

New Testament Foundations:
Session Eighteen

Titus & II Timothy: Paul's Last Words

TITUS – GOOD DEEDS AND SOUND DOCTRINE

Authorship

1. Paul wrote to Titus after I Timothy and before II Timothy – between _____ AD.
2. Titus was a vital member of Paul's apostolic team who functioned in several different _____.

II Corinthians 8:23

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit.

- He successfully mediated the conflict between Paul and factions in the Corinthian church (II Corinthians 7:13-15).
- He delivered Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth (II Corinthians 8:17).
- He represented Paul in an apostolic role to the churches on the island of Crete.

Titus 1:5

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you.

3. In the ancient world, Crete had been the site of a great civilization. But by the first century, it had greatly deteriorated and Cretans had developed a reputation for laziness and lying.

Titus 1:12

Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith.

Background

1. It is unknown when Paul became involved in the Cretan church, but he obviously found it in great need of order and discipline.
 - _____ had found their way to Crete and were teaching erroneous doctrine.

Titus 1:10, 11

For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain.

2. Paul wrote to Titus to instruct him on how to set the church in order. His instructions included the qualifications for elders, the proper behavior for different groups in the church, and the doctrine needed to confront the false teachers.

Titus 1:9

...holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Themes

1. The great doctrinal theme in this letter is the relationship between _____ and good works.
2. This letter is filled with admonitions to good works.

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

- These good works manifest in a lifestyle of _____.

Titus 3:1

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient...

- These good works manifest in a lifestyle of _____.

Titus 1:15

To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

- These good works manifest in a lifestyle of _____.

Titus 2:2-6

Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled...Likewise, teach the older women...to be self-controlled ...Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

3. This letter contains one of the great New Testament declarations of grace.

Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This passage is immediately followed by another exhortation to good works.

Titus 3:8

*The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, **so that** those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.*

Again, we see the same theme.

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...

God's grace comes first and is then followed by good works.

Titus 2:12-14

...training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

II TIMOTHY – THE APOSTLE’S “SWAN SONG”

Authorship

1. Paul wrote this letter after I Timothy and before his martyrdom under Nero—sometime between _____ AD.

Background

1. This is the last of Paul’s extant letters, written from a Roman prison as he awaited his execution.

II Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2. Paul’s former companions are either gone or have forsaken him, and apart from _____, he is alone.

II Timothy 1:15; 4:10, 11

You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes...for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me.

Purpose

1. Paul’s primary reason for writing was to urge Timothy to visit him _____ before his imminent execution.

II Timothy 1:4; 4:9, 21

Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. Do your best to come to me quickly. Do your best to get here before winter.

2. However, Paul knew that Timothy might not make it in time. Therefore, his second reason for writing was to say some of the things that were the most important to him before he departed.

Themes

1. Paul’s exhortations to Timothy come under five headings.

- _____ the truth.

II Timothy 1:13, 14

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

- _____ what you have received.

II Timothy 2:2

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

- _____ strong.

II Timothy 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

- _____ suffering.

II Timothy 1:8

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.

II Timothy 2:3

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

- _____ heresy.

II Timothy 4:2-4

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.