

Titus – “...His own special people, zealous for good works...” Titus 2:11-3:8
#16 in series “Words of God to You” March 1, 2009

1. Author – “Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ...” [1:1]
2. Date – 62-66 A.D. – about the same time as I Timothy, between 1st and 2nd Roman imprisonment.
 - “For this reason I left you in Crete...to set in order the things that are lacking...” [1:5]
 - “...come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there...” [3:12]
3. Destination – “To Titus, a true son in our common faith...” [1:4]
 - There is no record of Paul meeting Titus in Acts, but in Galatians 2:1-3 Paul says that Titus accompanied him on his second visit to Jerusalem [cf. Acts 11:27-30 – app. 47 A.D.]
 - Titus became a trusted companion of Paul’s and had significant ministry in Corinth [cf. II Corinthians 7:6; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18], Crete [Titus 1:5] and Dalmatia [II Timothy 4:10].
4. Purpose – to encourage Titus to “set in order the things that are lacking” in the Cretan church. [1:5]
 - Character and task of elders [1:6-16]
 - Older men and women to disciple the younger men and women. [2:1-10]
 - Grace – not law – produces good works in believers! [2:11-3:8]

“It must have been wonderful to spend time with Christ, with Somebody who liked you, loved you, believed in you, and sought a closeness foreign to skin-bound man. A person would feel significant in His presence. After all, those who knew Christ personally went on to accomplish amazing feats, proving unwavering devotion. It must have been thrilling to look into the eyes of God and have Him look back and communicate that human beings, down to the individual, are of immense worth and beauty and worthy of intimacy with each other and the Godhead. Such an understanding fueled a lifetime of joy and emotional health among the disciples that neither crowds of people jeering insults, nor prison, nor torture, nor exclusion could undo.

They were faithful to the end, even to their own deaths. People don’t go out and get tortured and arrested for somebody who doesn’t love them. If somebody loves us, we will do all kinds of things in their name, for them, because of them. [Their love] will make us who we are.”

- Donald Miller