

Titus, the True Son

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Background: Titus was an evangelist who worked with the apostle Paul.
1. Of Titus, nothing more is known than what is found in the epistles of Paul. There is no mention of him in Acts; nor does his name occur in the New Testament anywhere except in the writings of Paul.
 2. He was by birth a Gentile. In Gal. 2:3, he is called a Greek, and he had not been circumcised. If Titus had been proselyted to the Jewish faith, he would have been circumcised.
 3. He had been converted by Paul himself. Titus 1:4 - "To Titus, mine own son after the common faith." He was converted 14 years after Paul.
 4. Probably from Asia Minor; Greeks lived there in large numbers, Paul preached there often, and there were numerous converts made there.
 5. Titus went with Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem from Antioch, perhaps to show that it was not necessary that Gentile converts be circumcised.
 - a. Acts 15:1-41, 19-20; Gal. 2:1-4
 6. Titus was quite involved in the work at Corinth.
 - a. 2Cor. 8:23, 7:6, 13, 2:13, 12:18; 2Tim. 4:10
 7. There is reason to believe that Titus spent some time with the apostle in Ephesus; for the first epistle to the Corinthians was written at Ephesus, and was sent by the hand of Titus. But whether he was with him when he went with the collection to Jerusalem, and during his imprisonment in Caesarea, or on his voyage to Rome, we have no information.
 8. Titus was left by Paul in the island of Crete, that he might "set in order the things that were wanting, and ordain elders in every city" - Titus 1:5. This was in the year 62, after the first imprisonment of Paul at Rome.
 - a. He did not intend it to be long term work - Titus 3:12
 9. He was with Paul in Rome during his second imprisonment there, but did not remain with him until his trial, but left him and went to Dalmatia.
 - a. 2Tim. 4:10
 10. History suggests that he returned to Crete to preach until his death. He died in the year 107 AD, aged about 95 in the city of Candia (modern Heraklion) Crete.

I. TITUS THE TRUE SON

- A. He was not afraid of controversy - Prov. 1:33; 1Cor. 16:10
1. At Antioch and Jerusalem during the circumcision error - Acts 15:2, 7
 2. At Corinth during the materialist error - 1Cor. 1:10
 3. At Crete during the leadership crisis - Titus 1:10-13
 4. At Dalmatia on the frontier of the Gospel - Rom. 15:18-21
- B. He was able to follow instructions (a "go to guy").
1. Worked with Paul in Macedonia, a poverty stricken area - 2Cor. 7:5-6
 2. Worked with the Corinthians, a divisive, childish group - 2Cor. 7:15

3. Accompanied Paul to Jerusalem, knowing he would be the center of controversy - Gal. 2:1-4
4. Left in Crete to appoint elders, a potentially difficult task - Titus 1:5
5. Asked to rejoin Paul in Nicopolis - Titus 3:12
6. Followed Paul to Rome when he was taken to Caesar - 2Tim. 4:10
7. Followed orders to go to Dalmatia - 2Tim. 4:10

Conclusion:

- A. Titus did not serve the Lord and follow the lead of the apostle Paul for selfish reasons or self-advancement.
 1. "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody." (Ancient Asian Proverb)
 2. "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, and to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." (Ralph Waldo Emerson)