

Doctrine of Titus

1. Titus is a common Latin name. When it came over to us in the Koine Greek it became **Titon** or **Titos**.

2. Titus was a fellow laborer in the work of the Lord with the Apostle Paul. We find no mention of Titus in the book of Acts, therefore we must develop our biography from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, the book of Galatians, and Titus and Paul's second epistle to Timothy.

3. The journey mentioned in Galatians 2:1 and 3 is more than likely the same as recorded in the 15th chapter of the book of Acts.

4. Accordingly, we can conclude that Titus was closely associated with Paul at Antioch and that he accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to resolve the issue of grace versus legalism.

5. At Troas (Troy) we find Paul disappointed in not finding Titus there. Titus had been sent to Corinth after Timothy's failure. The timing of this visit and the visit described in 2Co 7:5-14 are problematic. I have assumed the two were separate visits.

2Co 2:12 Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me,

2Co 2:13 I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

2Co 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

2Co 2:15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

2Co 2:16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

2Co 2:17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

6. Titus was later sent by Paul on a mission to Corinth to check on the effect of a third letter to the church at Corinth. Copies of the third letter are not extant.

6.1 Paul was anxious to know how the letter was received. He seemed to be concerned that his letter may have been too harsh and threatening.

6.2 Titus was sent to assess the damage or benefit of that third letter to the Corinthian church.

2Co 7:5 For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.

2Co 7:6 Nevertheless God, Who comforts those who are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus.

2Co 7:7 And not by his coming only, but by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us about your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me, so that I rejoiced the more.

2Co 7:8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent (**Metamelomai**), though I did repent

2Co 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry but that you sorrowed to repentance(**Metanoia**); for you were made sorry after a Godly manner, that you might receive damage by us in nothing.

2Co 7:10 For Godly sorrow works toward repentance(1Co 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry but that you sorrowed to repentance(**Metanoia**); for you were made sorry after a Godly manner, that you might receive damage by us in nothing.

2Co 7:10 For Godly sorrow works toward repentance (**Metanoia**) unto salvation not to be repented of (**Ameamaletos** -no emotion); but the sorrow of the world works death ...

2Co 7:13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort; yes, and exceedingly the more joyed we because of the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

2Co 7:14 For if I boasted anything of him to you, I am not ashamed; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, has been proven true.

7. The brethren who took the first epistle to Corinth (1Co 16:11-12) may have included Titus and some unknown companion.

1Co 16:10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

1Co 16:11 Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.

1Co 16:12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

8. Titus was sent back to Corinth with two other trustworthy friends bearing the second epistle to the Corinthians in which Paul requested that the church at Corinth complete their promised offering.

2Co 8:6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

2Co 8:7 Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

2Co 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Co 8:10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

9. In the interval between Paul's first and second imprisonment, the Apostle Paul and Titus visited Crete.

Tit 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

9.1 Here Titus remained where he received a letter from Paul. From this letter we learn that Titus was originally converted through Paul's ministry and we can assume he was one of Paul's theological students.

Tit 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

9.2 From this letter we learn of Titus's duties at Crete. He is to complete what Paul had been obliged to leave unfinished: mainly to organize the churches on the island. He was to appoint and train pastor-teachers for service.

Tit 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Tit 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

Tit 1:7 Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless -- not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

Tit 1:8 Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

Tit 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.

9.2.1 Titus was also urged to control the rebellious members of the circumcision party and evil Cretans.

Tit 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

Tit 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach -- and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

Tit 1:12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

Tit 1:13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith

9.2.2 Titus was also directed to urge the duties of a decorous life upon the women.

Tit 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Tit 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

Tit 2:5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

9.2.3 Titus was to look for the arrival of Artemas and Tychicus and upon their arrival was to join Paul at Nicopolis. Whether Titus did or did not join Paul at Nicopolis we cannot know.

Tit 3:12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.

10. From studying the book of Titus and Second Timothy we can conclude with some assurance that Titus was with Paul in Rome during his final imprisonment. He did not stay as we will later see. But we do know he was there for some time and then went to Dalmatia. Whether he stopped to see Paul on his return trip to Crete is not known.

11. From early church writings we can conclude with some degree of certainty the following:

11.1 Titus was permanently connected with Crete.

11.2 He is said to have been a bishop on the island and to have died there at an advanced age.

11.3 The modern capitol, Candia, appears to claim the honor of being his burial place.

11.4 The name Titus was the watchword and battle cry of the Cretans when they were invaded by the Venetians.

11.5 At some point during Paul's second imprisonment Titus leaves and visits Dalmatia (what is now known as Serbia). It is assumed Titus went back and continued his ministry on the island of Crete.

2Ti 4:9 Do your best to come to me quickly,

2Ti 4:10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

12. Titus, like Luke, was a Gentile. Many speculate that he is the brother of Luke.

