

## Titus

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul

THEME: "Paul Admonishes Young Titus to Stay in Crete"

INTRODUCTION: The book of Titus is much like the book of II Timothy in that it was written to a young preacher admonishing him concerning the work of a pastor in the church. Titus was a Gentile and was one of Paul's converts. We know very little else about him. In II Corinthians he is mentioned several times; he is also mentioned in Paul's epistle to the Galatians. It was Titus who brought to Paul the manner in which the Corinthians received his first epistle, and it was Titus who carried back to that church the second epistle.

Paul had no doubt visited the church on the island of Crete where Titus pastored. (See Titus 1:5.) Paul returned to Asia and left Titus to pastor the church there. Many of the members were converts who had been saved on the day of Pentecost and had returned to Crete to found a church.

Titus had become discouraged in the work. He had supposedly asked Paul if he could help him get located somewhere else and consequently wanted to leave Crete. His reasons for this are given in Titus 1:12, 13.

He did have a hard field. It was a difficult place to stay, and Titus was very discouraged. All of this was true.

The discouragement would be natural. The book of Titus, consequently, is written to admonish Titus to stay in Crete, and then Paul tells him why he should stay in Crete by explaining to him the different things the people in the church needed from him.

### I. PAUL TOLD TITUS TO STAY IN CRETE BECAUSE TITUS NEEDED CRETE.

This is one of the most important reasons why any of us ought to face the tough places in life: we need the tough places.

Check the great men in history, and you will find that almost all of them had a difficult place with some hard knocks. This was a training ground for them for great things in the future.

Paul is saying to Titus, "You need the tough places." Martin Luther had his problem with the Catholic church. John Huss was persecuted by the church. Charles Spurgeon was voted out of the Baptist Association in London.

Jonathan Edwards was voted out of his first pastorate. Dr. John Rice lost his mother when he was six years of age. Dr. Bill Rice's baby daughter lost her hearing.

Harold Sightler's nine-year-old girl was killed by a drunken driver. Dr. Monroe Parker's wife was killed in an accident caused by a drunken driver. George Truitt accidentally killed his best friend on a hunting trip.

These are just a few examples, but great men must be prepared for greatness by staying in Crete and having difficult times.

### II. PAUL TOLD TITUS TO STAY IN CRETE BECAUSE CRETE NEEDED TITUS.

He proceeded to tell who needed Titus. There are six groups admonished in Titus 2.

1. The aged men. Titus 2:2.
2. The aged women. Titus 2:3.
3. The young men. Titus 2:6.
4. The young women. Titus 2:4.
5. The servants. Titus 2:9.
6. All believers in general. Titus 2:11, 12.

The tough place needs us. The difficult places need a Titus more than do the easy places. Far too many preachers settle in the "Bible belts," and far too many Christians want to shirk the battles and the hard times in life.

Many would like to go to the easy places and shirk the burdens, the trials, the heartaches and the battles. The poor need us, the lonely need us, the discouraged need us, the sinful need us, the deaf need us, the blind need us, the retarded need us, the downtrodden need us, the sick need us, the invalids need us, the rest home patients need us, Crete needs us. Paul admonished Titus to stay there because Crete needed him so badly.

### III. GOD NEEDED TITUS IN CRETE.

God needs a Titus. He needs someone who can take it, someone who can shepherd the flock, someone who can teach the class, someone who can superintend the department even when the going gets rough. Anybody can teach a class of perfect little angels.

God needs someone to stay with the hoodlums and the tough kids. Anyone can captain a bus route in the nice section of town. God needs someone to go "across the tracks" and help the ones who don't know how to behave in church, the ones who are unruly.

The Gospel of Christ has always been "going where we are needed the most." It is not the sanctified sitting together and learning more about sanctification; it is the sanctified going out to the unsanctified, the unsaved, the rough people, and leading them to know Christ and teaching them how to follow Him.

**CONCLUSION:** Every person is going through a trial. Sometimes we want to shrink from doing God's will when He puts us in the hard place. God wants us to have the hard place for our own sake, for the sake of those in the hard place, and for His sake.

Memory Verse: Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"