

Episode #342 Titus 1 Part 3: Choosing Leaders

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. The author of this letter, Paul, was introduced to us in the first three verses of the book. Now, let us consider the recipient of the letter, the man Titus.

III. Titus 1:4. The recipient.

- A. Titus (Nurse) is Paul's true child (*teknon*) after the common faith.
- B. Grace and mercy coming FROM God TO us is speaking of God's gracious and merciful attitude towards us.
- C. "Peace" speaks of a harmonious relationship between two people or groups of people, in this case, between us and God.
- D. Comes from God the Father EVEN the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. There cannot be two Saviors. Isaiah 43:11. If Jehovah is the only Savior, and if God is our Savior, and if the Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior, then Jehovah = God = the Lord Jesus Christ. God and Christ are one!

IV. Titus 1:5-9. Appointing leaders.

- A. Titus 1:5. Paul in Crete.
 - 1. Paul apparently visited Crete after his imprisonment (Acts 28:30-31).
 - 2. Perhaps Paul never traveled there before because the Cretan Jews who believed at Pentecost (Acts 2:11) already went there and proclaimed the gospel. Romans 15:20-22, Paul strove only to go where the gospel had not been formerly proclaimed. Yet now he had reached all those places, and so would come to Rome, then go to Spain. He must have gone to Crete after his visit to Spain following his release from Rome. Romans 15:23-28.
 - 3. Now Titus was left behind to "set in order" the things that are lacking in Crete and to appoint elders, Greek *presbuteros*. An elder is a representative. In Israel, they were chosen out of the elders of families, who were the patriarchs. Out of these family elders would be chosen city elders, tribal elders, and national elders. In Israelite communities around the world, elders would be the civil and religious leaders of the community. These believers in Christ were living in much the same style: in a community of believers led by certain representative men or elders.

V. Titus was Paul's child after the faith, and the recipient of this letter. Paul wishes him God's grace, mercy, and peace. Titus was left in Crete to appoint leaders to help the people. May God help us as well as we learn from His Word and the things written here in Titus.