



PAUL AND HIS LETTERS II

INTRODUCTION

Ekku Reini Letter to Titus

- The letter to Titus was written about AD 64–65.
- The letter to Titus has less theological content than for ex. 1st Epistle to Timothy.

THE SCANDINAVIAN SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE



CRETE

- There is historical evidence, that there was a Jewish diaspora community in Crete.
- Diodorus Siculus: The Cretans believed themselves to be the original Greeks.
- Polybius: The Cretans were known of their desire to win and for possessions (greed).
- Christianity brought to Crete the concept, that truth is more important than seeking self-glory. Unlike the Greek gods, the God of Christianity is not deceitful.
- Only some of the Cretan cultural values could be accepted, but most of them had to be forsaken according to the letter to Titus.

TITUS

- Titus was a gentile Christian and one of the most faithful fellow-workers of Paul.
- Paul send Titus to difficult missions to Corinth and Crete. Nothing in the letter doesn't indicate that Paul would had nominated Titus as the leader of Cretan churches.
- Paul asked Titus to leave Crete and meet him in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12).
- The rhetorics of the epistle resembles a missive given by a ruler or an official to their delegates, with an objective to accomplish orderly taking care of the matters.

TITUS

- [The letter's] rhetorics is hortatory and persuasive for its nature, placing focus on what someone should do.
- The task of Titus was to bring order to the home churches by taking a stand concerning the behavior of the church members and the false teaching.
- This matter was taken care of by ordaining elders to each church or area to take care of it.
- The main emphasis of the letter to Titus is not in the offices in the church, but rather in the order in the church.

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE

- (A) Warnings against false teachers with their false deeds (1:10-16)
- (B) Specific good works (with their theological rationale) for specific believers with the outsider in view. (2:1-14)
- (B') Good works (with theological rationale) for outsiders, this time directed toward them (3:1-8)
- (A') Final warning against false teachers and their false deeds (3:9-11).

CHAPTER 1

- Paul wrote to a "true son" (1:4).
- How to recognize who is qualified to be an elder of the church?
- Causes to problems: insubordinate, idle talkers and deceivers abound, especially amongst the circumcised (1:10).
- Titus and the elders had to stop their mouths, because:
 - they subverted whole households
 - the false teachers went from house to house teaching heresies
 - they collected monies through this scheme.
- The character of the false teaching: Jewish fables and human commandments (1:14).

CHAPTER 2

- People have been divided by age groups, not by families.
- You may glean from the text, that:
 - a Christian must mind their behavior ...
 - ... which also serves as a witness of his/her faith.
- Alcoholism was a big problem.
- The subordination of the women and the slaves, what is that all about?
- The church didn't most probably have any 'ordained' teachers.

CHAPTER 2

- Building up social networks.
 - ⇒ that the Word of God may not be blasphemed (2:5)
 - ⇒ that the opponent may have nothing evil to say (2:8)
 - ⇒ that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things (2:10).
- 2:11-14 in Greek is one long sentence which gives a theological foundation to the earlier exhortations.

CHAPTER 3

Because of what God has done, one can do good deeds and be a good citizen.