

FBCW Bible Study  
 “Titus”  
 Lesson 1 – Ch. 1:1-4

### **Background**

- Written as An epistle (letter)
- Along with 1 & 2 Timothy, these 3 letters are known as “The Pastoral Epistles”
- Written between AD 62-64
- This from John MacArthur’s *The MacArthur Bible Handbook* re Background and Setting:

“Although Luke did not mention Titus by name in the Book of Acts, it seems probable that Titus, a Gentile (Gal. 2:3), met and may have been led to faith in Christ by Paul (1:4) before or during the apostle’s first missionary journey. Later, Titus ministered for a period of time with Paul on the Island of Crete and was left behind to continue and strengthen the work (1:5). After Artemas or Tychicus (3:12) arrived to direct the ministry there, Paul wanted Titus to join him in the city of Nicopolis, in the province of Achaia in Greece, and stay through the winter (3:12).

“Because of his involvement with the church at Corinth during Paul’s third missionary journey, Titus is mentioned nine times in 2 Corinthians (2:13; 7:6, 13, 14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18), where Paul refers to him as “my brother” (2:13) and “my partner and fellow worker” (8:23). The young elder was already familiar with Judaizers, false teachers in the church, who among other things insisted that all Christians, Gentile as well as Jew, were bound by the Mosaic law. Titus had accompanied Paul and Barnabas years earlier to the Council of Jerusalem where that heresy was the subject (Acts 15; Gal. 2:1–5).

“Crete, one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, measuring 160 miles long by 35 miles at its widest, lying south of the Aegean Sea, had been briefly visited by Paul on his voyage to Rome (Acts 27:7–9, 12, 13, 21). He returned there for ministry and later left Titus to continue the work, much as he left Timothy at Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3), while he went on to Macedonia. He most likely wrote to Titus in response to a letter from Titus or a report from Crete.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. (2003). *The MacArthur Bible handbook* (pp. 451–452). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

**Titus 1:1-4**

1. Read through the book of Titus (its only three chapters!). It's recommended that as you go through this study you re-read it as often as possible.

2. Vv. 1, 4. Who is the author and recipient of this letter? **Paul/Titus**

3. What do you know about the author? See Acts 9:1-31.

4. In v. 1 Paul identifies himself as a "bond-servant of God" and "an apostle of Jesus Christ." What does he mean by these terms? Feel free to use a study Bible, glossary or Bible dictionary.

"bond-servant of God" (see also Titus 2:9; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 6:20; Eph. 6:6) – ***Doulos* – lit. "slave"**

"apostle" (see Rom. 1:1; Acts 20:24) – **"sent one," "messenger"**

5. Also in v. 1, Paul tells us some of whom he ministers to as a bond-servant and apostle, "for the faith of those chosen of God." Who are the chosen of God? See Eph. 1:4-5. **Believers, predestined before the foundation of the world.**

"and the knowledge of the truth..." What truth is being referred to here? **God's truth; gospel truth; saving truth.**

What does this kind of truth inevitably lead to (v. 1)? **Godliness.**

6. V. 2 – What is the hope-filled promise of God for those who have been chosen, given truth and now display godliness? **Eternal life!**

7. V. 2 says that God made this promise “long ages ago.” Can we put a date on how far back this is? See 2 Tim. 1:9. **Lit. “before times eternal;” 2 Tim. 1:9 “from all eternity”**

8. V. 2 gives a tremendous attribute of God – what is it and how do we know it’s true? See Jn. 14:6; 15:26; Num. 23:19; Lev. 19:2; Neh. 9:8; Heb. 6:18. **God cannot lie; truthfulness. God is truth, His Spirit is truth; He is altogether holy and righteous. It’s impossible for Him to lie!**

9. V. 3 - What is it that God manifested at the proper time? **His Word, the written Word of God, the Scriptures. Also John 1:1-2, 14 tells us that Jesus is the Word and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

10. V. 3 – What was it Paul was entrusted to do with this Word and by whom? **God our Savior commanded Paul to proclaim it!**

11. V. 4 - Who was this letter written to and how does Paul describe him? See also Titus 1:5; 2 Cor. 2:13, 8:23; Gal. 2:3. **“my true child in a common faith” Titus 1:5 (pastoring in Crete); 2 Cor. 2:13 (brother w Paul in the faith), 8:23 (partner and fellow worker); Gal. 2:3 (Gentile).**

12. V. 4 - What is the “common faith” Paul mentions? See also 2 Pet. 1:1. **Both believers of Jesus Christ.**

13. V. 4 - In his salutation to Titus, Paul blesses him with grace and peace. What kind of grace and peace does he refer to? **“from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”**

14. How would you describe each of these? Try to include some Bible verses to back you up.

Grace – **Ps. 84:11; James 1:17; Rom. 5:15; Eph. 2:8**

Peace – John 14:27; Phil. 4:7

**Application** (answers will vary!)

- How is it you are a bond-servant of God? What does this mean for you practically?

You are a slave of God as you have been bought by God and with a tremendous price – the death of His Son, Jesus. You have been removed from the prison of sin and the clutches of Satan and by becoming a slave to God, you actually now are set free! Because of this, you are to glorify God by submitting to Him, obeying Him, loving Him, His Son and other people. And know that with this comes tremendous joy and peace!

- We also aren't literal apostles, but what are some of the jobs God calls us to do?

Be a part of a local church. Exercise and put your spiritual gifts into use. Love each other. Love other people. Evangelize the lost, etc, etc, etc...

- How does God not being able to lie, encourage you?

We've seen all of His promises surrounding the Messiah's first advent absolutely come true. Therefore, we KNOW that all of His future promises about the security of our salvation, Christ's return, His final judgment, re-creation of the new heavens and new earth and us living with Him in His kingdom for all eternity will absolutely come true. We also can completely trust what He tells us about His sovereignty, His never ending love, grace and mercy towards us during the most difficult and trying of circumstances, like the world is experiencing with the Coronavirus.

- How do you see God's grace and peace manifest themselves in your life, especially during this time of the corona virus?

For me, Pastor Jay, I have been filled with God's hope, peace, grace and joy daily. I have not feared the virus but have feared God. I also recognize that my family has not had any of the sickness or major hardships and struggles that other people have. Should we encounter these things, I pray my faith doesn't waiver. I also believe that God's grace and mercy have helped me to learn how to minister to this local flock in different ways during this stay at home order and social distancing.

God bless you all!