

**INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND OVERVIEW
PAUL’S LETTER TO TITUS
TITUS 1:1-5**

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES:

- Holy Bible
- TITUS Teaching Schedule
- Participant’s Questionnaire/Worksheet
- Paul’s Letters and Missionary Journeys
- Paul’s Fifth Missionary Journey Map
- Outline of Paul’s Letter to Titus

TOPICS:

Author, Addressee(s)/Audience, Date Written, Setting, Occasion/Purpose for Writing, Message, Leadership, Responsibilities, Christian Character, Church Relationships, A Good Life, Citizenship.

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

A. Name someone that you know of who believes and faithfully teaches the Word of God as the truth.

B. Does the person you identified in A above also speak the truth in love when correcting someone who sins?

1. Who is the author of Titus? (1:1)

2. To whom is this letter addressed? (1:4)

3. How did Paul describe his relationship with Titus? (1:4)

4. When was Titus written? (See Paul's Letters and Missionary Journeys Chart)

5. To what location was the letter to Titus written? (1:4-5)

6. What are some unique geographic features of Crete that might make it a challenge to share the Gospel. (See the Map of Paul's Fifth Missionary Journey.)

Crete lies southeast of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea, just south of the Aegean Sea. At 160 miles long and 35 miles wide, Crete is one of the larger islands in the Mediterranean. It is quite mountainous but with very fertile valleys. The highest mountain is Mount Ida, the traditional birthplace of the Greek god Zeus. Crete has an ancient history, having been the center of the great Minoan culture that developed during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. This Roman province had a hundred cities, many of which were scattered along the coast. These coastal towns were heavily populated and fiercely independent.

7. What are some unique demographic features of Crete that might make it a challenge to share the Gospel.

Cretans had a dubious reputation in the Mediterranean world. Epimenides (600 B.C.) called them “liars, evil beasts, slow bellies” (quoted by Paul in [1:12](#)), and Leonides (488 B.C.) said Cretans were “always brigands [gangsters, bandits, thieves, robbers, outlaws, felons] and piratical [raiding and pillaging], and unjust.”

Crete had a large Jewish population, so each year many Cretan Jews would travel to Jerusalem for the festival. At the celebration recorded in Acts 2, Cretan Jews witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:11), heard the gospel in their native language, and responded. When they returned home, they brought the Christian faith with them. The churches on Crete, therefore, were begun in much the same way as those in Rome.

Evidently the character flaws of Cretans in general had been brought into the churches (1:10-16), so Titus had to contend with an unruly and self-centered group of believers. But Paul knew that Christ could change them into people who “do good deeds all the time” (3:8).

8. For what reason did Paul write to Titus? (1:5)

9. What is the overall message in the Letter to Titus?

The overall message of Titus is that **sound teaching leads to godliness**. As authentic apostolic doctrine is received and loved, all kinds of people will learn to live in ways that are pleasing to God—from those currently enmeshed in false teaching to those who are elders and overseers of the church.

10. What are the main themes in the book of Titus?

Character (1:5-16). Paul had left Titus in Crete to “complete our work there and appoint elders in each town” (1:5). So Paul gave Titus a list of qualities for “elders.” These church leaders must be of the highest character, as evidenced by a strong family life (1:6) and a good reputation in the community (1:7-8). They also must be firmly grounded in their faith and able to teach others (1:9). These qualifications were important because of the sinful world surrounding the church (1:12) and because of the potential for heresy and divisions within the church (1:10-11, 13-16). As Paul’s representative, with apostolic authority, Titus was to make sure that church leaders exhibited strong moral character and spiritual maturity.

11. What is the importance of elders/leaders in the church being of the highest “**character**”?

Church Relationships (2:1-10, 15; 3:9-11). Part of Titus’s responsibility during his stay on Crete was to teach believers how they should act in the world and with each other (2:15). Paul encouraged Titus to teach with integrity and seriousness and to set a good example for all the believers, especially the new church leaders (2:7-8). Paul emphasized the importance of right teaching (2:1), and he told Titus to rebuke all who would steer believers astray (3:9-11). Paul explained to Titus how his teaching should relate to the various groups in the church. Older Christians should teach younger men and women and be good examples to them (2:2-5). Young people should be self-controlled (2:6), and slaves should be trustworthy (2:10). People of every age and group have a lesson to learn and a role to play in the church, and all should be positive witnesses for Christ in the world (2:2, 8, 10).

12. Why is it important that believers embrace “right teaching” and live out what the Bible teaches in their “**church relationships**”?

Citizenship (2:11-3:2). Paul told Titus to instruct believers that how they live outside the church was very important. Christians must say “yes” to God and “no” to ungodly living in the world (2:12-14). Believers also should be good citizens in society, obeying the government (3:1) and working honestly (3:2).

13. What is the importance of understanding the necessity of believers being Christ-like “**citizens**” outside the church (in the world) as well as inside the church?

A Good Life (3:3-8, 12-15). Paul reminded Titus that before trusting Christ they had been disobedient to God and enslaved to sin (3:3), but Christ had transformed them (3:4-7). The gospel message is that a person is saved by grace through faith (3:5-7), not by living a good life. But the gospel changes people's lives, so that they eventually perform good deeds (3:8) and become totally devoted to serving others (3:14).

14. What is the importance of learning that attempting to live a “**good life**” apart from Jesus is not enough to pardon one from their sins?

15. **Life Application:** What three things will you commit to do this week to be a more genuine ambassador for Christ in your home, your community, and your church?

[Resources: Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary and Adult LessonMaker application]

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Southfield, Michigan

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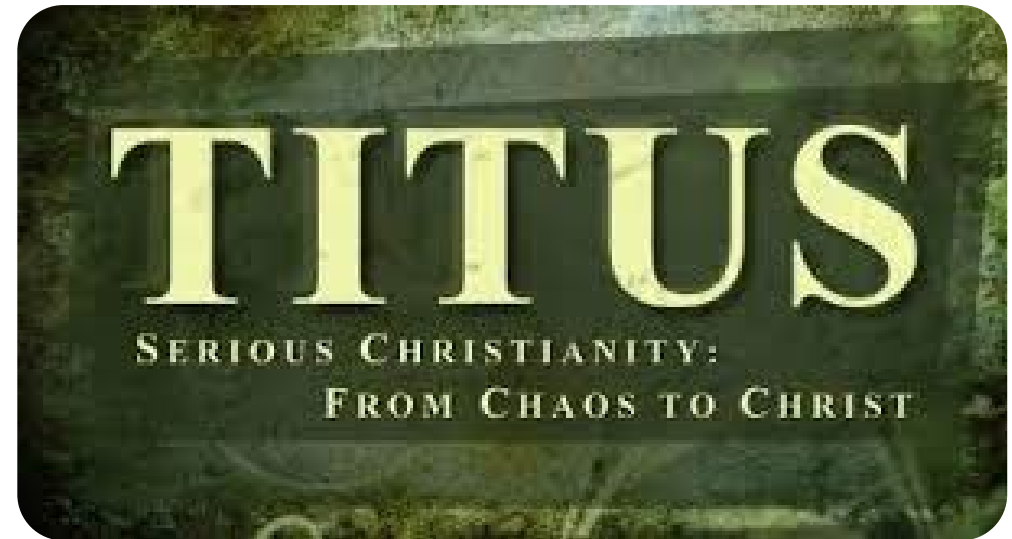
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Welcome to Bible Study!



Introduction, Background, and Context

TITUS

SERIOUS CHRISTIANITY:
FROM CHAOS TO CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

[www.newhope-mbc.org]

- Holy Bible
- Titus Teaching Schedule
- Participant Questionnaire/Worksheet
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- Paul's Fifth Missionary Journey Map
- Outline of Paul's Letter to Titus

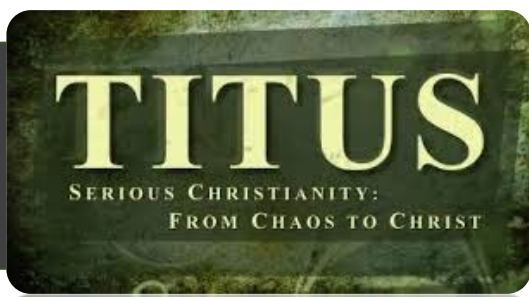
TITUS

SERIOUS CHRISTIANITY:
FROM CHAOS TO CHRIST

PRAYER



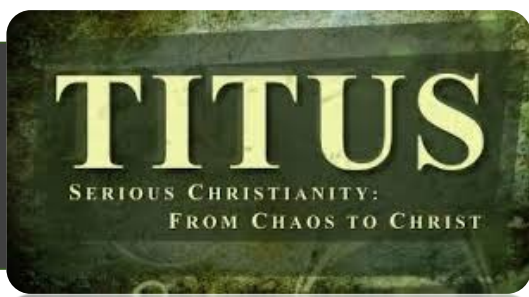
- Sick
- Bereaved
- Our Country
- The World



Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

TOPICS

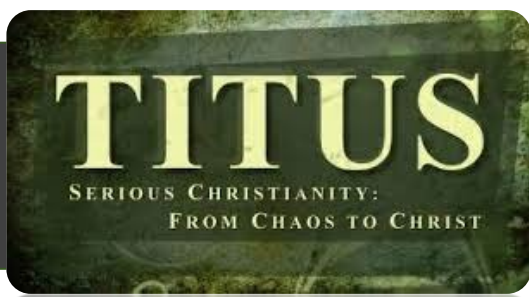


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

TOPICS

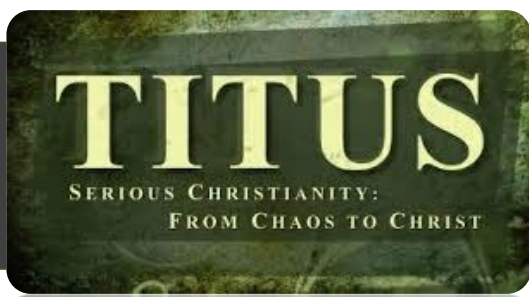
- Author
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- Date Written
- Settings
- Occasion/Purpose
- Message
- Leadership
- Responsibilities
- Christian Character
- Church Relationships
- Good Life
- Citizenship



Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

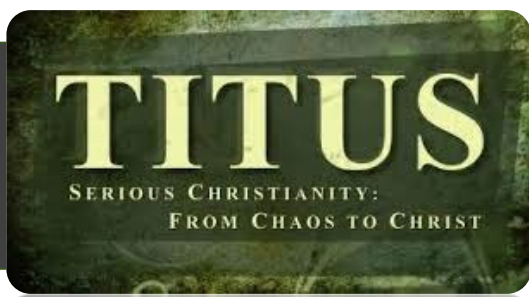


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

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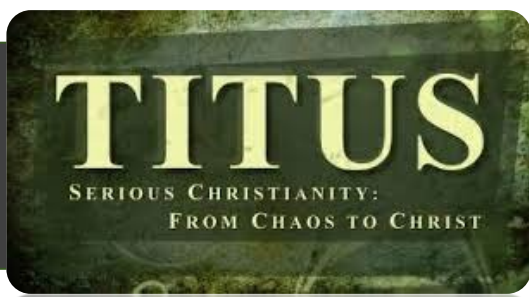


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

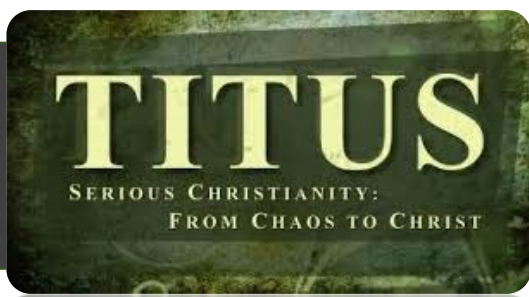
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Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

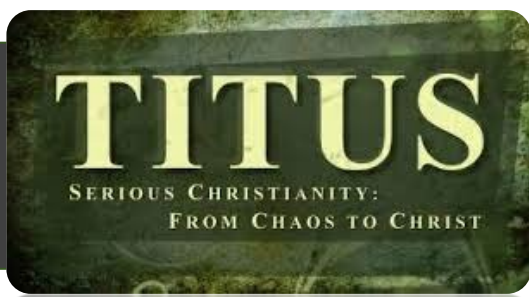


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Paul is known for his extensive missionary travels, his powerful preaching and teaching, and his courageous witness for Christ. Undoubtedly, most Christians today would characterize him as a hardline champion of the truth, who rejected compromise and accepted no excuses.

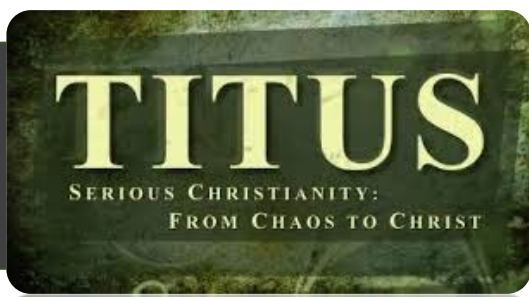


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Certainly, that describes Paul—especially as we read his story in Acts and in his powerful epistles. Speaking to Galatian believers about the false teachers among them, he stated: “If anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God’s curse fall upon that person” (Galatians 1:9). Paul stood strong for the gospel and against all who would twist it or undermine his ministry.

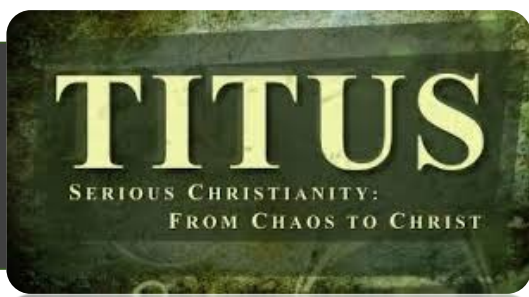


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

We must also remember, however, that Paul was a loving, compassionate man. He genuinely cared for people and built many solid relationships wherever he traveled. In fact, Paul concluded most of his letters with personal greetings to close friends and fellow ministers (see especially Romans 16:1-16).

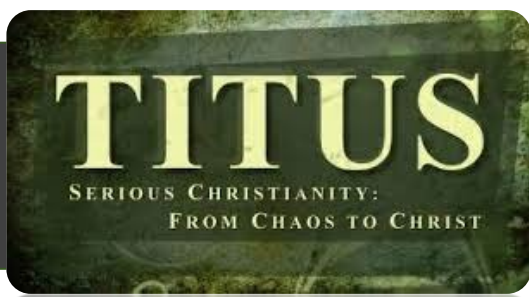


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

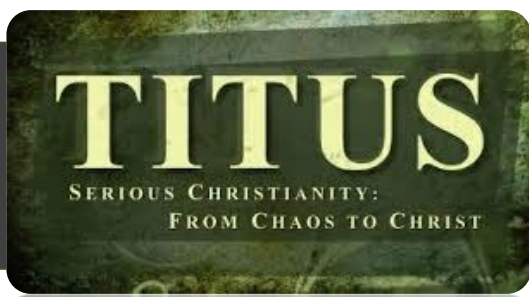
The Pastoral Epistles (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus) testify to Paul’s tender and loving nature. Paul considered Timothy and Titus to be his “sons” in the faith, and he treated them as such, leading, mentoring, guiding, and counseling them in their ministry and personal lives.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

SCRIPTURE



Introduction, Background, and Overview

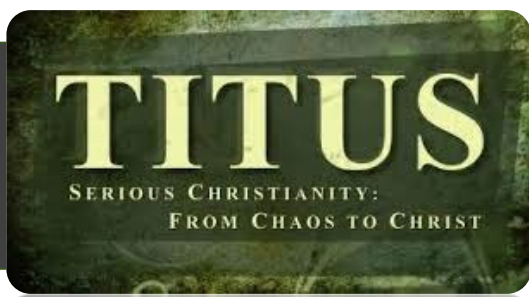
Titus 1:1-5

SCRIPTURE

Titus 1:1-2

(NLT)

¹This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. ²This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

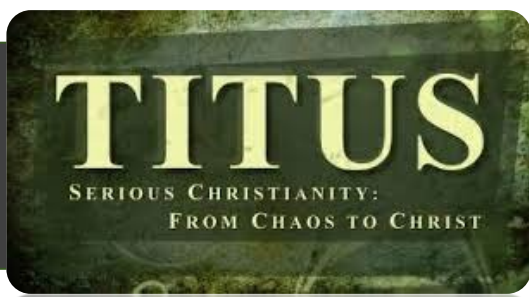
Titus 1:1-5

SCRIPTURE

Titus 1:3-5

(NLT)

³ And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for him. ⁴ I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace. ⁵ I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.

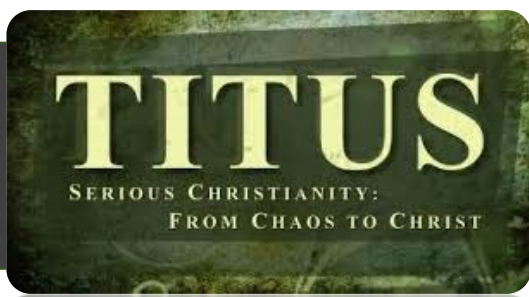


Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Author



Introduction, Background, and Overview

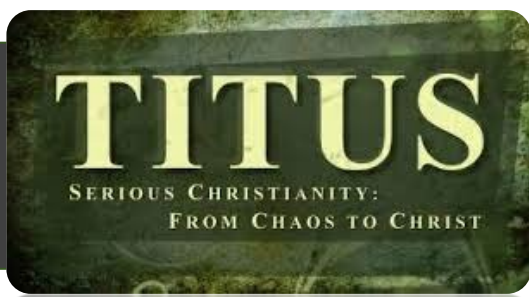
Titus 1:1-5

1. Who is the author of Titus? (1:1)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Author

¹This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. (NLT)



Introduction, Background, and Overview

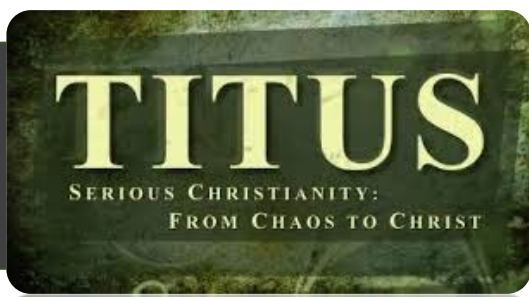
Titus 1:1-5

2. To whom is this letter addressed? (1:4)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

*Addressee/
Audience*

⁴ I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

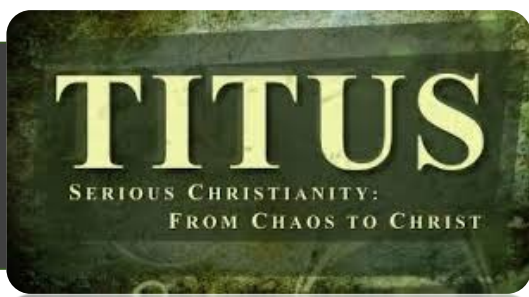
Titus 1:1-5

3. How did Paul describe his relationship with Titus? (1:4)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

*Addressee/
Audience*

⁴ I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

4. When was Titus written?

**BACKGROUND
AND CONTEXT**

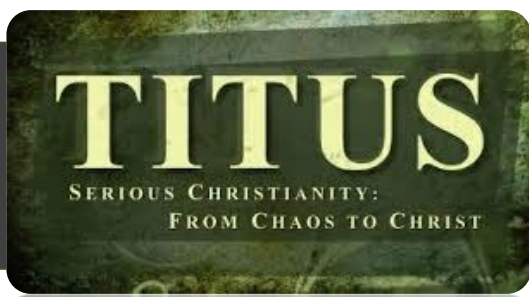
Date Written

(See Paul's Letters and Missionary Journeys Chart)

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

(approximately 64-65 AD)



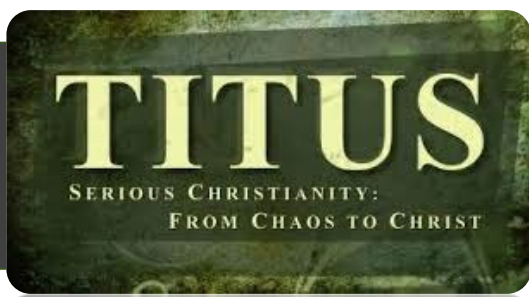
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

5. To what location was the letter to Titus written? (1:4-5)

**BACKGROUND
AND CONTEXT**
Setting – The City

⁴ I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace. ⁵ I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

6. **What are some unique geographic features of Crete that might make it a challenge to share the Gospel.**

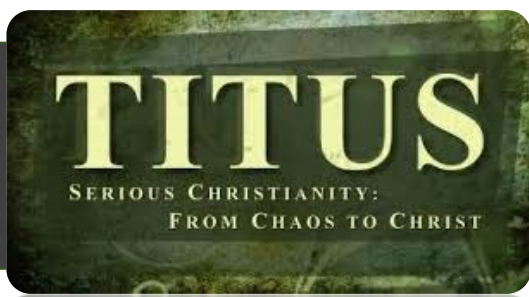
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Setting – The City

(See the Map of Paul's fifth Missionary Journey.)



Paul leaves Titus on Crete on his 5th missionary journey



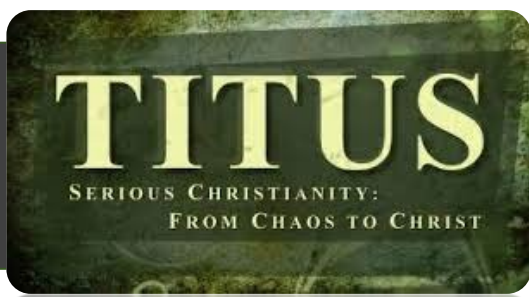
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Setting – The City

- Crete is located Southeast of Greece
- In the Mediterranean Sea
- South of the Aegean Sea
- 160 Miles long
- 35 Miles wide
- One of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea



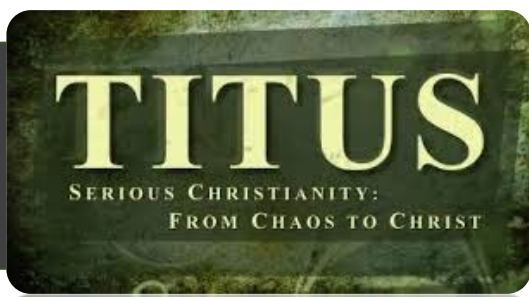
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Setting – The City

- Mountainous
- Fertile Valleys
- 100 Cities scattered along the Coast
- Heavily Populated
- Fiercely Independent



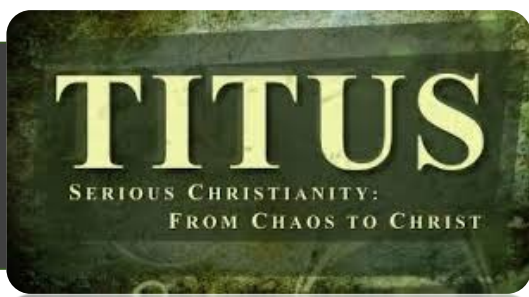
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Setting – The People

- Cretans had a reputation of being “dubious” [doubtful, suspicious, not easily convinced]
- Called “liars, evil beasts, slow bellies [slothful, gluttonous, greedy hogs] (1:12)
- Labeled as “brigands [gangsters, bandits, thieves, robbers, outlaws, felons, and piratical [raiders and pillagers]”



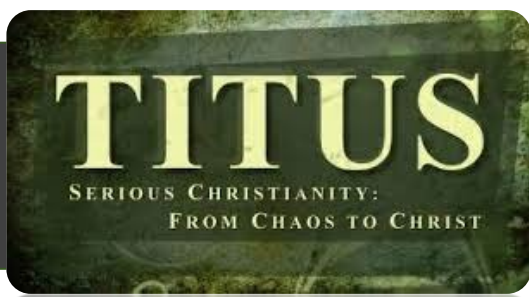
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

*Setting – The
People*

- Unjust
- Unruly and self-centered
- Cretan character flaws came with them into the churches (1:10-16)



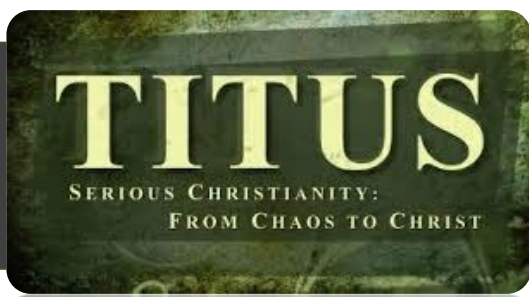
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

8. For what reason did Paul write to Titus? (1:5)

**BACKGROUND
AND CONTEXT**
*Occasion/Purpose
for Writing*

⁵ I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

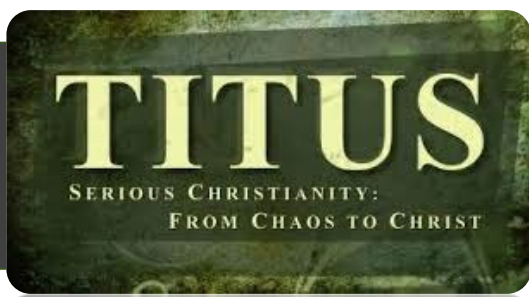
Titus 1:1-5

9. What is the overall message in the Letter to Titus?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Message

The overall message of Titus is that **sound teaching leads to godliness**. As authentic apostolic doctrine is received and loved, all kinds of people will learn to live in ways that are pleasing to God—from those currently enmeshed in false teaching to those who are elders and overseers of the church.



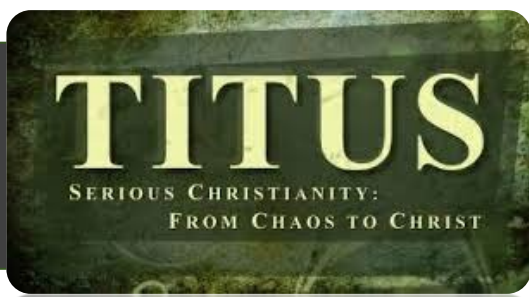
Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

10. What are the main themes in the book of Titus?

**BACKGROUND
AND CONTEXT**
Main Themes

- Character (1:5-16)
- Church Relationships (2:1-10, 15; 3:9-11)
- Citizenship (2:11-3:2)
- A Good Life (3:3-8, 12-15)



Introduction, Background, and Overview

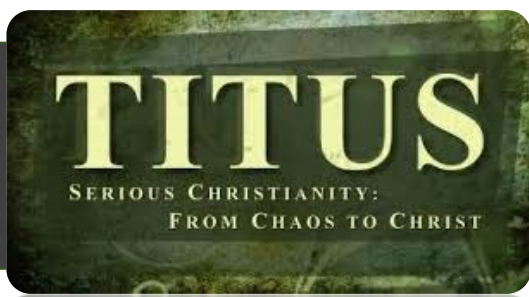
Titus 1:1-5

11. What is the importance of elders/leaders in the church being of the highest character?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Main Themes

Churches need leaders who are totally committed to Jesus Christ and who are living the way God wants them to live. It is not enough to be educated, have special abilities and gifts, or to have a loyal following to be Christ's kind of leader. Church leaders must have self-control, spiritual and moral fitness, and Christian character. God wants Christians to aspire to leadership in his church, but they must be the right kind of leaders. Who you are is more important than what you can do.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

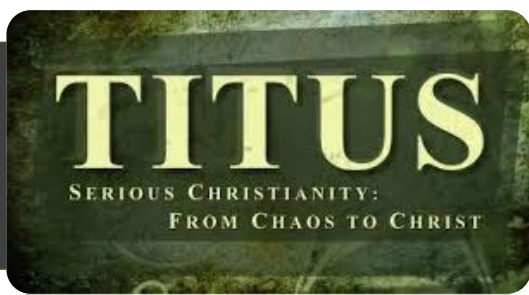
Titus 1:1-5

12. Why is it important that believers embrace “right teaching” and live out what the Bible teaches in their church relationships?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Main Themes

Christians who truly believe “right teaching” (2:1) live out what the Bible teaches in their relationships. A local church is a collection of old, young, male, female, rich, and poor, so a church in which believers love each other and get along will draw people to Christ (2:10). Pride and self-indulgence can divide any church, but the antidote is submission to Christ and to each other, as well as self-control. Treat your relationships with other believers as an outgrowth of your faith and part of your witness to the world.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

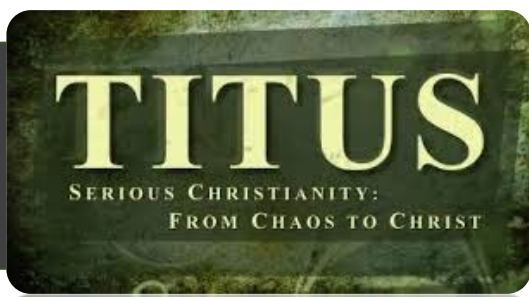
Titus 1:1-5

13. **What is the importance of understanding the necessity of believers being Christ-like citizens outside the church (in the world) as well as inside the church?**

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Main Themes

How a Christian fulfills his or her duties is a witness to the watching world. A believer's community life should reflect Christ's love as much as his or her church life does. Your neighbors should know that you are a faithful church member and a good citizen.



Introduction, Background, and Overview

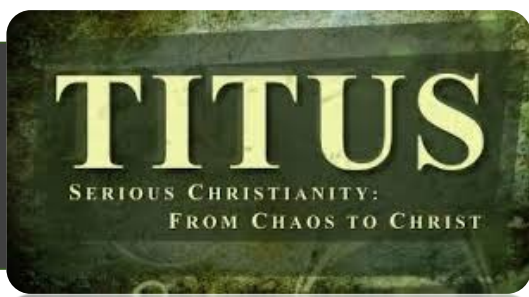
Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Main Themes

- 14. What is the importance of learning that attempting to live a “good life” apart from Jesus is not enough to pardon one from their sins?**

A good life is a witness to the gospel’s power. Christians must have commitment and discipline to serve. When we remember what Christ has done for us, we will be motivated to share his love with others. In what ways are you putting your faith into action by serving others?



Introduction, Background, and Overview

Titus 1:1-5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Main Themes

15. **Life Application:** What three things will you commit to do this week to be a more genuine ambassador for Christ in your home, your community, and your church?

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Southfield, Michigan

NEXT
WEEK'S
LESSON



WED.
7:00PM
ON
ZOOM

“Leaders in the Church” Titus 1:5-16

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

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60-67 circa <small>(approximately 64-65 AD)</small>	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

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Paul's Fifth Missionary Journey – He left Titus on Crete

TITUS - Outline

1. Leadership in the church ([1:1-16](#))
2. Right living in the church ([2:1-15](#))
3. Right living in society ([3:1-15](#))

Life Application Study Bible.