titus 1:15-16

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St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)







## Greeting 1:1-4

- Paul identifies himself as both an **apostle** and a **servant (slave = *doulos*)** of God.
- God has appointed him to serve **his elect** (the church) for the sake of **their faith ... and their knowledge of the truth**.
- Our God "**never lies**." Literally, "The unlying God," "the God without falsehood"
- The truth is simply part of who he is.

Before the  
Ages Began

How Truth Is  
Revealed

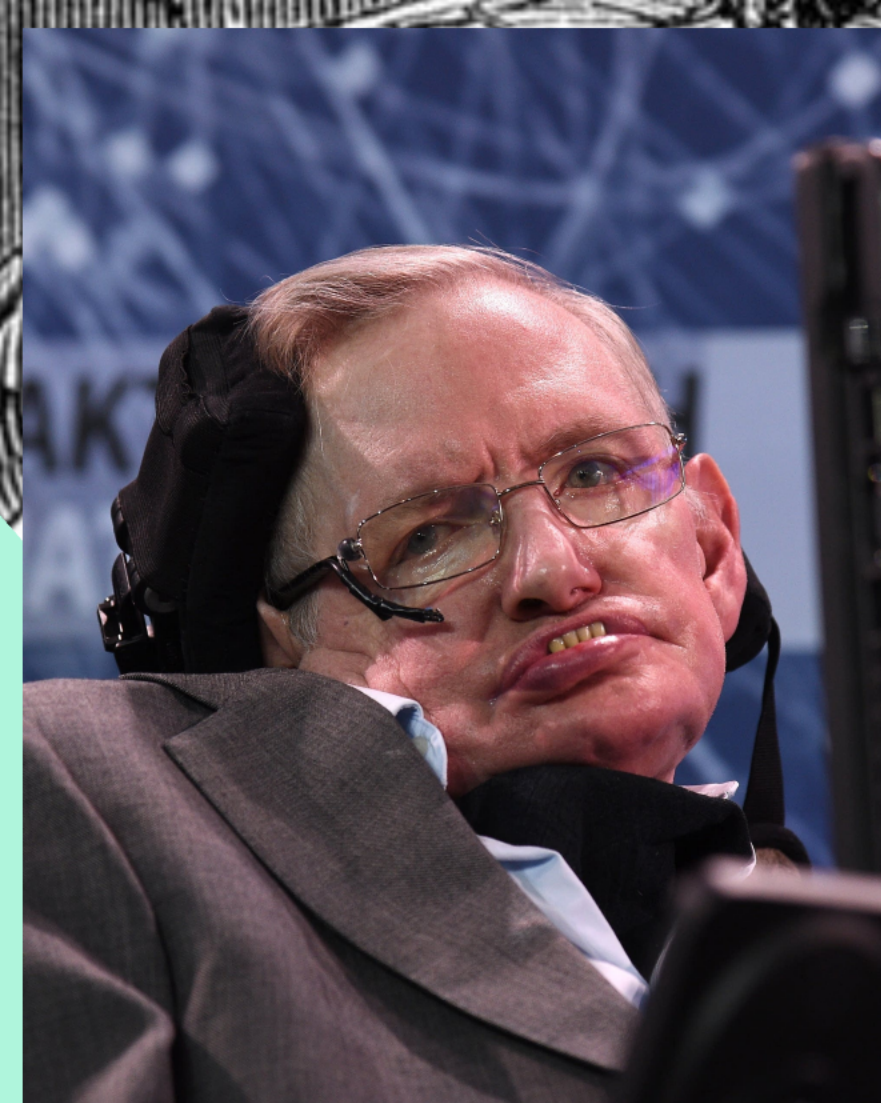
Our Savior

# Before the Ages Began

- Literally, **“before times eternal”**
- Prior to the 20th Century it was widely thought that the universe simply always existed.
- Then came **Albert Einstein** and **Edwin Hubble**.
- Their conclusions brought us to the idea of an **expanding universe** – which points back to a **beginning of everything - even time.**

From Stephen  
Hawking





Since events before the Big Bang have no observational consequences, one may as well cut them out of the theory, and say that time began at the Big Bang. Events before the Big Bang, are simply not defined, because there's no way one could measure what happened at them.

- *The Beginning of Time*, 1996

**Stephen Hawking (1942 - 2018)**  
English Theoretical Physicist  
and Cosmologist



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# How Truth Is Revealed

1 Corinthians  
1:20-21

- God has every right to decide how he will reveal himself to the world.
- In his wisdom he has decided to do so through the preaching of his word.
- Paul was appointed to this, as were the other apostles.
- They passed the task on to others - and so it keeps going through the centuries from that time.
- We might wish there was another way or a better way - but that is not ours to decide.



# 1 Corinthians 1:20-21

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

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Our Savior

# Our Savior

**Titus 1:3** God our Savior

**Titus 1:4** Christ Jesus our Savior

**Isaiah 43:11** I, even I, am the Lord,  
and apart from me there is no savior.

**Hosea 13:4** But I am the Lord your God  
from the land of Egypt;  
you know no God but me,  
and besides me there is no savior.





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## Elders 1:5-9

- These qualifications are similar to those in **1 Timothy 3**.
- Paul is not demanding perfection, but he describes a clear standard of character that would contrast with the general population of Crete.
- The overall picture is one of an orderly man with an orderly home.
- On top of that, he must hold tightly to sound (healthy) doctrine and be able to teach God's word.
- This includes the correction of those who are in error.

From  
Warren  
Wiersbe

From John  
Stott

1 Timothy  
3:1-7



Warren Wiersbe  
(1929 - 2019),  
pastor and Bible  
teacher.

One reason Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete was that he might organize the local assemblies and "set in order" the things that were lacking. That phrase is a medical term; it was applied to the setting of a crooked limb. Titus was not the spiritual dictator of the island, but he was Paul's official apostolic representative with authority to work.





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John Stott (1921 - 2011)

Candidates for the pastorate must give visible evidence in their behaviour that they have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, that their new birth has led to a new life, that their fallen passions are under control, and that the ninefold fruit of the Spirit has at least begun to appear and to ripen in their lives.

- John Stott , in *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus: The Life of the Local Church*





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# 1 Timothy 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.





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## Cretans 1:10-16

- Evidently some of the trouble in the Cretan churches was coming from Jewish believers.
- There was a faction of these that continuously gave Paul trouble wherever he went.
- In addition it seems Cretans in general did not know how to take a hint.
- Titus had to be ready to be firm with them or else the wrong kind of people and teaching would dominate in the churches.

**Acts 2:11**

**Galatians  
2:1-3**

**Key Verses**



# Acts 2:11

... both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and  
Arabians—we hear them telling in our own  
tongues the mighty works of God.





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# Galatians 2:1-3

Then after fourteen years I went up to Jerusalem again with Barnabas, taking Titus along too. 2 I went there because of a revelation and presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did so only in a private meeting with the influential people, to make sure that I was not running—or had not run—in vain. 3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, although he was a Greek.





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2 Timothy  
3:16-17

From Chuck  
Smith



## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, **equipped for every good work.**

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How important it is that we keep our minds pure and undefiled ... But for those who allow their minds to dwell on impure thoughts, they will always live with the worldly pollution of a corrupt mind ... But if you remain pure, your mind will be uncorrupted, and you will see and hear things in the best and most positive light possible.

Chuck Smith (1927-2013),  
founding pastor of the  
Calvary Chapel Movement

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- Crete was a difficult spiritual environment, so there would certainly be opposition to Titus's work.

From Tony  
Evans

Key Verses

A Final  
Prayer

Qualified spiritual leadership is critical for a church to function properly. Titus's twofold task was the identification of such leadership and the teaching of sound doctrine. Titus wasn't left to wonder who should fill these kingdom positions because Paul provides a list of virtues and traits for elders ... Notice that these are not descriptions of performance but of character.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher  
and Commentator



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# A Final Prayer

Heavenly Father,

- We remember the promise that Christ would build his church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Thank you that we belong to the church that Christ is currently building.
- Help us to keep in mind the eternal nature of the promises that you have given us, including the promise of eternal life.
- Help us also to be orderly people who live orderly live and can therefore contribute to the order and organization of your church.
- In Christ,
- Amen



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