

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 6

TOPIC: Titus the Troubleshooter – Appointing National Leadership

BIBLE PASSAGES: Titus chapters 1 – 3, 2 Corinthians 7:6-16

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Good missionaries hand over portions of the work to national leaders who are trustworthy and of ability in the area concerned so that the national church can grow and assume responsibility. It seems that this was not happening in Crete so Titus was sent there to appoint leaders (in a not very democratic fashion) and to set the church in order. He was also sent to Corinth – another spiritual trouble spot and helped with a collection for international relief – which is why I call Titus "the trouble-shooting apostle". We can learn a great deal about missions – and about responsible Christian living from Titus.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Titus was a Greek Christian (Galatians 2:3) and one of the non-Jewish apostles in the NT (there are 33 apostles mentioned in the New Testament see <http://www.aibi.ph/aibi/apostle.htm> or Lockyer's "All The Apostles In The Bible".) Why do you think Paul chose Titus to deal with the Greek communities of Crete and Corinth? What are the advantages of leaders that understand the local culture?

2. Read Titus 1:10-14 - What was the problem in Crete? How does Paul describe the culture there? Is it politically correct to describe a people group in these terms? Are some places worse than others culturally and spiritually?

3. How important is it that missionaries teach correct doctrine? How important is it that the national churches follow correct doctrine? (Titus 1:10-14, 2:1,7,8; 3:9-11)

4. There are a lot of "lifestyle issues" in Titus (e.g. Titus 2:1-15). How is the Christian faith a lifestyle as well as a set of beliefs? What happens when deeds and beliefs do not match? (Titus 1:16)

5. What was Titus to do in Crete? (Titus 1:5)

6. What were the elders to be like? (Titus 1:6-9) Put the characteristics of elders into two columns entitled "Character" and "Competence".

7. How are we to interpret these leadership characteristics in different cultures?

8. In Titus 2:9,10 Paul instructs Titus on the behavior of slaves. If you were in a culture today that endorsed slavery (e.g. Sudan) how would you react? What would you teach? How do we have to think about how the Scriptures apply when there are changes in culture and time? How does the fact that most of the modern slave trade ("human trafficking") is sexual slavery change things?

9. Titus was to instruct the Cretans in how to be "zealous for Good works" (Titus 2:14). How can missionaries help to develop active, holistic, helpful Christians?

10. Do these good works save us? (Titus 3:4-7) Why should we do them? (Titus 3:14)

11. When Titus went to Corinth he had to sort out a problem in the church that had caused much anguish. (2 Corinthians 7:6-16) How did the Corinthians receive Titus? (2 Corinthians 7:15)

12. How important is it that Christian leaders possess spiritual authority so that they are as respected as Titus was above? How should we regard men and women of God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: Maldives