

## Titus 1.1-4

## Gospel Godliness

Little book by Apostle Paul to Young Man on ISLAND of Crete named TITUS  
Perched in Mediterranean – Equidistant between Africa, Asia, and Europe



Like letter B/C >> Most SIGNIFICANT Events  
in MY LIFE happened on ISLANDS

I was NON-Christian H.S. Student > YMCA camp CATALINA Island

Never been There! 26 Miles into PACIFIC Ocean from Los Angeles harbor  
Friends & I Easter Camp 1972 – Easter No Meaning to Us – Pretty Girls Going  
Arrived > Camp Director announced Bible Studies, Campfire Talks, WHAT!!!?  
My Homies slipped into Hills > Pretty Girls went to Bible Studies...ME Too!!

The BIBLE had Never Looked Better to Me!

1st Time HEAR Great News of God's Love for Me in JESUS...Believed!!

10 yrs later My Pastor from CA Moved to ISLAND of Hawaii, Son, Best Friend  
Flights LA to Hilo \$99 > Clearly SIGN from God Need Hawaiian Vacation  
Best Friend John > Lovely Hawaiian in that Church as HOME Missionary  
Delighted to find her OPEN to becoming FOREIGN M w/ ME – 35 Years Ago

10 yrs later Beautiful wife 3 Young SONS – from AFRICA to Same Island  
Became PASTOR Church our Pastor RETIRED from - DAYNA Raised  
Met Jesus, Life Partner to Serve Jesus, Calling Church Leadership > Islands

Last Sunday preached Church on Island of Sumatra in Indonesia

Young Man in 30's Interim Leader – Consider whether to Accept Call to Lead

// This Letter to Young Man on ISLAND – Challenge to Step Up as Leader

## 1. Message of God

Salutation LONGER than that of most Paul's Letters, Goes Too Quickly to Get  
Gotta put on the PARKING BRAKE and UNLOAD this Trunk of TRUTH

First 4 Verses TITUS - STUFFED FULL of GOSPEL TRUTHS

a. True - Many RELIGIONS World - All CLAIM be RIGHT ONE – Confusing  
Flew between Islands in Indonesia – Airline put PRAYER Card in Seat Pocket

PRAYERS: Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, Khongchucu, Catholic, Protestant -- --

Thankful Something Worked, Did Not Crash!

Paul does NOT tell Titus to Pick a Religion – All Equally True – Any will Do

v. 1 knowledge of the truth // v. 2 God, who never lies, promised

IF Bible NOT TRUE let's GO to LUNCH NOW! No Reason to LISTEN to This  
BELIEVE it IS True > Spent HOURS Preparing Message for You HEAR

Expect you to LISTEN, PRAYERFULLY, Ask What is GOD saying to ME?

Pray My VOICE would DECREASE > Voice of God thru WORD HEARD

Looking for a Church – BICF Believes: “the truth is in Jesus” Ephesians 4.21

Jesus prayed: “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth” John 17.17

b. Timeless > No EXPIRATION Date on God's TRUTH > ETERNAL God

v. 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages  
began

Just as RELEVANT in 21<sup>st</sup> C as it was in 1<sup>st</sup> C – LIVING Word of God

We think FOUND a NEW IDEA – Show Up and Find God ALREADY There

Paul pulls back the curtain between heaven and earth and shows us God's plan  
for mature ministry. Kent Hughes

v. 1 for the sake of the faith of God's elect

ELECTION is Doctrine given to ENCOURAGE the Believer

NOT an AFTERTHOUGHT, Not 2<sup>nd</sup> Best, Not Plan B – Child God WANTS  
God’s highway of grace runs into eternity past and it lasts into eternity future.

Bryan Chapell

WANTED you since BEFORE He MADE the World

MYSTERY as to WHY? NOT because WORTHY or GOOD or USEFUL

God > CHOSE you BEFORE Time will COMPLETE his Work BEYOND Time

Eternal Status determined by love of Heavenly Heart not Work of Human Hands

Life now gains purpose from that fact that we know where we are going, the  
knowledge that our eternal destiny is assured. Bible Commentary for India

God is NOT WAITING for us to BE Godly BEFORE He will Love Us!

Loves you RIGHT NOW – Freely, Fully, with ALL your Faults & Failures

Godliness is RESULT of our Relationship with God, NOT REASON for It

Some Church leaders think Need to Change Message for our Changing Culture

Try to FIT in the Way that LOT tried to Become Accepted as Leader in SODOM

Lot who tried to work his way up into the inner ring of Sodom, only to find that he was utterly naive and deluded to trust his adopted city to stand by him when the chips were down. No, in the end, they had no patience for Lot’s moral standards, no matter how nice a chap he had tried to be. They condemned him for acting like a judge and vowed to treat him worse than the rest (Genesis 19)... In spite of all his efforts and contrary to all that he had imagined, Lot had still not arrived, and he was never accepted as he imagined. He was always the alien—as Abraham never forgot that he was and was respected for being. We of course should always be resident aliens as faithful Christians who are in the world but not of it—regardless of the world’s pressure on us to change with the times and line up with them on the so-called right side of history.

Os Guinness *“Impossible People”* (2016)

### c. Transforming

Paul sent Titus to an Island – but it was NOT a LEISURE CRUISE

Island NOTORIOUS for People who FLUNKED Out of SUNDAY SCHOOL

One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. Titus 1.12,13

I was on CRETE 2 years ago and the HOOLIGANS were British and Russian!

You KNOW GOSPEL is TRUE when SEE God do Work in LIVES of People  
 PROOF is in the POWER to Change Lives > NEW LIFE in Risen Christ  
 Not just EMPTY CLAIM but ---Even CRETANS Transformed by CHRIST

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5.6

TITLE “Savior” occurs 12 X’s in NT > 6 of them in TITUS > 2 X’s in our Text

v. 3 God our Savior // v. 4 Christ Jesus our Savior.

3 X’s GOD Savior // 3 X’s JESUS Savior – Once for Each in Each Chapter

God the Savior	Jesus the Savior
1.3 the command of God our Savior	1.4 Christ Jesus our Savior
2.10 the doctrine of God our Savior.	2.13 our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
3.4 loving kindness of God our Savior appeared	3.6 poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior

SALVATION > WORK of GOD the FATHER AND GOD the SON

Father who SO LOVED World He GAVE His Only Begotten Son 3.16

Jesus having LOVED His Own GAVE His Life – John 10.18, 13.1

The Son has brought salvation to us from the Father, and the Father has bestowed it through the Son. John Calvin

DIFFERENT WAYS but in EQUAL MEASURE we’re Saved by Father & Son  
 That’s why for PAUL & TITUS & Many Room – GOSPEL: PEARL Great Price  
 WORTH Any COST to FIND and FOLLOW > This GOD and His GOSPEL  
 Greater Understanding of GRACE, greater DESIRE for GODLINESS  
 Hearts are WARMED and WON by Undeserved, Unconditional LOVE of God

God does NOT FORCE us to SERVE Him he FREES Us to Serve Him

THEME > GOSPEL GRACE Leads to GODLINESS > Doctrine demands Duty

TRANSFORMATION was Seen in Christians on CRETE > Church LEADERS

v. 9 hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine

It was NOT SEEN in FALSE TEACHERS

v. 16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.

REASON many REJECT Christ and Church > BAD Example of Leaders

When the message of the gospel comes unglued from godliness, faith shatters...godly endeavor apart from an understanding of grace destroys the hope the gospel offers.  
Bryan Chapell

TITUS was to be MESSENGER AND a MODEL of Transforming GOSPEL

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine... Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works  
Titus 2.1,7

Gospel must lead to Godliness > OR Don't Believe OR have Wrong GOSPEL?  
Must be TRUE for the LEADERS & LED > Men & Women > Slave & Free

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age  
Titus 2.11,12

REDEMPTION is Necessary for RIGHTEOUSNESS – INWARD Change

BLASTED Out of Bed Last Sunday Morn – Pekanbaru, Ind by Loudspeakers

Nearby Mosques around City calling People to Prayer at 4:30 morning

Droned AZAN Morning Prayers in BAHASA INDONESIAN....

Allah is the greatest...there is no God but Allah...Muhammed is Messenger of Allah. Hasten to prayer. Hasten to success. Prayer is better than sleep...!

Azan for Morning

Not SURE how many Sleepy Headed people made it to Mosque  
 I ROLLED Over and Chanted – Sleep beats Prayer at 4:30 – Got another Hour  
 By 6:30 was in Church for Prayer – Full of Worshippers by 7 am

Did not Need LOUDSPEAKERS to bring them >

JOYFULLY COMPELLED by SILENT Voice of WONDERFUL Love of God

“God is closer to the Christians because they know Him as Heavenly Father, we Muslims have to shout at Him with loudspeakers” Former Indonesian Leader

New to Beijing – Remain Faithful to Jesus – Know WONDER of His Love YOU  
 Far from MAMA and Aunties and Home Church – Near your Heavenly Father

#### d. Trustworthy

v. 2 in *hope of eternal life*, which God, who never lies, promised

IF all these CLAIMS are TRUE > Jesus is WORTHY of our HOPE

Hope is ON God who NEVER LIES – PROMISE from FOREVER

Biblical Hope is ANCHORED Solidly on GOD of the BIBLE

We are NOT Sadducees whose HOPE was ONLY in THIS WORLD

TODAY in Hangzhou G20 – Top Leaders of World Gather > Pray! Hope!

GOD Ordains and APPOINTS Leaders – and God REMOVES Leaders

Imagine of our HOPE was Centered on Them ALONE

How SAD to see Christians Focus so Much attention on POLITICS

Paul does not tell TITUS how to VOTE > How to Love, Live, and Lead in Christ

Titus > Hope in God who NEVER Lies – NOT in Cretans who ALWAYS Lie

HOPE in Grace BEGINS in Eternity PAST and EXTENDS to Eternity FUTURE

We will NEVER EXHAUST the Limitless Supply of God’s Mercy

Because the DURATION of GRACE is FOREVER > JOYFUL HOPE!

v. 4 Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

GRACE and PEACE – Grace CREATES Peace – With God and Man  
 Gospel MESSAGE that Makes us RIGHT with GOD and MAN  
 EMPOWERS us to LOVE God and our Neighbors – even Cretans!

Message of God is TRUE, TIMELESS, TRANSFORMING, TRUSTWORTHY

## 2. Manifestation of God

a. Revelation – We can SEE what God is DOING – Open, REVEALED

HINDU Man on Island BALI – September 6 Special Day for our RELIGION

What HAPPENED? Why is that DAY Significant?

I Don't Know – Go to Temple, Have Good Time, Eat, Celebrate, Be Happy!

I know Some Christians cannot Articulate their Faith – ZGC will Teach You!

TITUS had Different Message for his ISLAND of CRETE

CREATOR God, Almighty, Infinite, Eternal God stepped into Human HISTORY

v. 2,3 God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching

Eternal Message of God who Cannot Lie, Now proclaimed by Faithful Preachers

“When the time was ripe, he went public with the truth” The Message

NO CONFLICT BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON - or Science

AS KNOWLEDGE OF GOD INCREASES - Faith in Him also Increases

You Cannot Trust Someone You Do Not Know / More Know, More Trust

NOT CORRECTLY TEACHING DOCTRINE IF NO CHANGE OF LIFE

GREAT WORK OF GOD CONTINUES – Called to Preach His Message

AWESOME REALITY - HOLY GOSPEL IN OUR SINFUL HANDS

b. Relationship v. 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith

PAUL – AUTHOR, Mentor, Apostle – About MY AGE as Writes Instructions

TRUE CHILD – MIGHT mean that PAUL LED Titus to Faith in Christ

At Least know became MENTOR and FATHER in Gospel to him

TITUS is RELATIVELY UNKNOWN – Not mentioned in ACTS

Only other References to TITUS Found in Paul's Letters – Named 13 X's

Know he was GENTILE – But LITTLE ELSE – about him

RUTH – O.T. Book named for GENTILE > TITUS is the N.T. book

Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.  
Galatians 2.3

Living Example of Justification by FAITH Alone – No Need to be Jew First

Grace UNITES Strangers and Enemies into FAMILY MEMBERS

Paul Pharisee has Uncircumcised GENTILE SON in Jesus Christ

TRUE Child in COMMON Faith – All Stand at Same Level Ground of Cross

All are REBELS who Need to be RESCUED and REDEEMED

Now see Ourselves thru GOSPEL > Pastor who wrote Hymn Amazing Grace

“I am sure of these two things, I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Saviour”  
John Newton

Gospel Understanding > No Longer Strive for Acceptance and Affection

Because the God of the Universe – Heavenly Father – Embraces & Adores U

We see ourselves as Equal Members in FELLOWSHIP of the FALLEN

Common Faith – Removes JUDGEMENT, COMPARISON, PRIDE

Having been Accepted, Forgiven and Loved > Called to DO the SAME

Gospel should OVERCOME – Prejudices, Nationalism, Feuds, Superiority



Titus > Reminder to us here ZGC – Everyone Qualifies for Love of God

No SIN is TOO BIG to be Forgiven – No HABIT is UNBREAKABLE

“I cannot MEASURE UP” – God takes the MEASURE of Christ for You

“I will FALL Eventually” – God’s grace ENDURES FOREVER

“I do NOT FIT IN in Church” – God has ACCEPTED ALL IN Christ

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8.31,32

### 3. Messengers of the Gospel

a. Humility v. 1 Paul, a servant of God

Name that MANY MUSLIMS have > ABDULLAH – SLAVE of GOD

From Paul’s perspective the work he does is not his own decision but a compulsion laid on him by God himself. Graham Simpson

SAUL Pharisee SAW himself as SERVANT of God > Entirely Different Motive

GAIN PERSONAL PERFECTION, GET PRAISE, and GLOAT in PRIDE

Was ENEMY of Jesus and CROSS > Hated Claim that HE IS Savior & King

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 1 Timothy 1.15,16

Paul NOT tell what we must DO to EARN FAVOR > GAIN POINTS w/ God

LEARNED from Personal EXPERIENCE that is USELESS ATTEMPT

Instead he BOASTS in What God has DONE > Gift of Undeserved MERCY

He was TROPHY of SAVING GRACE > Utterly UNDERSERVED MERCY

Takes the WORST of Sinners and gives him WIDEST of Ministries

b. Authority v. 1 Paul, a servant of God *and an apostle of Jesus Christ*

13<sup>th</sup> Apostle – One UNTIMELY Born – SAW Jesus on Road to Damascus  
 Knew GOSPEL had POWER to TRANSFORM because it happened to HIM!  
 Makes Murderer of Christians most Important Messenger to Church

AUDIENCE of this Letter Included WHOLE CHURCH on Crete, Not just Titus  
 Titus had NO QUESTION about Paul's Apostleship – Confirmed for CHURCH

vs. 1-3 an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior

RELATIONSHIP to GOD and CHRIST > ONE God, Father & Son

SLAVE of God and SPEAKER for CHRIST

Both HUMBLE IDENTITY and HEAVENLY AUTHORITY

Paul uses the crossroad in time marked by his own ministry to look both ways down the highway of God's grace. Kent Hughes

c. Responsibility

MESSAGE has NO EXPIRATION Date > from ETERNAL God

Just as RELEVANT in 21<sup>st</sup> C as it was in 1<sup>st</sup> C – LIVING Word of God

“knowledge of the truth” – necessary for GODLINESS

God is NOT WAITING for us to BE Godly BEFORE He will Love Us!

Loves you RIGHT NOW – Freely, Fully, with ALL your Faults & Failures

Godliness is RESULT of our Relationship with God, NOT REASON for It

Thru PREACHING > Message THRU Apostles Not FROM Apostles

What many HEAR is an ARROGANCE of the Gospel – Good Reasons!

We who Follow Jesus Not always Do Good Job – TRUE of ME!

Most of World Today Prefers - PLURALISM

Whatever is RIGHT for YOU is RIGHT – NO Absolute Truth

MH 270 – Fly from KL to PEK by way of Indian Ocean – New Route?

DOCTOR – Scribble Out some Medication – Can't Read Writing Anyway

ANY Medicine will make you FEEL BETTER, Right?

Work hard this Semester > Professor gives A to those who Don't, Fail Exams

NARROW Minded BIGOT named Jesus had AUDACITY to say...

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."  
John 14.6

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.  
2 Corinthians 4.5

If you want Apostolic ministry you must be faithful to Message of the Apostles

We preach His ANCIENT Gospel > TRUE, TIMELESS, TRUSTWORTHY

He saves man by grace, and if men perish they perish justly by their own fault. 'How' says someone, 'do you reconcile these two doctrines?' I never reconcile friends, never. These two doctrines are friends with one another; for they are both God's Word and I shall not attempt to reconcile them.  
Charles Spurgeon

First Century faith is alive and well in Twenty-First Century

God SENT Titus to CRETE – Same God BROUGHT you to BEIJING

SIMILAR Mission to KNOW and FOLLOW Him – INVITE Others to Follow

Motto of ZGC – Gathering, Growing, Going – Invite you to JOIN US

Gathering NEW TERM – GROW in X during Days, Months, Years here

GO Now! SENT to SERVE! – Out these DOORS, Into Class, Work, Community

GOD WILL DO THE WORK - HE HAS AN ETERNAL PLAN

BUT HIS ETERNAL PLAN INCLUDES US - Paul, Titus, You, and I

ALL PROMISES OF GOD ARE FOR YOU – World Needs FAITH IN CHRIST

ALL WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU TO TELL THEM!

Titus 1:<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.