

# *Studies on the Book of Titus*

By Ray DeCarlo

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

- SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY VOL.7, PAGE 354-372
- 1 TIMOTHY
- ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 46 - AT LIBERTY
- SKETCHES FROM THE LIFE OF PAUL, CHAPTER 28 – PAUL AT LIBERTY

## **HISTORICAL SETTING**

- THE EPISTLE OF TITUS WAS WRITTEN DURING PAUL'S 4TH MISSIONARY JOURNEY - AD 64-66/7. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN AROUND AD 65
- PAUL'S 4TH MISSIONARY JOURNEY TAKES PLACE BETWEEN HIS 1ST & 2ND ROMAN IMPRISONMENT
- NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION READ AA CHAPTER 46 & LP CHAPTER 28
- SPEAKING OF PAUL'S 4TH MISSIONARY JOURNEY SISTER WHITE STATES THE FOLLOWING:
  - "From this terrible persecution Paul was spared, for soon after his release he had left Rome. This last interval of freedom he diligently improved in laboring among the churches. He sought to establish a firmer union between the Greek and the Eastern churches and to fortify the minds of the believers against the false doctrines that were creeping in to corrupt the faith." - AA 487, 488
  - "From this terrible ordeal, Paul was spared, having left Rome soon after his release. This last precious interval of freedom was earnestly improved in laboring among the churches. He sought to establish a firmer union between the Greek and Eastern churches which he had raised up, and to guard them against the subtle heresies that were creeping in to corrupt the faith." - LP 304
- IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE TWO EPISTLES, 1 TIMOTHY & TITUS

## **THEME**

THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER IS CLEARLY STATED BY PAUL, WHEN HE DECLARED TO TITUS, TO "SET IN ORDER THE THINGS THAT ARE WANTING, AND ORDAIN ELDERS IN EVERY CITY, AS I HAD APPOINTED THEE." - TITUS 1:5. THE NATURE OF THE BOOK OF TITUS IS CHURCH ORDER.

THE BOOK OF TITUS IS MAINLY OCCUPIED WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN THE WORK SIMILAR TO TITUS IN ESTABLISHING ORDER IN THE CHURCHES. THOSE ENGAGED IN THE WORK MAY REST ASSURE THAT THE COUNSELS CONTAINED IN THE BOOK OF TITUS ARE TIMELESS & PERMANENT.

IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT PAUL WAS CONCERNED FOR THE CHURCHES WELL BEING. HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE FALSE TEACHERS WHO WERE TRYING TO DECEIVE AND MISLEAD GOD'S PEOPLE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT PAUL STATES THAT THEIR "MOUTHS MUST BE STOPPED." - TITUS 1:11

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT CANNOT BE OVER STATED. THIS IS WHY THE CHURCHES NEED TO CHOOSE GODLY ELDERS TO LEAD AND HELP PROTECT THE CHURCH FROM DANGERS. THE APOSTLE PAUL REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT IN 1 TIMOTHY. THE STRIKING SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THESE TWO BOOKS CANNOT BE OVER LOOKED.

‣ **PARALLELS BETWEEN TITUS & 1 TIMOTHY**

- TITUS 1:4, 5 / 1 TIM. 1:2, 3
- TITUS 1:14; 3:9 / 1 TIM. 1:4
- TITUS 2:7; 2:15 / 1 TIM. 4:12
- TITUS 1:6-8 / 1 TIM. 3:2-4

**SUMMARY**

- TITUS 1 - CHURCH ORDER
- TITUS 2 - GODLINESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE 2ND COMING
- TITUS 3 - APPEALS & EXHORTATIONS

**ANALYSIS**

**TITUS 1**

- VS.1-4 - SALUTATIONS
- VS.5-9 - QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS
- NOTE: SEE 1 TIMOTHY 2 & 3

**1 TIMOTHY 2**

- VS.1-3 - AN APPEAL TO PRAY FOR ALL MEN
- VS.4-7 - PAUL IS ORDAINED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL
- VS.8-15 - CHURCH ORDER - THE ROLE OF WOMEN

**1 TIMOTHY 3**

- VS.1-7 - QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS
- VS.8-13 - QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS
- VS.14-16 - ESSENTIAL TRUTHS
- COMMENTING ON 1 TIMOTHY 2:12: “VS.12 - *TO TEACH* = VIZ. IN PUBLICK. *AUTHORITY* = VIZ. NO PUBLICK CHARGE OF PASTOUR OR TEACHER.” -- PIOUS & LEARNED ANNOTATIONS UPON THE HOLY BIBLE, BY GIOVANNI DIODATI, 3RD ED. - 1651 ( WALDENSIAN)
- TITUS 1:10-16 - MUST OPPOSE FALSE TEACHERS
- VS.11 – "WHOSE MOUTHS MUST BE STOPPED"
- VS.13 – "REBUKE THEM SHARPLY"
- 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5 - PREACH THE WORD
- READ - SpTB 2, pp. 54-56

- "In a vision of the night I was shown distinctly that these sentiments have been looked upon by some as the grand truths that are to be brought in and made prominent at the present time. I was shown a platform, braced by solid timbers,-- the truths of the Word of God. Someone high in responsibility in the medical work was directing this man and that man to loosen the timbers supporting this platform. Then I heard a voice saying, 'Where are the watchmen that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? Are they asleep? This foundation was built by the

Masterworker, and will stand storm and tempest. Will they permit this man to present doctrines that deny the past experience of the people of God? The time has come to take decided action.'

"The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath, of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.

"...One night a scene was clearly presented before me. A vessel was upon the waters, in a heavy fog. Suddenly the lookout cried, 'Iceberg just ahead!' There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. An authoritative voice cried out, 'Meet it!' There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collision, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

"Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, 'Meet it!' I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come. I must without delay obey the command, 'Meet it!' " - SpTB02 pp. 54-56

## **TITUS 1**

- ▶ VS.10-16 - MUST OPPOSE FALSE TEACHERS
- ▶ VS.11 – "FOR FILTHY LUCRE'S SAKE"
- ▶ JOHN 10:1-16 - THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD / DA CHAPTER 52
- ▶ READ - 1 PETER 5:1-4; ACTS 20:17-31; PP 191,192; EZE. 34:1-16; DA 483
- ▶ "Christ, the Chief Shepherd, has entrusted the care of His flock to His ministers as undershepherds; and He bids them have the same interest that He has manifested, and feel the sacred responsibility of the charge He has entrusted to them. He has solemnly commanded them to be faithful, to feed the flock, to strengthen the weak, to revive the fainting, and to shield them from devouring wolves.  
"To save His sheep, Christ laid down His own life; and He points His shepherds to the love thus manifested, as their example. But "he that is an hireling, ... whose own the sheep are not," has no real interest in the flock. He is laboring merely for gain, and he cares only for himself. He studies his own profit instead of the interest of his charge; and in time of peril or danger he will flee, and leave the flock.  
". . .All will be called to render a strict account of their ministry. The Master will demand of every shepherd, 'Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?' Jeremiah 13:20. He that is found faithful, will receive a rich reward. 'When the Chief Shepherd shall appear,' says the apostle, 'ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.' 1 Peter 5:4. - PP 191,192
- ▶ "Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to battle with evil, and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow. Though now He is hidden from mortal sight, the ear of faith can hear His voice saying, Fear not; I am with you. 'I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore.' Revelation 1:18. I have endured your sorrows, experienced your struggles, encountered your temptations. I know your tears; I also have wept. The griefs that lie too deep to be breathed into any human ear, I know. Think not that you are desolate and forsaken. Though your pain touch no responsive chord in any heart on earth, look unto Me, and live. 'The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness

shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.' Isaiah 54:10." - DA 483

## TITUS 2

- VS.1-10 - THE RESULTS OF FOLLOWING SOUND DOCTRINE
- VS.11-14 - GODLINESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE 2ND COMING
- VS.15 - PAUL'S ADMONITION

## TITUS 3

- VS.1-2 - CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES
- READ ROM. 13:1-10; MATT. 22:21

## TITUS 3

- VS.3-7 - RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH
- DA CHAPTER 32
- READ MATT. 8:5-13; LK. 7:1-10
- READ DA 315; DA 316,317
- "The centurion did not question the Saviour's power. He did not even ask Him to come in person to perform the miracle. 'Speak the word only,' he said, 'and my servant shall be healed.'  
"The centurion's servant had been stricken with palsy, and lay at the point of death.... He believed that Jesus could heal him. He had not seen the Saviour, but the reports he heard had inspired him with faith.... In the teaching of Christ, as it had been reported to him, he found that which met the need of the soul. All that was spiritual within him responded to the Saviour's words. But he felt unworthy to come into the presence of Jesus, and he appealed to the Jewish elders to make request for the healing of his servant." - DA 315
- "The Jewish elders who recommended the centurion to Christ had shown how far they were from possessing the spirit of the gospel. They did not recognize that *our great need is our only claim on God's mercy*. In their self-righteousness they commended the centurion because of the favor he had shown to "our nation." But the centurion said of himself, 'I am not worthy.' His heart had been touched by the grace of Christ. He saw his own unworthiness; yet he feared not to ask help. He trusted not to his own goodness; his argument was his great need. His faith took hold upon Christ in His true character. He did not believe in Him merely as a worker of miracles, but as the friend and Saviour of mankind.  
"It is thus that every sinner may come to Christ. 'Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.' Titus 3:5. When Satan tells you that you are a sinner, and cannot hope to receive blessing from God, tell him that Christ came into the world to save sinners. We have nothing to recommend us to God; but the plea that we may urge now and ever is our utterly helpless condition that makes His redeeming power a necessity. Renouncing all self-dependence, we may look to the cross of Calvary and say,— 'In my hand no price I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.' " - DA 316, 317

## TITUS 3

- VS.8-11 - EXHORTATION TO GOOD WORKS & CHURCH DISCIPLINE
- VS.12-15 - CLOSING REMARKS