



Overview of  
**Titus**

# Overview of Titus

- “Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior.”
- Grace leads to Faith leads to Life in Christ.
- Two key paragraphs to note.
  - Heart of the gospel message.
    - “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people...” (2:11-14)
  - Transformed by what God has done in/for us.
    - “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another...” (3:3-8)
- Likely written about the same time as 1 Timothy.
- Many similarities to 1 Timothy.



# Who is Titus?

- A Greek, likely converted by Paul.
  - “My true son”
- Accompanied Paul to Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1-4).
- Delivered Corinthian letter and reported back to Paul. (2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:5-7, 13-16; 8:16-24)
- Left on Crete to help strengthen the church there. (Tit. 1:5)
- Last mentioned in 2 Tim. 4:10.
- Tradition holds he died on Crete.

# The Mediterranean World During the Time of Acts





# CRETE







# Island of Crete

- 150-160 miles long/6-35 miles wide.
- By the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. there were around 20 principal cities.
- Prosperity from trade and agriculture.
- Mercenaries and “progressive” women.
- Morality in short supply.
- Epimenides quote in 1:12
  - “Mendax Creta (lying Crete); Verb “to cretize” or adjective “kretizo”
  - Compulsive liars
- A stark contrast to the true God who does not lie. (1:2)
- A culture steeped in Greek Mythology.
- Seeds of the gospel planted from Jerusalem (Acts 2:8-11).
- Paul/Titus continued the work.

Grace Has  
Appeared  
John 1:16 - 18

- “For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
- Joh 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- Joh 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.” ESV



# Dark Times of First Century Crete

- Nero is Emperor in Rome. 63 – 64 AD
- Worship of Christ as a king was in the process of being outlawed.
- Questions needed to be answered:
  - How are believers supposed to think and act?
  - How can we keep from being deceived by false teaching and teachers?
  - How may our faith be transmitted to the next generation?
  - How may our fellowship thrive in a world hostile to our faith?

# “Adorning the gospel of Christ”

- How will we wear Christ when it is unfashionable?
- What is the standard of beauty by which we live?
- Titus 2 is the answer: (2:10) “make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”
- The curriculum manual provides the how to of character qualities that delight God’s heart.
  - This winsome, attractive way of living appeals to the ugliness of our world.
  - It provides a timeless profile of faith handed down to the next generation.
- It helps older men and women know what is most important to share with the next generation.



Grace and Mercy Understood  
is Holiness Desired

# Titus 1:10 – 13

- 10: "For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.
- Titus 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.
- Titus 1:12 One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." (NIV)
- Titus 1:13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith...." (NIV)



## Titus 1:14 – 16

- Titus 1:14 “and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.
- Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.
- Titus 1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” (NIV)

# Titus 2 is About True Doctrine

"Inseparable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior."

Remember: "Deeds can never be greater than your thoughts. Thoughts can never be greater than your knowledge."







# Unhealthy Teaching

- Titus 1:10 – 11 “For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are **(disrupting)** whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.”
- Upsetting – overthrow, overturn, destroy.
- Godless living follows godless teaching.

# What is the Solution?

- The Holy Spirit through Paul told Titus to **“Teach things which are fitting for sound doctrine.” (2:1)**
- Cretan churches were in **desperate need of true teaching that valued right doctrine.**
- (1:9) “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”



Are we  
reflecting  
or  
countering  
the  
Culture?

- Do you know a Christian?
- Of the roughly 85 % who said they did **only 15%** saw any lifestyle **differences** between the Christian and non – Christian friends.

# God's Grace Changes Us


- *God has chosen, by His grace and mercy, to Redeem and Reconcile Us.*
- *"instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age," (Titus 2:12)*





## Why Instruct?

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- Preaching which exposes sin and highlights God's grace are not mutually exclusive, but in God's plan they fit together.
  - "God's grace is not so amazing if our sin is not so destructive."
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## Titus 3:3 - 5

- “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. 4 But when the **kindness** of God our Savior and *His* **love** for mankind appeared, 5 **He saved us**, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to **His mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

## Titus 3:6 - 8

- 6 “whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have **believed God** will be careful to engage in **good deeds**. These things are good and profitable for men.”