



**A STUDY GUIDE ON THE BOOK OF TITUS**

## INTRODUCTION

**Titus**, like Timothy, is one of Paul's ministry trainees. Converted through Paul's ministry (1:4), he accompanied Paul to Jerusalem when he went there to discuss his ministry with the Jerusalem apostles.

Titus was Greek and, in contrast to Timothy, was not circumcised (Gal 2:1-3). For that Jerusalem Council, he was a living example of someone saved by grace, committed to the gospel, yet not circumcised. He may have been with Paul in Ephesus too, when Paul ministered there.

He was sent to Corinth to help the church (2 Cor 7:5-6, 8:6). Later he was commissioned by Paul to lead the churches in Crete, where they both had served briefly (1:5). His task was to further establish the churches. It's no small task.

**Crete**, modern Greece's largest island, is 250 km from east to west just like Greater Melbourne. It's mountainous (up to 2,500m high) and has many towns. Homer spoke of "Crete of the hundred cities" (*Iliad* 2.649). With probably 20 to 30 towns in Paul's time, it was quite a challenge for a church planter to appoint elders in every town (1:5). There were many Jewish colonies there. We don't know much about how the churches started, but we do know that there were Jews from Crete in Jerusalem when the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11).

Paul is writing to Titus to encourage him in the work that he left him there to do. The focus of the letter (written toward the end of Paul's life) is on building healthy church life and leadership, teaching sound doctrine and living it out in godly lives - letting the gospel impact every part of life. It challenges and encourages us today as we seek to have the truths of the gospel impact our church, home and community life.

For more information, visit [biblicalfoundations.org/crete-like-pauls-day](https://www.biblicalfoundations.org/crete-like-pauls-day).

# GOSPEL IMPACT IN THE CHURCH

## Context

1. How does Paul view his relationships with God, Jesus, God's elect (other Christians) (verse 1) and Titus (4-5)?
  
2. What is the moral and theological context where Titus is serving (10-16)?

## Observation

3. What is Paul's strategy for growing gospel-based churches (5)?
  
4. According to Paul, what should be the characteristics of a church leader? What do they look like in practice?

## Meaning

5. What is the connection among faith, knowledge of the truth and godliness (1)?

6. How would leaders with those characteristics (6-9) be equipped to deal with those people and issues (10-16)?

### **Application**

7. How can we ensure that CrossCulture leaders remain gospel-based in handling corrupt morals and unscriptural beliefs?

### **Optional case study**

A life group member says that a real Christian must be water-baptised / tee-totaller / vegetarian / other legalistic rule. Others are becoming confused about the basis of salvation. How should this be handled according to Paul?

**Pray for CrossCulture leaders and other Christian leaders around the world.**

## **GOSPEL IMPACT IN THE HOME**

### **Context**

Paul is outlining the qualities expected from different demographics within the network of home churches on the island of Crete. His purpose is to protect the authenticity of the gospel from false teachers and the immoral practices in Cretan culture.

1. What practices and values is Paul probably challenging (1:10-16)?

### **Observation**

2. How does living out these qualities contribute to promoting the gospel (2:2-10)? Notice 'that' and 'so that' in verses 5, 8 and 10.
3. What is the significance of Paul addressing each demographic differently?

### **Meaning**

4. How does the gospel train us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives (2:11-14; Exodus 19:3-6)?



## **GOSPEL IMPACT IN THE WORLD**

### **Context**

Paul's earlier instruction to uphold the truth of the gospel within the inner circles of church and home is now expanding to the outer circle of the secular world. Knowing that Crete is socially and culturally corrupt, he reminds other Christians about their duty to this world.

1. Paul needs to remind the church of what he has already taught them (verse 1). What Christian teaching do you need to be reminded of in your daily life?

### **Observation**

2. It is not enough for Christians to simply be law-abiding and not break rules (3:1). Why should we be ready to do every good work?
3. What attitudes does Paul encourage other Christians to show others (verses 1-3, 9 and 14)?

### **Meaning**

4. What roles do God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit have in enabling us to live this way (verses 3-7)?

5. What is the significance of Paul's commands (verses 9-11)?

**Application**

6. What good work can we do - as conscientious and submissive Christian citizens - to promote the gospel in our communities?