

# **“Sound in Belief and Behavior”**

## **Titus 1:1-4**

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### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Why study the book of Titus?**

1. There are three short chapters written over nineteen centuries ago to a little-known missionary on an obscure island by an aging senior missionary. What possible relevance could this have for us living in the enlightened 21<sup>st</sup> century?
  - a) It's God's Word
  - b) *“This is a short epistle, but it contains such an example of Christian doctrine, and is composed in such a masterly manner that it contains all that is needful for Christian knowledge and life.”* – Martin Luther

#### **B. Key themes in Titus**

1. Its place in the New Testament
2. Who was Titus?
  - a) A Gentile (Galatians 2:3)
  - b) Not named in Acts
  - c) “Paul's trouble shooter”
3. Where was Titus?
  - a) Island of Crete
  - b) Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11)
  - c) A difficult place (Titus 1:12)
4. When did Titus go to Crete?
  - a) 62-64 A.D.
5. Why was he sent to Crete?
  - a) Four reasons Paul sent Titus to Crete
    - 1) To ordain elders (Titus 1:5-9)
    - 2) To rebuke false teachers (Titus 1:10-16)
    - 3) To speak or teach sound doctrine (Titus 2)
    - 4) To teach them to maintain good works (Titus 3)
    - 5) To protect sound belief and behavior and practice sound behavior

#### **C. Paul's opening salutation (Titus 1:1-4)**

1. It's lengthy in the Greek. It has 65 words and is one sentence. Galatians has 75 words, and Romans has 93 words.
2. It's full of doctrinal truths
3. Focuses on Paul and his ministry
4. Three facets of Paul and the nature of his service

### **II. Paul's Position (Titus 1:1a)**

- A. “A servant of God”
  - 1. “Doulos” or “bond slave”
  - 2. It’s a title of humility
  - 3. His conversion (Acts 9)
  - 4. Paul was bought, owned, and directed by God
    - a) Are you?
- B. “An apostle of Jesus Christ”
  - 1. It’s a title of great authority
  - 2. The twelve and Paul
  - 3. The first title pictures him as a slave of the supreme master, the second as a messenger of sovereign land
  - 4. Us too!
    - a) Slaves of God
    - b) Messengers of God
    - c) Committed to God’s mastery

### III. Paul’s Purpose (Titus 1:1b-3)

- A. What purpose had Paul become God’s slave and Christ’s apostle?
  - 1. Evangelism
    - a) “According to the faith of God’s elect” (v.1)
    - b) “To bring those whom God has chosen to faith”
    - c) God elects, but we must evangelize
    - d) The God who ordained the end salvation also ordained a means to that end
  - 2. Education
    - a) “The acknowledging of the truth” (v.1)
    - b) Faith and reason belong together
    - c) A Christian needs to be educated in the truth of God’s Word
    - d) “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)
    - e) Do you feed your faith on the Word of God?
      - 1) Read the Bible every day
      - 2) Study the Bible
      - 3) Be a “doer” of the Bible
  - 3. Sanctification
    - a) “Which is after godliness” (v.1)
    - b) NIV - “The truth that leads to godliness”
    - c) The truth—literally “which itself leads to godliness or God-centeredness”
    - d) The theme of Titus is sound belief and sound behavior
    - e) *“It is an essential feature of truth, and a good test of its authenticity that since it comes from God, it leads to God. Any doctrine which does not promote godliness is manifestly bogus.” – John Stott*

- f) “Godliness” is the ultimate goal of God’s people.
  - g) Man by himself is ungodly. He can be religious but not godly. To be godly, we need to be saved and sanctified by the Spirit of God, working through the Word of God to make him like the Son of God.
  - h) “God has given us all that we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)
4. Expectation (v.2)
- a) What does Paul mean by “hope of eternal life?”
  - b) How can eternal life be a hope when John 3:16 says we have “eternal life?”
  - c) How does Christian hope differ from secular hope?
    - 1) Salvation’s tense (past, present, future)
    - 2) God promised it before the world began (v.2)
      - a. (2 Timothy 1:9)
    - 3) The God who made this promise does not lie (v.2)
      - a. He cannot disown himself.
      - b. Nothing is so true as the Word of God providing endurance and patience.
5. Proclamation (v.3)
- a) The preaching of the gospel is a bridge that spans the two eternities of past promise and future fulfillment.
  - b) The place the Word of God has in Paul’s ministry
    - 1) Evangelism (God’s Word)
    - 2) Education (God’s Word)
    - 3) Sanctification (God’s Word)
    - 4) Expectation (God’s Word)
    - 5) Proclamation (2 Timothy 4)
  - c) Committed to God’s mission

#### **IV. Paul’s Personal Son (Titus 1:4)**

##### **A. Grace**

- 1. Means “strength for life and service”
- 2. God wants to bless you

##### **B. Mercy**

- 1. Compassion

##### **C. Peace**

- 1. Freedom from anxiety and panic despite adverse circumstances
- 2. Peace of God

##### **D. The source**

1. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior

## **V. Conclusion**

### **A. Is He your Savior?**

1. He's the only Savior
2. How?
  - a) Grace
3. Result
  - a) Peace
4. The hope of eternal life
  - a) The cross