

## **An Introduction to Titus**

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God`s elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-- a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour,

To Titus, my true son in our common faith.. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

## When was the letter to Titus written?

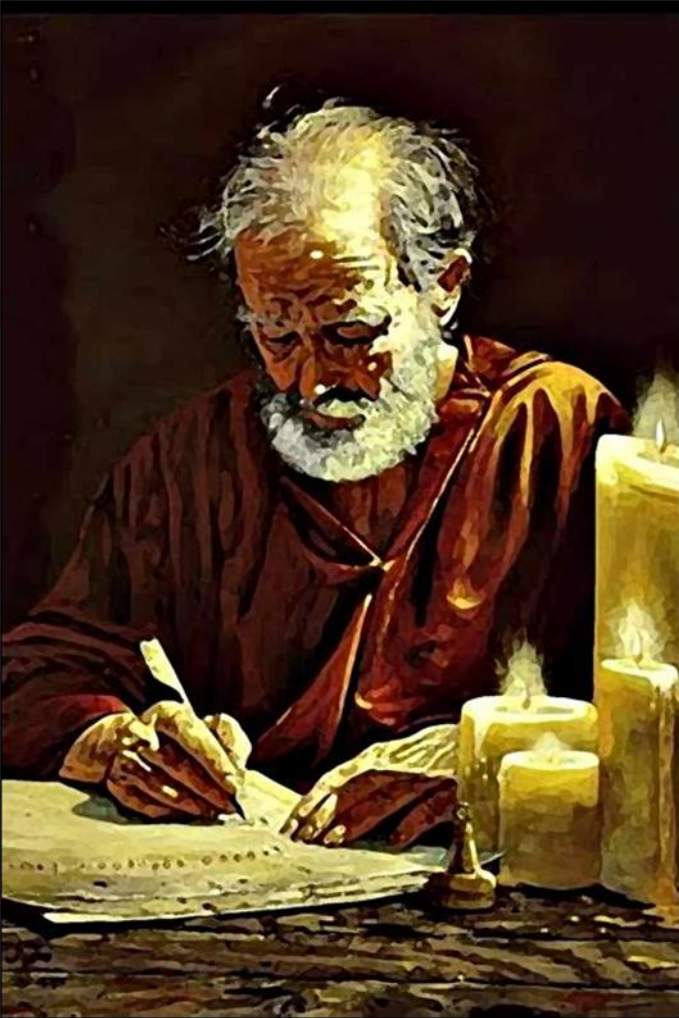
It was probably written about same time as 1 Timothy for reasons to be explained later.



That would be about 62 AD

## Who wrote it ?

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ



A man well known to both Timothy and Titus as their beloved mentor.

# Where was it written from ?

We don't know



## Where was it addressed ?

Crete



Paul had been there evangelising with Titus, but he wasn't there then.  
Crete was notorious at this time for its 'permissive culture'  
i.e. - unrestrained sin

## Who it was written to:

To Titus, my true son in our common faith

An affectionate description  
A real fellow believer!



# What we know about Titus

Titus is referred to in Paul's letters

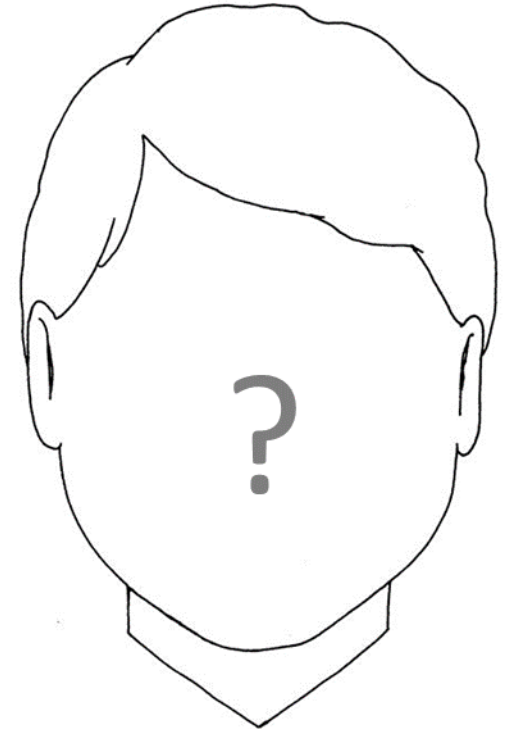
He was a Gentile (Galatians 2:3)

He was a highly competent and trusted worker

2 Corinthians 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honour to Christ.

Paul had him organise the Corinthian collection for the poor believers in Jerusalem. 2 Corinthians 8:16

**A mystery** - he is not referred to in Acts. It has been suggested that he might have been Luke's brother.



# A Timing Puzzle

The letters 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are not set in the context of Acts which concludes with Paul's house arrest and pending trial. (Acts 28:30)



It appears that Paul was released after the trial and went on to begin his 4<sup>th</sup> missionary journey.



## The 4<sup>th</sup> Missionary Journey.

Where he went to we do not know in any detail but as Titus 1:5 suggests, he must have visited Crete with Titus.

We can assume he left Crete for some reason before the churches were fully established, but where he went we do not know.



## What is the letter about?

The content of the letter has parallels with 1 Timothy concerning dealing with the threat of false teaching and setting order for churches and the daily lives of believers.

Get things straight!



The churches in Crete are still quite young, having no appointed leaders. The dangerous false teachers were still outside the church, and the permissive culture was toxic to faithful living.

# The intended audience

It appears that Paul was not in either Ephesus (1 Timothy) or Crete (Titus) but that he wrote these personal letters to his two workers. The letters were also intended to be read to the congregations, perhaps to support the authority of Timothy and Titus in dealing with the ongoing issues.



# Paul gives a long introduction

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ

He is The Real author

It is a humble, servant role

It is a privileged position 'Appointed and Sent! By the Lord Jesus'

Notice the unusual term Paul uses 'servant of GOD'

Along with term 'apostle', Paul is emphasising his authority and the link with Bible history in contrast to the false teachers he will refer to later in the letter.

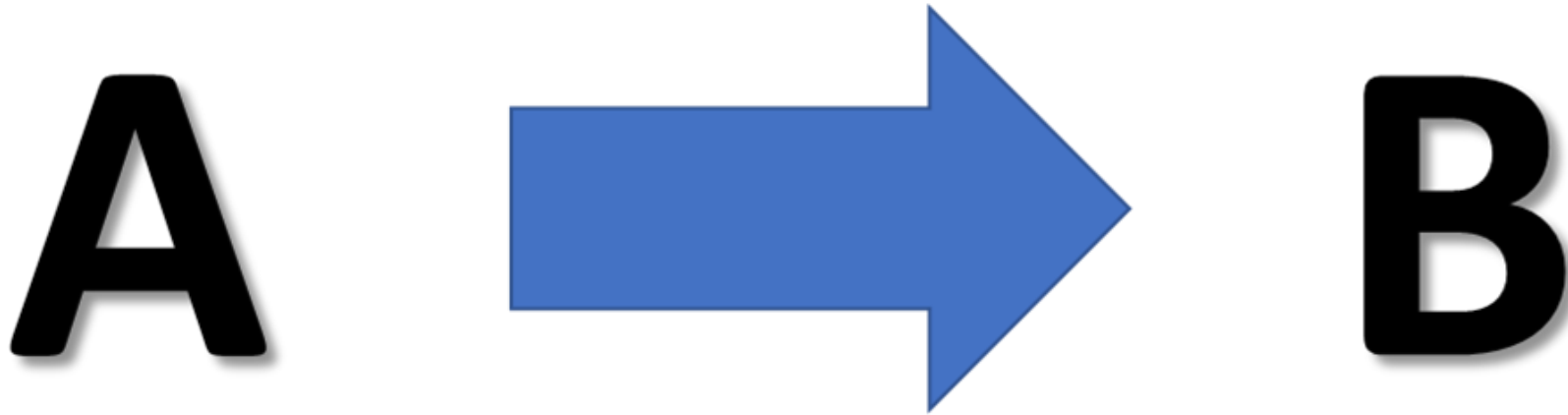
Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ  
**for the faith of God`s elect**

His life work is to help God`s people get to know God and grow  
- chosen by God



Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God`s elect **and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-**

To know and what to do



**Genuine faith leads to transformed lives**

- a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life,

A solid foundation of assurance of eternal life



**Do you have this hope?**

the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised

God's promise is absolutely sure  
It is based on his character - truth





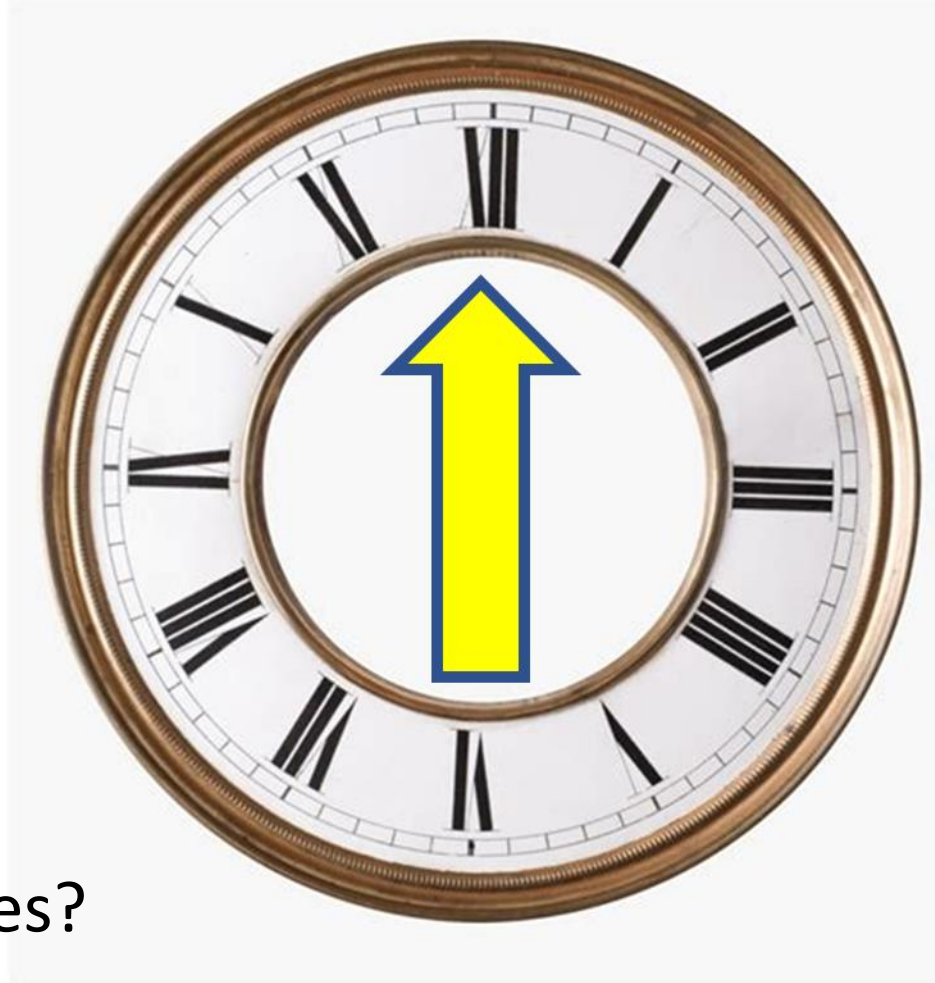
**God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,**

He had an eternal purpose



God ... promised before the beginning of time,  
**and at his appointed season he brought his word to light**

In their time - the  
time of his choosing  
He revealed his plan  
– his word (plan)  
made known



Is this how it works in our lives?

# God's Agent

and at his appointed season he brought his word to light  
**through the preaching entrusted to me**

The person that God used was Paul!- a responsibility and privilege  
The means that God used was preaching!

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.



through the preaching entrusted to me  
**by the command of God our Saviour,**

It was not an option for Paul But it was also a Commission

God saves - What a blessing to be able to say He is “our” God!



## After the introduction ...

To Titus, my true son in our common faith..

An affectionate address:-

True (contrast with the false teachers)

Son - he had shared the gospel and he became his 'spiritual dad'

Shared faith - united in Jesus



# Amazing blessings

**Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.**

Undeserved - grace

A Heart at rest – peace

Love and security - Father God

‘from’ – God is the source of  
these blessings



Grace and peace from God the Father and **Christ Jesus our Saviour.**

God's Son – our Saviour – he carried it out



## The reason I left you in Crete

Why did Paul leave?

He trusted Titus to do the work with God's help  
There was a purpose in Titus staying there.





The reason I left you in Crete  
was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished



Things are not entirely in order in the young churches

There is no perfect church - yet

# Business out-standing ...

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished **and appoint elders in every town**, as I directed you.

Appoint recognised leaders in individual congregations.

(Why doesn't he tell Titus how?)

He has a Church structure in mind—  
Good governance is a help to the members and for the work of outreach

Why is it better to share the leadership roles?



## Authoritative instructions – a help to Titus

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, **as I directed you.**

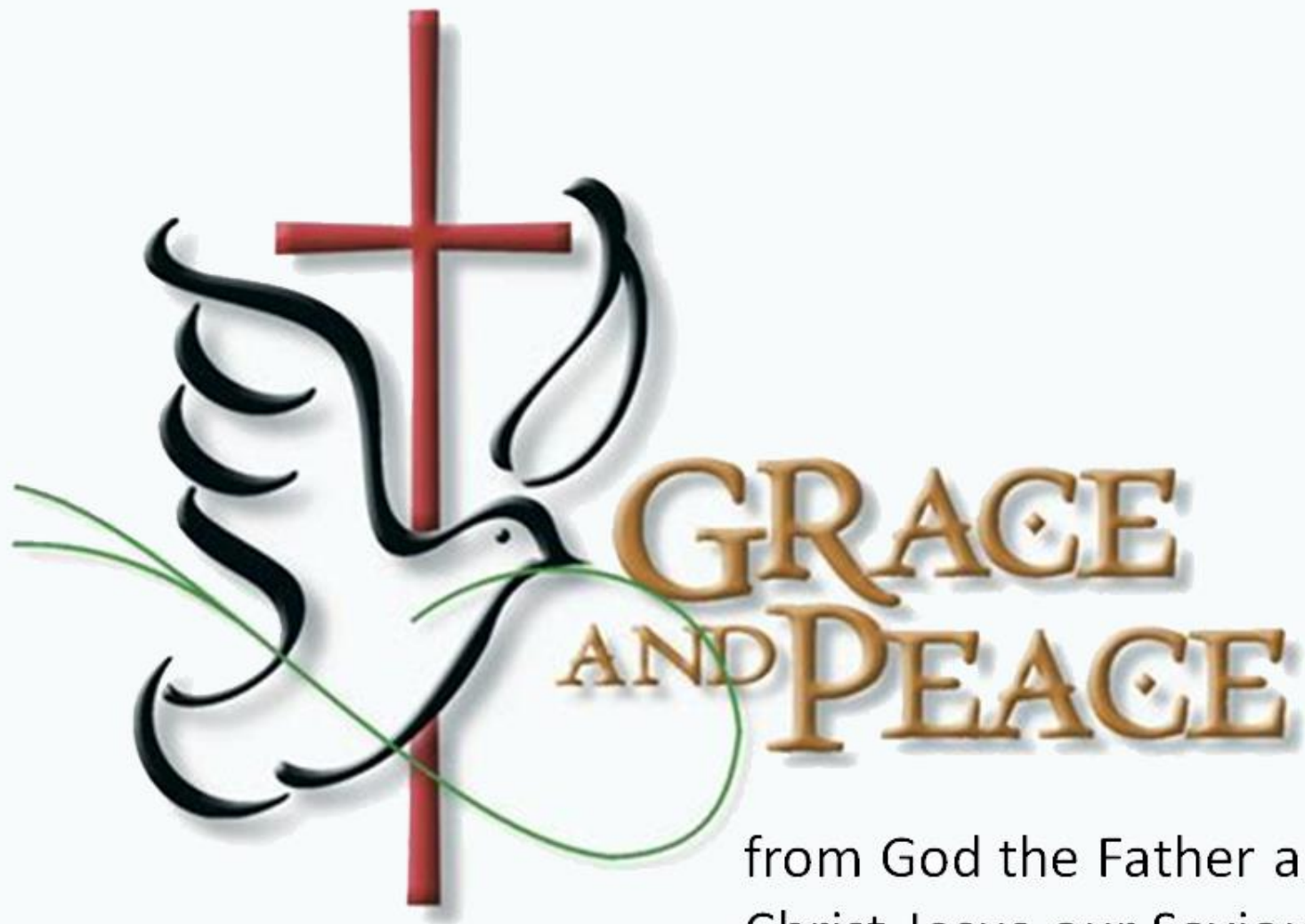
Paul had already explained this to him –  
so that Titus was not left in the dark.



So this is how it begins for planted churches  
to grow in blessing and service.



The work of the gospel is to bring order into broken lives.



from God the Father and  
Christ Jesus our Saviour.