

Bible Study 101:
18. Outline of Titus

As most of you probably know, I & II Timothy and Titus are called, "The Pastoral Epistles."

Actually, Titus comes between I & II Timothy chronologically.

I Timothy was written during Paul's third ministry journey, after he left Ephesus, from somewhere in Macedonia, before he paused at Miletus on his journey to Jerusalem and sent for the elders of the churches of Ephesus to meet him there for a final farewell.

II Timothy clearly was written at the very end of Paul's life from the city of Rome.

Titus was sometime between. There is only one real clue, which we can read in chapter 3, verse 12, that he is planning to winter in a place called Nicopolis, located on the Greek peninsula.

It does not say he is in Nicopolis at the time he is writing, but that it is his plan to spend the winter there. Perhaps he is not very far; for example, Corinth or Athens.

But at least he must have known the city and some of its people.

Since Nicopolis is not mentioned in connection with any of the first three ministry journeys of Paul, this is a significant confirmation of the fact that Paul must have been released after Acts 28, and had freedom to travel for some time.

If he had wintered in Nicopolis during any of his first three journeys of ministry, it could hardly have escaped being mentioned.

I cannot give an exact date, but it's after the end of Acts.

Well, let's get into the outline now.

Chapter One:

1-4: Salutation: notice it is longer, and has added elements

Servant is δούλος, which means bondsman, compared to deacon, or διακονός, which just a word for one who serves.

A man who became a bondsman was committed for life, while an indentured slave served only a while then was released.

This term does not appear in Paul's epistles before the time of his arrest in Jerusalem at the end of his third ministry journey.

After that point, only one of his epistles lacks this term.

Even in Paul's life, it seems there came a point when he realized, perhaps in a new way, that he couldn't get out of his call, not even if it cost him his life.

According to actually means as a result of, as might be illustrated by a river, where one thing is downstream from another.

So, you picture upstream is election, faith, acknowledgment of the truth prior to the present time; then verse 2 shows what is yet to come, downstream from now, which is eternal life.

5: Occasion for the epistle

So, his first responsibility is to ordain elders in every city of Crete, a Mediterranean island.

When was Crete evangelized? If Paul is appointing Titus for such a responsibility as this, he must have been instrumental in the raising up of the church there.

Again, it must have been after the end of Acts, since it certainly is not mentioned in the other journeys.

He must have set foot on Crete during his voyage to Rome, but it would not have been with the freedom required to raise up a body of believers.

Now, there are bodies in various cities on Crete, and each one of these needs recognized leadership, for stability and order.

6-9: Parenthetical section to describe the qualifications for a leader of the church

10-16: Continuing describing problems of lack of leadership

The term "slow bellies" is interesting, and significant.

It speaks of one who is slow to carry through on commitments, as if a woman were hindered in bringing forth a child.

Not just lazy, as some have suggested, but a characteristic of their personalities and habits, just not carrying through.

Chapter Two:

1-10: How to minister to different ages and stations in life

11-15: The Christian call and life as basis of previous section

Chapter Three:

1-9: Continuation of previous; bad chapter break

10-11: How to deal with divisive persons; key is divisive spirit, not whether his doctrine is perfect, if he is teachable

12-15: Final instructions and admonitions; benediction

Zenas not defense attorney, probate, etc., but for information.