



The letter of Titus was written during Paul's missionary activities **between** his two Roman imprisonments.

Verse 4-5

Paul leaves Titus to establish the **churches** in Crete.

The focus of the letter to Titus is the **local** church.

It is pre-eminently **practical**.

It is a very **condensed** letter.

Verse 1-4

This letter is not so much a private letter to Titus as it is a **public** letter to the people of Crete and the introduction is intended to delegate apostolic **authority** to Titus.

Verse 1: Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ...

Paul was committed to the **Lordship** of God in his life. He saw himself as a man completely under sovereign **authority**.

'Servant' – *doulos* – **slave**. It describes someone who serves with no regard for his **own** interest.

He was under the Lordship, the mastery, of God which called him to a life of absolute **submission** to God. That commitment was at the heart of his **effectiveness**.

Philippians 2:17; Acts 20:24

'Apostle' – *apostolos* – **messenger**.

When we talk about the Apostles – those who saw Jesus and were sent out uniquely by Him – we have **elevated** the term because God elevated the men. But the term itself is **not** a particularly dignified term.

The dignity is in the authority of the one who **sent** the messenger, not in the messenger.

When he sets out to empower Titus before the Jews and Gentiles of Crete, Paul starts not with **himself**, but the exalted one true **God** and Savior of whom he is just a servant and messenger.

All effective, useful, fruitful, and genuinely spiritual people see themselves as being under divine authority and that becomes the **controlling** influence in their lives.

Romans 6:22

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (1 Peter 1:19)

Colossians 1:13

Matthew 6:33

2 Corinthians 5:20

Acts 1:8

Understanding and committing to the Lordship of Christ, the mastery of God, in our lives is fundamental to what it means to be a **Christian** and foundational to what it means to be His **Church**.

The authority and dignity of our lives comes not from our accomplishments or anything innate about us, but from the authority of our **Lord** and the dignity of the One whose **message** we bear.

When we get that mindset, just like Paul,...

- there is no **fear** of any man –
- there no sacrifice that is too much –
- there is no **joy** that is greater –
because our lives are in His hands for His glory.