

TITUS

64-65 AD

"You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine." 2:1

Author: Paul

Written From: Corinth

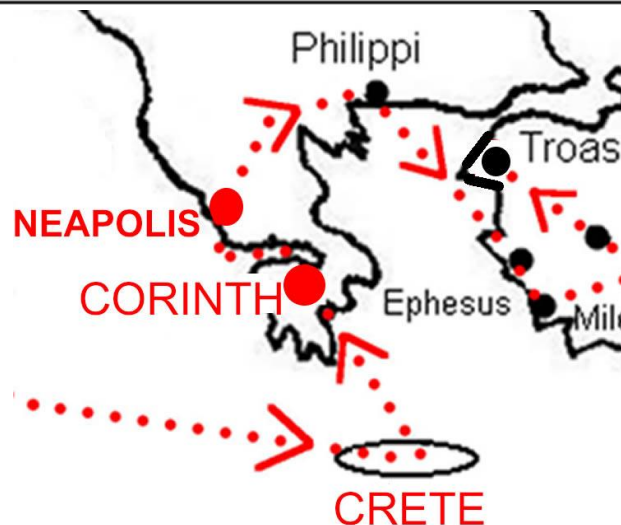
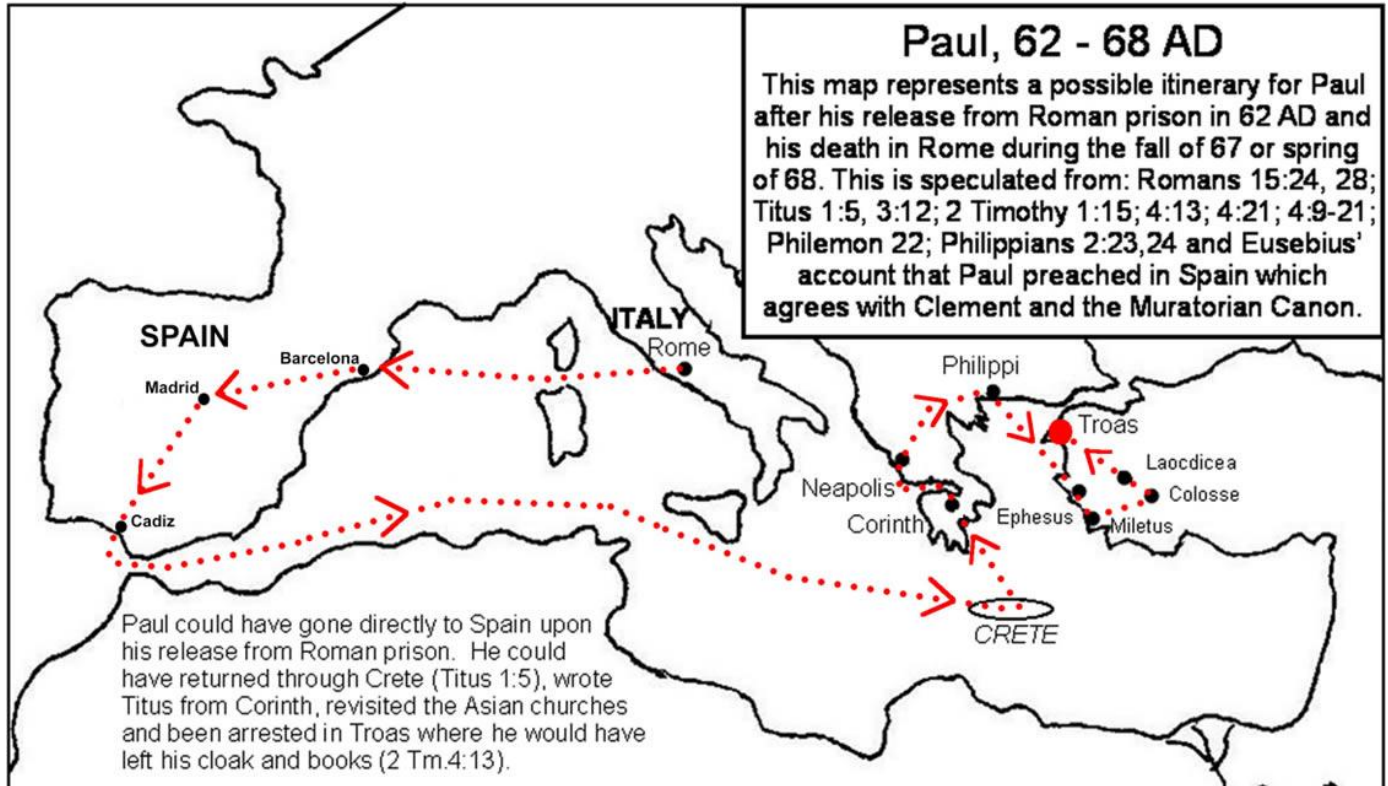
Sent To: Titus who was working in the church on the isle of Crete

Purpose: Instruct Titus concerning issues and organization of the church in Crete

Theme: The grace of God that brings us salvation also teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness. (2:11-12)

Basic Outline:

- Chapter One, Paul's reason for leaving Titus at Crete: Appoint elders and stop false teachers
- Chapter Two, Teaching sound doctrine and application to different groups in the church
- Chapter Three, Teaching believers to do good and be good citizens; Sound doctrine



In chapter one Paul explains to Titus why he was left on the isle of Crete. One of the main goals was to appoint elders in every town on the island. Paul gives a modified version of the requirements for an elder that he had also given to Timothy in Ephesus. As always, there were those who were distracting the church with false teaching. Titus was instructed to silence them.

Chapter two instructs Titus to teach sound doctrine and behavior that matches it. Issues and attitudes for men, women, young women, young men and slaves are addressed. One of the key concepts of the book is found in verse 11 where we are told that the grace of God that brings salvation also teaches us to say "no" to worldly passions.

Chapter three focuses on the ethical and moral goal of the church and Christians. We are to live as good citizens of the earth in our local and national governments. The believer should be devoted to doing good, provide for their daily needs, and lead a productive life.

Memorable Verses:

- "The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town." 1:5
- "There are many rebellious people mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced." 1:10, 11
- "Rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth." 1:13-14
- "You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine." 2:1
- "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions." 2:11-12
- "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good." 3:1
- "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." 3:5
- "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned." 3:10, 11
- "Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives." 3:14

Titus:

- Gentile -
"Even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek." – Gal. 2:3
- Converted by Paul -
"To Titus, my true child in a common faith" – Titus 1:4
- Traveled with Paul and Barnabas to the Jerusalem Council in 48 AD. Titus was an example of a born-again Gentile Christian that had not been circumcised. (Acts 15:2; Galatians 2:3)
- Paul sent Titus to Corinth in 56-57 AD after Timothy had failed to resolve the church conflicts (2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17)

- Paul went to meet Titus in Troas (2 Cor. 2:12-13), but continued to Macedonia when he did not find him. Paul met Titus in Philippi where Titus gave Paul a positive report about the Corinthian church (2 Cor. 7:6-7, 13-14)
- Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Philippi and sent Titus back to Corinth with that letter.
- Titus seems to have gone to Spain with Paul after 62 AD and was left in Crete in 64 AD to establish the church.
"This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order." – Titus 1:5
- Titus was to leave Crete when a replacement arrived and join Paul in Nicopolis for winter of 64-65 AD.
"When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there." – Titus 3:12
- Titus was in Dalmatia (NW Greece, Yugoslavia, Serbia) in 67 AD.
"Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia." – 2 Timothy 4:10

"OUR SAVIOR" in Titus

"God our Savior"

"Jesus Christ our Savior"

"through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior " (Titus 1:3)	"Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. " (Titus 1:4)
"that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. " (Titus 2:10)	"waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. " (Titus 2:13)
"when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us " (Titus 3:4)	"by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. " (Titus 3:6)

NAMES	
ARTEMAS	Probably sent to Crete to replace Titus. Not mentioned before.
TYCHICUS	Possibly sent to Crete, but was with Paul in Macedonia when he wrote 2 Timothy in 67 AD when he was sent from Rome to Ephesus to replace Timothy. (From Ephesus. With Paul on 3 rd Journey in 53-57 AD and was one of the Gentiles who went with Paul to Jerusalem; Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:12 sent to Ephesus)
TITUS	Went to Paul in NICOPOLIS for winter; Titus then sent to Dalmatia before 2 Timothy in 67 AD
ZENAS	A lawyer; Was to be supply and sent on his way from Crete by Titus
APOLLOS	Was to be supply and sent on his way from Crete by Titus (Acts 18:24; 19:1; 1 Cor. 3:6)

1. Zenas and Apollos likely carried this letter from Paul in Corinth to Titus on Crete.
2. They were then to be sent to their next destination by Titus.
3. Zenas is a "lawyer", or *nomikon*, which means one of two things:
 - a. He was a Jew and an expert in Jewish law (which seems unlikely)
 - b. He was a Gentile and a Roman Civil Jurist

4. Apollos was an Alexandrian Jew who was teaching in a synagogue in Ephesus as a converted Christian. In 52 AD when Priscilla and Aquila remained in Ephesus as Paul continued to Jerusalem on his second missionary journey (49-52 AD):

“Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”
– Acts 18:24-26

Fire of Rome began July 19, 64 AD. After that Nero began a great persecution

Titus 1:12-13 – *“One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.”*

1. Crete was known in the ancient world for moral decay
2. Ancient Historian POLYBIUS /puh·li·bee·uhs/ (200-118 BC) wrote:
“almost impossible to find...personal conduct more treacherous or public policy more unjust than in Crete.”
3. CICERO wrote in his book “ON THE REPUBLIC” IN 54-51 BC:
“Moral principles are so divergent that the CRETANS...consider highway robbery honorable.”
4. Paul quotes a Cretan rapper or the lyrics of a Cretan rock song:
 - a. EPIMENIDES /eh-pee-men-eh-deez/ of Crete (600-525 BC)
 - b. “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”
 - c. This is the basis for the famous Cretan Paradox that goes like this:
“How can this statement, “*All Cretans are liars*”, be true if a Cretan wrote it?”

1 and 2 Timothy were written to the leader of the church in **Ephesus** which was started with Apollos sharing John the Baptist message around 51 AD and Priscilla and Aquila bringing full Christianity in 52 AD. Paul taught there for two years (55-57). The letter to the Ephesians was written and sent in 62 AD. So, by the time Paul writes Timothy in 62 AD and 67 AD the Ephesian church has been in operation for 11 years and 17 years.

Titus - compared to the Cretan church which likely began by Cretan Jews returning from the day of Pentecost in 30 AD, but being without apostolic teaching for thirty-four years. Crete had a large Jewish population by 150 BC: There were Cretan Jews at Pentecost in Acts 2:11-12:

“And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”