

Pastor to Pastor

Paul's Letter to Titus



Apostle Paul (~ 5 – 67 A.D.)
By Andrei Rublev (1410)

Pastor to Pastor Introduction



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- Titus, like Timothy, was a younger disciple of Paul.
- He is not mentioned in the book of Acts, but his name appears **12 times** in Paul's letters before this.
- According to **Galatians 2:3**, Titus was a Greek – a Gentile convert.

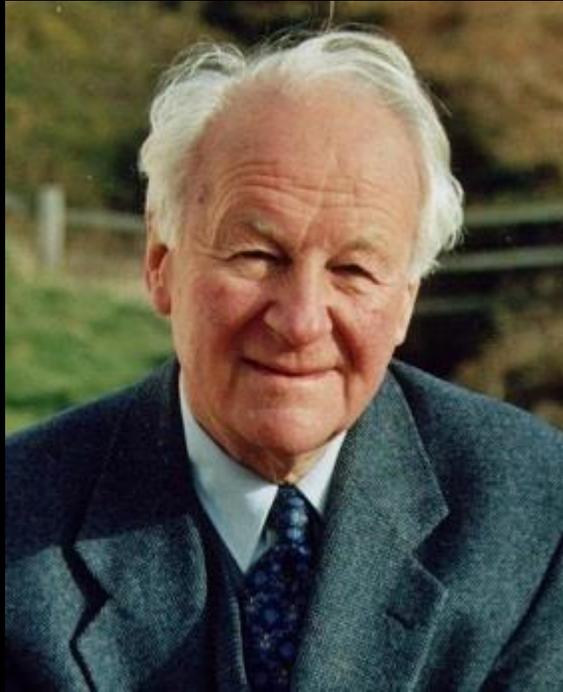
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- Titus could handle responsibility.
- Paul left him on the island of Crete to bring more order to the churches.
- Given the character of Cretans, this would not be easy.

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It does not require much imagination to sit down beside Titus and to read Paul's letter as if it were addressed to us. For the apostle's instructions to his trusted lieutenant have extraordinary contemporary relevance. We too need to hear Paul's exhortations.

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011), pastor
All Souls, Langham Place, London*

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- This letter will focus on three main themes. Look for each of them as we read through the letter.
 1. Good leadership
 2. Good doctrine
 3. Good works

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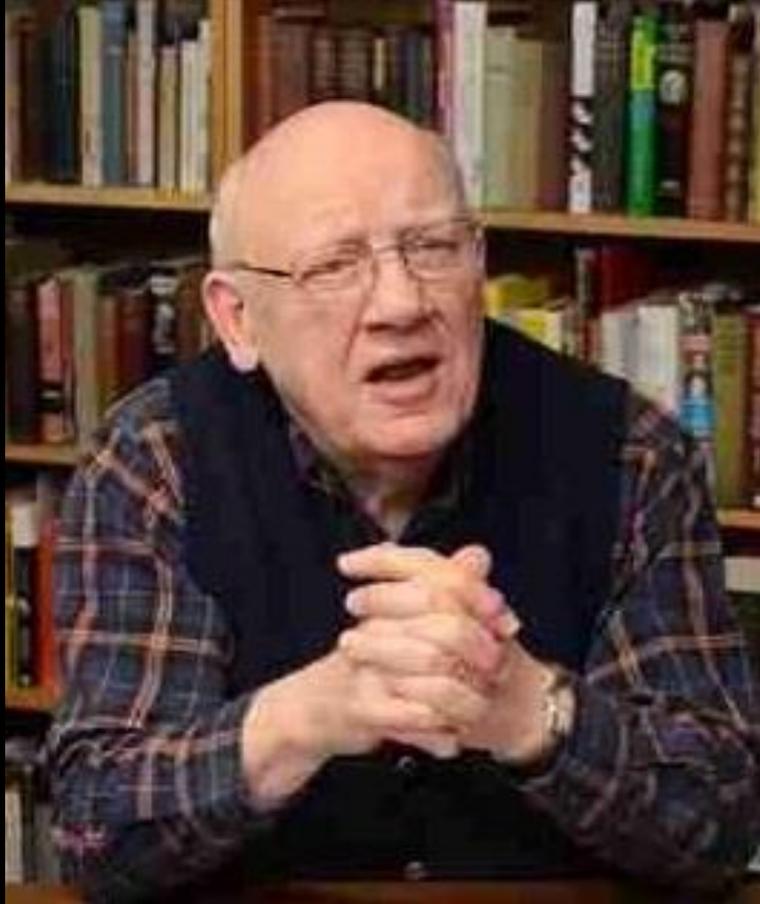
1. Greeting 1:1-4
2. Good Leadership 1:5-16
3. Good Teaching 2:1-15
4. Good Works 3:1-11
5. Final Words 3:12-15

1. Greeting 1:1-4

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- Notice how many ways Paul refers to that which God communicates to us:
 - Truth (v.1)
 - Promise (v.2)
 - Word (v.3)
 - Command (v.3)

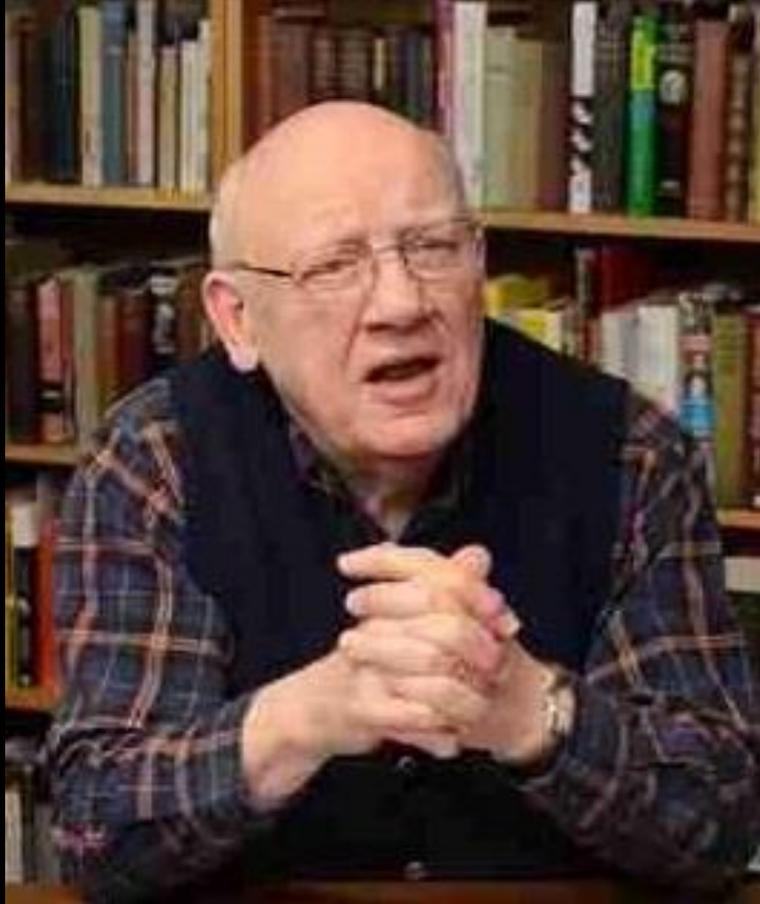
1. Greeting 1:1-4



As you review these ... statements, you can see that Paul related everything in his ministry to the Word of God. His calling and his preaching depended on faith in Christ. He wanted Titus to grasp this fact and to make the Word of God a priority in his ministry ...

– Warren Wiersbe

1. Greeting 1:1-4



Throughout all three of the Pastoral Epistles there is an emphasis on teaching the Word of God. Local churches ought to be “Bible schools” where the Word of God is taught systematically and in a practical way.

– Warren Wiersbe

1. Greeting 1:1-4

- In order to equip the church for such sound teaching, however, Titus's first assignment is to appoint leaders.
- In Crete, this may be a special challenge.

2. Good Leadership 1:5-16

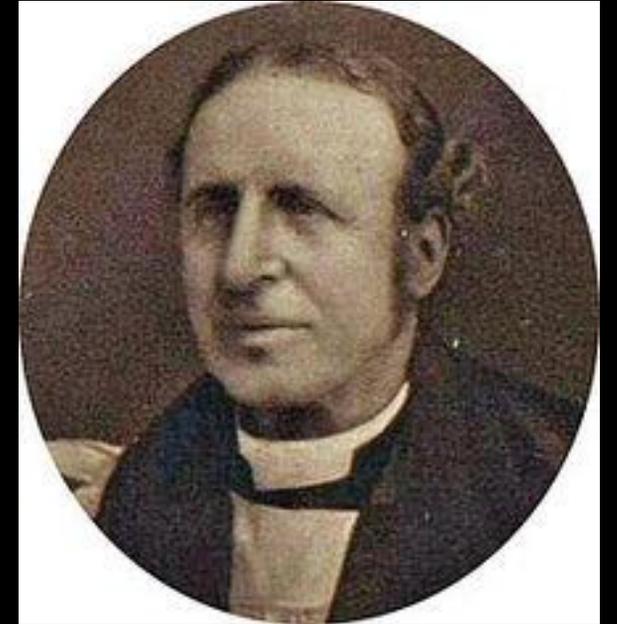
2. Good Leadership 1:5-16

- The standard for elders is not absolute perfection – that comes in heaven for all of us.
- The Christian life, however, does have high standards.
- Assuming the church has quality men in it, some of them should be appointed as elders to lead the church.

2. Good Leadership 1:5-16

Too often in the Christian Church the great word Holiness has been practically banished to a supposed almost inaccessible background ... to a region where a few might with difficulty climb in the quest.

*– Handley Moule (1841 – 1920),
Bishop of Durham*



2. Good Leadership 1:5-16

- 1:6 Husband of one wife = literally “man of one woman.”
- This at least rules out polygamy among elders, though Greco-Roman society was officially monogamous.
- It is better, however, to see it as a character trait.
- That society, like ours, was shaky as to marital faithfulness.

2. Good Leadership 1:5-16

- 1:8 hospitable = *philoxenos*
- fond of guests; a lover of strangers or foreigners.
- *Xenophobia* is a fear of strangers or foreigners, so someone who is *philoxenos* would have the exact opposite quality.
- Though Paul doesn't say it, the elder's wife must also share this trait or it won't really work.

2. Good Leadership 1:5-16



Paul stresses that it is impossible to separate doctrine from lifestyle and that blameless behaviour gives credibility to the teaching of an elder.

*– Solomon Andria,
Madagascan Bible Commentator*

2. Good Leadership 1:5-16

- 1:9 Character, while essential, is not quite enough.
- The potential elder must be well acquainted with the Scriptures and able to teach them to others.
- We'll now see what some of that teaching had to include.

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

- To sum up, God's grace needs to affect our behavior.
- Every person would find something in this section that applied to them.

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

- Paul gives advice to:
 - Older men
 - Older women
 - Younger women
 - Younger men – for whom his only advice is “self-control.”

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

- He also gives advice to bondservants – really “slaves.”
- Since slavery has so often been connected with Africans, what might an African Bible teacher say about this?

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15



Paul recommends that slaves show loyalty and submission (2:9). But why does Paul not question the very institution of slavery? The answer may be that although Christians, and especially pastors, must be committed to addressing social problems, Paul is here writing a pastoral letter, not a treatise on social problems ...

*– Solomon Andria,
Madagascan Bible Commentator*

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15



He makes it clear elsewhere that he does not approve of slavery, for he declares that in Christ there is neither 'slave nor free' (Gal 3:28). He invites all to follow Christ, for whom there are no longer any slaves ...

*– Solomon Andria,
Madagascan Bible Commentator*

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15



Paul is dealing with church life in this letter. If relationships among Christians are brotherly, slaves are simply servants or domestics ... Like all other believers, they should prove by their behaviour that their doctrine is sound and so make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive (2:10).

*– Solomon Andria,
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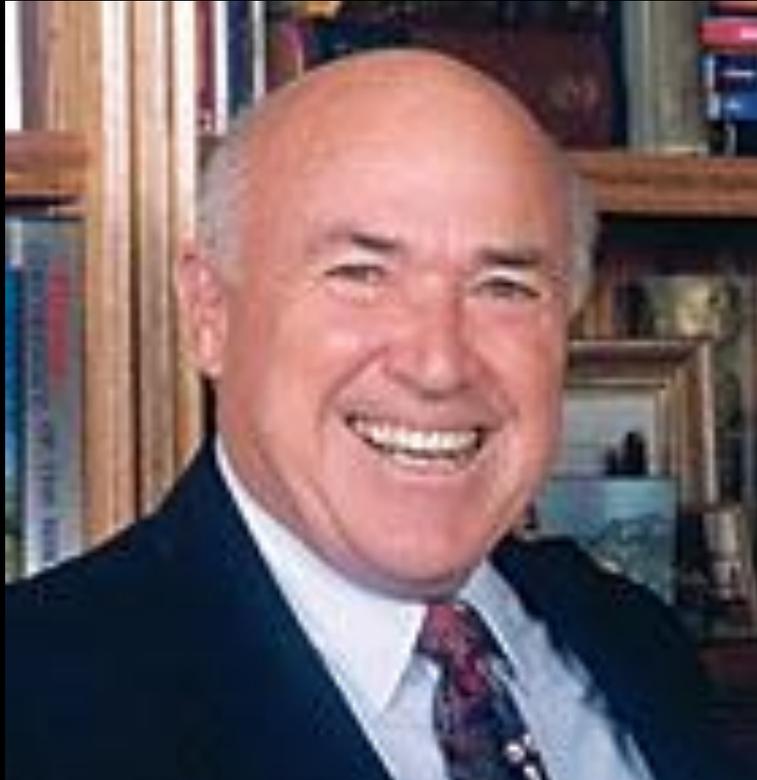
3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

- Even if you don't like your job or your boss, your work is a witness for Christ.
- God's grace still needs to affect our behavior.

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

- Changing the subject, let's hear what Pastor Chuck Smith said about 2:13.

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15



Besides being one of the strongest declarations of the deity of Christ in the New Testament, this verse also reminds us to keep our eye on the sky, waiting for the Rapture of the church and living our lives knowing that Jesus could come back at any time.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013), pastor,
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

3. Good Teaching 2:1-15

- Our faith is relevant to our life here on earth precisely because it prepares us for the life to come.

4. Good Works 3:1-11

4. Good Works 3:1-11

- Paul doesn't seem to tire of certain subjects.
- We probably shouldn't tire of them either.
- How Christians should behave is one of them.
- The plain facts of the gospel are another.

4. Good Works 3:1-11

- Good Works in the Pastoral Epistles:
 - 1 Timothy 2:9-10
 - 1 Timothy 3:1 “noble task” in ESV
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Titus 1:16
 - Titus 2:7 & 2:13-14
 - Titus 3:1, 3:8 & 3:14

4. Good Works 3:1-11

- 3:4-6 Paul Here Paul clearly implies the Trinity.
- 3:4 “God our Savior”
- 3:5 God saves us through the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration, that is, we are born again.
- 3:6 “Jesus Christ our Savior”

4. Good Works 3:1-11

The past, present and future of our salvation:

- **Past:** God's love for us appeared in Christ.
- **Present:** We have the abiding presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit and His constant renewing.
- **Future:** We are heirs according to the hope of eternal life, awaiting our full inheritance.

4. Good Works 3:1-11

- **3:9-11** Almost ironically, unity in the church is maintained by opposing divisive people and false teachers.
- Troublemakers should never be allowed to dictate the church's agenda.

5. Final Words 3:12-15

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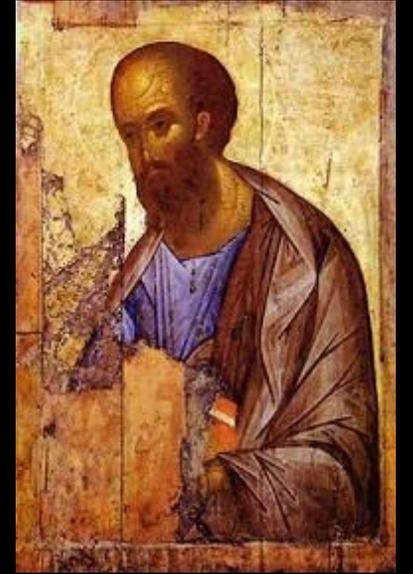
- **3:13** We don't know anything else about **Zenas the lawyer**, but it's fun to know that there was a lawyer on the team.
- **[Insert lawyer joke here.]**

5. Final Words 3:12-15

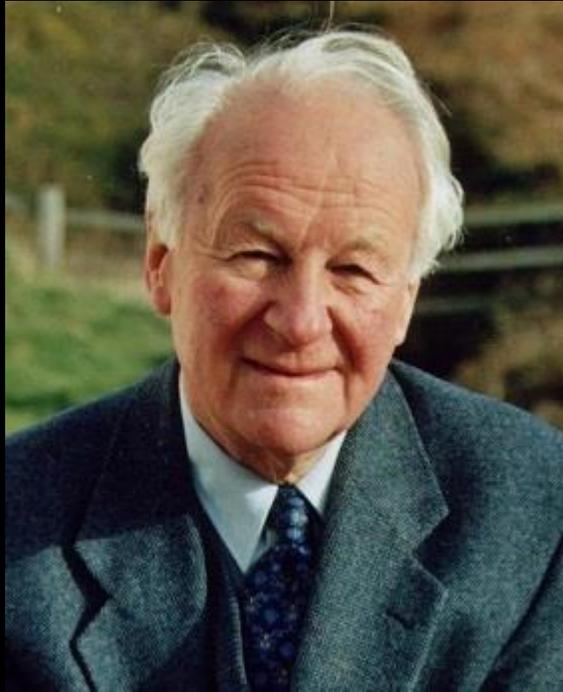
- **3:13** We don't know anything else about **Zenas the lawyer**, but it's fun to know that there was a lawyer on the team.
- One possibility is that Paul kept him around in case of shipwreck.
- *Sharks wouldn't attack out of professional courtesy. :-D*

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Conclusions



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Having now studied the three chapters which make up this short letter, it is evident that ... doctrine inspires duty, and duty adorns doctrine. Doctrine and duty are married; they must not be divorced.

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Pastor to Pastor Conclusions

- To be a good church, we should always focus on:
 1. Good leadership
 2. Good doctrine
 3. Good works

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- To be a good church, we should always focus on:
 1. Good leadership
 2. Good doctrine
 3. Good works
- If Titus could expect these things in the difficult environment of Crete, then we can likewise expect them here.