

Titus

Primary Teaching theme: *Re-establishing the order of the Church*

Titus was a Greek and an early practitioner who accompanied Apostle Paul during his ministry to other Gentiles. (Galatians 2:3) Making full use of his Greek background, the Apostle assigned him as an ambassador to the Churches at Macedonia. (II Corinthians 7:6, 8:6)

The Apostle writes to Titus as his son of common faith. The faith of the elect is acknowledged, as well as their commitment to the truth and following godliness. The Apostle affirms that the promise of eternal life is a truth declared before the world began. God ordained hope to be available for mankind before man disobeyed God and lost his access to eternal life.

The preaching of the gospel is the manifestation of God's declared truth and the promise of salvation that existed before the world began.

Set Things in Order Cp 1

The Apostle assigned Titus to set things in order in the Church at Crete. A major island representing Greek culture in the Mediterranean. The Apostle established the Church during his ministry excursion to the Gentiles. It is known as one of the area's first advanced modern cultures, dating from 2700 to 1420 BCE.

Titus, an elder appointed by Apostle Paul, is authorized to ordain additional church elders in every city across the island state. The criterion for the appointments is nearly the same list as given to Timothy and is provided by the Apostle and not determined by Titus or other Church leaders. (1:5-10)

The unruly, vain talkers, and deceivers Cp 1

The reason for the appointment of additional elders is apparent, considering the unruly, vain talkers and deceivers present in the local church. The Apostle instructs Titus to stop the verbal influence of the identified disrupters. The objective of the newly appointed elders was to halt the barrage of false teachings that created divisions and contradictions to the truth established by the founder and Apostle of the church.

A prophet is referenced as observing the Cretians as liars, evil beasts, and people slow to process or discern the difference between truth and a lie. Titus is instructed to rebuke them sharply, including those who are responsible for promoting Jewish fables that contradict the truth about the gospel of salvation. (1:10-14)



The example of Mature Men/ Mature Women Cp 2

As the lead church elder, Titus was admonished to speak and teach sound doctrine to reset the lost order of the Church. The aged or mature men in the Church should be sober, grave, honorable, temperate, sound, and balanced in their faith. They should teach the young men to be sober-minded and follow the pattern of good works in doctrine, uncorruptness (maintaining purity), gravity (high esteem), sincerity, and men of sound speech. (2:2,6-8)

Mature women should have a demeanor of holiness, not slanderous or given to excess wine, and must be teachers of good things (right and truthful). Teaching young women to love their husbands and children and to adhere to the character modeled by their senior examples. (2:3-5)

The example of Servants/Masters Cp 2

Servants working within a household as an occupation were required to be obedient and not rebellious. They are not to embezzle or hold back service (purloining) from their masters. In service, they should wear and represent the doctrine of God being truthful in all things. (2:9-10)

The example to the World Cp 2

Believers are a living witness, denying ungodliness and lustful influences, and living a sober, balanced, and righteous life that represents God to every observer in the world. Motivated by the divine promise that God declared before the creation of the world, to give us a blessed hope for eternal life, believers should live in anticipation of the arrival of the Great God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Savior gave His life to redeem all men from iniquity, to purify a peculiar people zealous to represent Him and do His work. (2:11-14)

Secular Order and God's Grace Cp 3

The believers in the Church are instructed to be subject to ruling principalities and powers, obeying the local magistrates and those required to keep order in secular society. A person who lives unruly in the secular will have little respect for the order that God demands within the Church. (3:1)

Believers should speak no evil of any person, whether inside or outside the Church, but should live in peace with everyone. Every believer has a sin-filled past; like others outside of the Church, believers were once guilty of behavior and practices not acceptable in the Church. God's kindness and love redeemed believers from their past sins. (3:2-5)



All people should be treated in the manner that God has demonstrated towards mankind that has sinned against Him. Those who are saved by God's grace should remember how grace justifies the lost, giving all people the same access to eternal life. (3:7-8)

Final instructions against *heretics/disrupters* Cp 3

Titus is instructed to avoid foolish questions and contentions initiated over genealogies or other legal matters. These things are unprofitable and without value in respect to Church doctrine or the gospel of salvation.

Heretics cause division and disorder. After a heretic is admonished for a second time, they should be rejected from the Church because their only intent is to subvert the truth and disrupt the house of God.

