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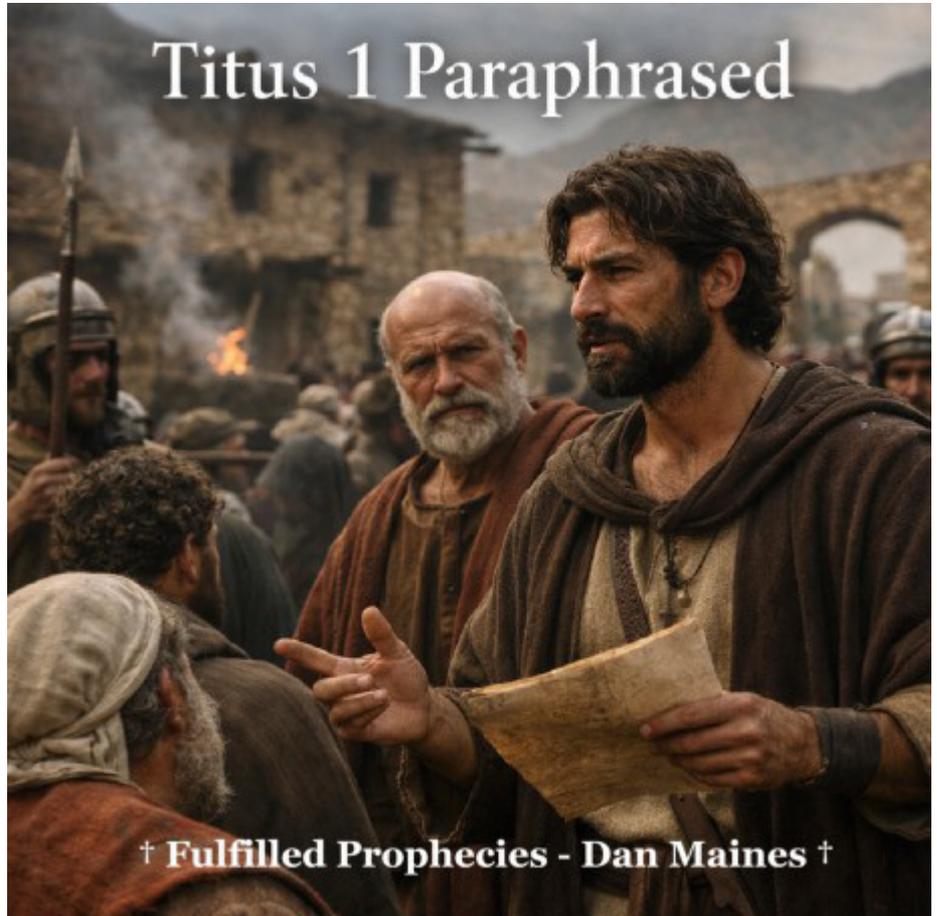
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## Titus 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Titus 1 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Paul wrote this letter to Titus while the gospel was spreading throughout the Roman world before the judgment that would soon come upon Jerusalem. Titus had been left in Crete to help organize the believers and to appoint faithful leaders who would guard the truth of Christ.

† The chapter shows the urgency of the apostolic age. The gospel was already producing faith among the nations, and the

apostles were establishing churches that would stand firm when the Old Covenant age came to its end (Hebrews 8:13).

† Early Christian writers also understood Titus as one of Paul's trusted companions who helped establish order in the early assemblies.

### **Titus 1:1**

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, sent to strengthen the faith of God's chosen people and to lead them into the knowledge of the truth that produces a godly life

† Paul begins by explaining his mission. His apostleship wasn't about authority for its own sake, it was about bringing the nations into the faith promised long ago (Romans 1:5).

† The truth he preached wasn't just information, it produced a life shaped by God. The gospel always changes how people live (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles were entrusted with preserving the faith and passing it faithfully to the churches.

### **Titus 1:2**

This faith rests on the hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised long before the ages began

† Eternal life wasn't a new idea that appeared in the first century. It was promised long before through God's plan revealed in the prophets (Daniel 12:2).

† Paul's emphasis that God doesn't lie shows the certainty of the promise. What God declares will always come to pass (Numbers 23:19).

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that the promise of life was rooted in God's unchanging nature and revealed through Christ.

### **Titus 1:3**

At the proper time God revealed this message through the proclamation entrusted to me by the command of God our

## Savior

† The gospel appeared at the exact moment God determined. The coming of Christ and the preaching of the apostles happened in what Scripture calls the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4).

† Paul's message wasn't self-appointed. He preached because God commanded it. The authority of the gospel rests on God's command, not human invention.

† Eusebius recorded that the apostles carried this message throughout the Roman world during the first century.

### **Titus 1:4**

To Titus, my true child in our shared faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior

† Paul calls Titus his true child in the faith, showing the close spiritual bond formed through the gospel (1 Corinthians 4:17).

† Grace and peace were common apostolic greetings, reminding believers that their standing with God comes through Christ.

† Early writers like Irenaeus referred to Titus as one of Paul's faithful co-workers in building the churches.

### **Titus 1:5**

I left you in Crete so you could set in order what still needed to be done and appoint elders in every city as I instructed you

† Titus was given the responsibility to establish leadership in the churches. The apostles ensured that each assembly had faithful shepherds to guide the believers (Acts 14:23).

† This shows that the early church wasn't chaotic. It had structure and oversight to guard the truth.

† Eusebius wrote that Titus became a leading figure in the church of Crete after Paul's ministry there.

## **Titus 1:6**

An elder must be someone who lives above accusation, faithful to his wife, with children who believe and who aren't known for rebellion or reckless behavior

† Church leadership required a life that demonstrated integrity. The character of a leader mattered just as much as his teaching (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

† The household of the elder served as evidence of his ability to care for God's people. If a man couldn't guide his own home, he couldn't guide a church.

† Early Christian writers consistently taught that elders must live honorable lives before both believers and outsiders.

## **Titus 1:7**

Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, and not greedy for money

† The church is described as God's household, showing that leadership is stewardship rather than personal power (1 Timothy 3:15).

† These warnings address the temptations that can corrupt leadership, pride, anger, greed, and abuse of authority.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that church leaders must display self-control because they represent the character of Christ.

## **Titus 1:8**

Instead he must be hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined

† These qualities reflect the character of Christ Himself. A true shepherd leads by example.

† Hospitality was especially important in the early church because traveling teachers and believers often relied on the support of other Christians (3 John 5-8).

† Irenaeus noted that faithful leaders preserved the goodness of

the apostolic teaching by living according to it.

### **Titus 1:9**

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message that has been taught so he can encourage others with sound teaching and refute those who oppose it

† Elders weren't only moral examples, they were defenders of the gospel. They had to know the apostolic teaching well enough to correct error.

† False teaching was already spreading during the first century, which is why the apostles repeatedly warned the churches to guard the truth (Acts 20:29-30).

† Eusebius wrote that early church leaders were entrusted with preserving the teachings handed down from the apostles.

### **Titus 1:10**

There are many rebellious people who talk nonsense and deceive others, especially those connected with the circumcision group

† Paul refers to teachers who insisted that Gentile believers must follow the old Jewish customs. This was one of the biggest conflicts in the early church (Acts 15:1).

† These teachers were described as rebellious because they resisted the freedom found in Christ.

† Early Christian writers confirmed that disputes over the Law were a major challenge during the apostolic era.

### **Titus 1:11**

They must be silenced because they're upsetting whole families by teaching things they shouldn't for the sake of dishonest gain

† False teaching doesn't stay small, it spreads and damages entire households of faith.

† Paul exposes another motive behind their teaching, financial gain. Some were using religion as a way to profit (1 Timothy

6:5).

† Clement of Alexandria warned that teachers who pursue money instead of truth corrupt the church.

### **Titus 1:12**

One of their own prophets said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons

† Paul quotes a well-known statement from a Cretan poet named Epimenides.

† The quote shows that even their own culture recognized the moral problems common on the island.

† Early writers like Eusebius identified Epimenides as the source of this saying.

### **Titus 1:13**

This testimony is true, so correct them firmly so they may become healthy in the faith

† Paul's goal wasn't humiliation but restoration. Firm correction was meant to bring believers back to sound faith.

† Healthy teaching produces healthy believers. When truth is restored, faith grows stronger.

† Irenaeus wrote that correcting false teaching protects the church and restores those who have been misled.

### **Titus 1:14**

They must stop paying attention to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth

† Many of these myths were extra traditions that had grown around the Law. They distracted people from the gospel.

† Jesus Himself warned about elevating human traditions above God's truth (Mark 7:8).

† Early Christian writers repeatedly warned believers not to be drawn back into the old traditions that Christ had fulfilled.

## **Titus 1:15**

To those who are pure, everything is pure, but to those who are corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure, because their minds and consciences are corrupted

† The issue wasn't food laws or rituals. The real problem was the condition of the heart.

† When someone rejects the truth, even good things become twisted by their corrupted thinking.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that purity comes from a transformed conscience through Christ.

## **Titus 1:16**

They claim to know God, but their actions deny Him. They're detestable, disobedient, and unfit for anything good

† This final warning exposes hypocrisy. A person may claim faith, but their life reveals the truth (Matthew 7:20).

† The gospel always produces obedience. When obedience is absent, the profession of faith is empty.

† Irenaeus warned that those who distort the truth while claiming to represent God show by their actions that they don't truly know Him.

## **Historical References**

† Irenaeus described Titus as one of Paul's close companions who preserved the apostolic teaching in the churches.

† Eusebius recorded that Titus later served as a leading overseer in Crete, continuing the work Paul entrusted to him.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote about the importance of faithful elders who guarded the doctrine passed down from the apostles.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Sound leadership still matters. Churches remain healthy when leaders live with integrity and faithfully teach God's word.

† False teaching still exists, which means believers must know the truth well enough to recognize error.

† A true knowledge of God always shows itself in how we live. Faith and obedience can't be separated.

† The same gospel that guided the first century church continues to guide believers today.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete?

**A:** To appoint elders and bring order to the churches (Acts 14:23).

**Q:** What was the foundation of the faith Paul preached?

**A:** The promise of eternal life given by God (Daniel 12:2).

**Q:** Why were elders required to live blameless lives?

**A:** Because they were managing God's household (1 Timothy 3:15).

**Q:** What danger was threatening the churches in Crete?

**A:** False teachers connected with the circumcision group (Acts 15:1).

**Q:** How can someone claim to know God yet deny Him?

**A:** When their actions contradict their confession of faith (Matthew 7:20).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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- † Titus 1
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History
- † Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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