



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

Titus 1:1-9

Titus and His Mission

As we begin our journey through Paul's letter to Titus, it's good for us to remember who Titus was. The name Titus means "honorable." Titus apparently came to Christ through Paul's ministry (1:4). He was a Gentile and was an example of how a Gentile could become a real, genuine, authentic Christ follower without becoming a Jew. Titus was a faithful follower of Jesus and must have been a good spiritual leader. Before Crete, Paul had sent Titus on special assignments to the church in Corinth. With the challenges the church in Corinth faced, Paul would only have sent one of his most trusted spiritual leaders there. Titus faithfully completed the task Paul gave him in Corinth and brought back the good news to Paul. He was Paul's "partner and fellow worker" (2 Corinthians. 8:23) who served with enthusiasm (8:17) and had a genuine love for Christ and His church.

Paul first came to Crete while under arrest and on his way to Rome (Acts 27). He probably returned to Crete sometime after his house arrest in Rome where he began to organize and bring stability to the churches. He left Titus there with still much work to be done. Crete was an island that was racially mixed that had a large Jewish colony. As a result, there was a pull towards legalism (instead of grace through faith in Christ). Also in Crete were pagan philosophers appealing to people's flesh pushing them to live to please themselves. Greek mythology was entrenched in Cretan culture. Titus 1:1-9 tells us what Paul wanted Titus to do. Verse 5 tells us that Paul left Titus in Crete to "set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city." The Word that was committed to Paul by God, Paul was now committing it to Titus. Titus was on assignment by Paul who was an apostle of God. There were around 20 towns on the island of Crete and while we don't know if all 20 had churches in them, it is very likely that a number of them did. Titus was to appoint elders in each city that had a church in it. Similar to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 these verses give Christlike character qualities that elders are to exemplify. To hear more about these character qualities, I want to encourage you to get online and listen to the message. Elders are to hold firmly to the faithful (reliable, dependable) word, encourage sound doctrine, and refute those who oppose sound doctrine. God as our Savior, sound doctrine that produces godly living, and godly spiritual leadership are all important themes of this letter. As you seek to apply Titus 1:1-9 to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- Am I willing to faithfully follow Jesus wherever He leads? Am I willing to follow Him even in difficult situations? Am I willing to trust Him on the journey?

- Are you willing to grow spiritually? Some Christians are content to stay immature. The list of character qualities given (which I do not believe are comprehensive) highlight godly spiritual maturity. Are you willing to grow? Growth takes work, time, surrender!

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