

Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 12, Introduction to Titus, Titus 1 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 12, Introduction to Titus, Titus 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Robert Yarbrough introduces his course on the Pastoral Epistles, focusing on the book of Titus. He explores the historical context of Titus's ministry in Crete, including the existing Christian communities and their challenges. Yarbrough examines Paul's instructions to Titus regarding appointing qualified elders and addressing theological and practical issues within the Cretan churches. He emphasizes the importance of godly leadership, sound doctrine, and the transformative power of the Gospel. The lecture also analyzes the relationship between Paul and Titus, highlighting Titus's role as a trusted co-worker. Finally, the lecture carefully examines key terms and phrases within the text of Titus, such as "blameless," to clarify their meaning and significance within the broader context of Paul's teachings.

**2. 12 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Yarbrough, Session 21 – Double click icon to play in
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]
Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament →
Pauline Epistles → Pastoral Epistles).**



**Yarbrough_PastEpis
tles_Session12.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 12, Introduction to Titus, Titus 1

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided source, "Yarbrough_Pastorals_EN_Session12.pdf":

Briefing Document: Dr. Robert Yarbrough on Titus and Titus 1

Overview:

This document summarizes Dr. Robert Yarbrough's Session 12 lecture on the Pastoral Epistles, focusing specifically on the introduction to the book of Titus and its first chapter. Dr. Yarbrough emphasizes the practical nature of Titus while grounding it in theological principles. The lecture aims to provide context, purpose, and key themes within the book, highlighting its importance for pastoral leadership and Christian living.

Key Themes & Ideas:

1. Theological Foundation of Practical Counsel:

- Titus, despite its focus on practical issues in Crete, is deeply rooted in theology. It addresses both "how we regard people" and "how God regards people."
- The core theological message is that despite their sinful past, people are saved by God's mercy through Christ, not by their own righteous deeds: *"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures...but when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us. Not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."*
- Salvation is through "the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit," leading to justification by grace and the hope of eternal life.

1. Purpose of Titus:

- Paul left Titus in Crete to "put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town."
- The letter aims to address problems with those who *"claim to know God, ...but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing anything good."*
- Paul emphasizes the need for high standards for Christian leaders.

- The letter intends to transform the Christian mind and life, not just provide a superficial religious overlay.

1. **Challenging Misinterpretations:**

- Yarbrough rejects the view that the Pastoral Epistles are “domestication documents” designed to make Christians conform to the culture. Instead, he argues that Christian living based on the grace of Christ is revolutionary, and not in conformity to the Greco-Roman culture of the time.
- He also disputes the idea of "household codes" in the New Testament, asserting that the teachings in Titus lead to transformative lives, not cultural conformity.

1. **Key Concerns in Titus:**

- Christian leaders must meet stringent standards.
- Christian teaching must permeate believers’ lives, so the Word of God is honored by how they live.
- The grace of Christ's first coming instills revolutionary living.
- The Church's Old Testament heritage and eschatological destiny should shape Christians' lives.
- Christians should be socially engaged and considerate, remembering their former state.
- Christians should avoid useless controversy and engage in positive action.

1. **Context of Crete:**

- Crete was a culturally rich island with a history of the Minoan civilization, Greek mythology, and Roman rule.
- There were large Jewish communities on Crete and possibly Jewish converts who brought the Christian message.
- Possible origin stories of the Church on Crete:
 - Pilgrims from Crete present at Pentecost in Jerusalem returning with the gospel.
 - Jewish-Christian missionaries preaching in synagogues on Crete.
 - Paul's witness while en route to Rome.

- The church in Crete might have stagnated or experienced nominalism, necessitating a renewal of zeal.

1. Titus as a Co-Worker of Paul:

- Titus was an active co-worker with Paul for nearly two decades, not a novice.
- He was closely involved with Paul during the composition of Galatians and was present at the Jerusalem Council. He was a Gentile and his uncircumcised status was an issue, demonstrating that faith in Jesus Christ did not necessitate Jewish traditions and practices for Gentiles.
- Titus was involved in Paul's negotiations with the Corinthian congregation, acting as a courier and a representative in the collection for Jerusalem believers.
- Paul praises Titus as a "partner and co-worker" who walked in the same spirit.

1. Distinctive Features of Titus:

- The word "Savior" is used extensively, emphasizing the divinity of God and Jesus Christ. *"God is the Savior three times. Once it refers to Christ Jesus the Savior. Once it refers to Jesus Christ the Savior and then in one reference both God and Jesus Christ are called Savior."*
- There is a distinct vocabulary in Titus reflecting the Greek heritage that Paul and Titus shared, similar to the vocabulary of 1 and 2 Timothy.
- The lengthy prescript before addressing Titus is notable. It contains 46 words, more than any other Pauline letter except Romans. It reinforces theological points for Titus and the Cretan church.

1. Titus 1: Focus on Godliness and Church Leadership:

- The chapter focuses on appointing elders who demonstrate love for good.
- Paul's mission as a servant of God is to further the faith of the elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.
- The goal is to foster "a knowledge of the truth that makes a difference for his readers' everyday religious disposition and how they conduct their everyday affairs, how they conduct their relationships, and how they act."
- The qualities for elders in Crete are similar to those listed in 1 Timothy 3: blameless, faithful, good, self-controlled, hospitable, loving good, and disciplined.

- Being "blameless" does not mean sinless perfection but rather is living consistently with the grace of the gospel, demonstrated in a life of repentance and growth in faith, or being "committed, godly, and growing in true faith and fruitful practice".

Quotes

- *"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures...but when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us. Not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."*
- *"claim to know God, ...but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing anything good."*
- *"God is the Savior three times. Once it refers to Christ Jesus the Savior. Once it refers to Jesus Christ the Savior and then in one reference both God and Jesus Christ are called Savior."*

Implications:

- The book of Titus is not just a practical manual for church administration but a profound theological statement about God's grace and its transformative power.
- Christian leaders must be carefully chosen and embody the virtues of the gospel.
- The Christian life should be marked by genuine godliness, not mere religious adherence.
- The message of Titus is a call to revolutionary living based on the grace of God in Christ.

Conclusion:

Dr. Yarbrough's lecture provides a rich and detailed introduction to the book of Titus, setting the stage for a deeper understanding of its message and its implications for the church. The emphasis on the theological underpinnings of practical advice makes this a valuable resource for anyone seeking to understand and apply the teachings of Titus.

4. Study Guide: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 12, Introduction to Titus, Titus 1

Titus Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to Paul's letter, what was the primary reason Titus was left in Crete?
2. What is the primary concern Paul has about some of the people who claim to know God in Crete?
3. According to Dr. Yarbrough, what are some of the ways that scholarship has interpreted the practical concerns in Titus (specifically regarding the "household code")?
4. What are the two potential early avenues through which the Christian message may have reached Crete?
5. Why does the author suggest that the church in Crete may have needed a "reboot"?
6. How is Titus described in relation to Paul in the New Testament?
7. What role did Titus play in the relationship between Paul and the Corinthian church?
8. What are the two main goals of Paul's servanthood and apostleship as outlined in Titus 1:1?
9. What does it mean for an elder to be "blameless" according to the lecture?
10. What are some of the specific character traits Paul outlines in Titus 1 for potential elders?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Paul left Titus in Crete to put in order what was unfinished and to appoint elders in every town as he had directed. The churches needed leadership and organizational structure.

2. Paul is concerned that some people who claim to know God are denying Him through their actions. They are described as detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing good.
3. Some scholars interpret the practical concerns in Titus as "domestication documents" designed to make Christians conform to the culture, while others say the teachings are actually quite revolutionary and not designed to fit in.
4. The Christian message may have reached Crete through Jewish pilgrims from Crete who were in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, or via early Jewish Christian missionaries who went to Crete.
5. The church in Crete may have needed a reboot because it may have stagnated after being planted and had degenerated over time, resulting in nominalism and a loss of their original zeal.
6. Titus is described as an active co-worker with Paul and a partner. He was close enough to Paul's inner circle that his Gentile status and uncircumcision became an issue.
7. Titus served as a courier between Paul and the Corinthians, helping to facilitate communication and resolve conflicts, as well as playing a crucial role in the collection for the Judean believers.
8. The two goals are to further the faith of God's elect and to encourage their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness. These are linked to both belief and behavior.
9. To be blameless as a pastoral candidate does not mean sinless perfection. Instead, it means to live in a way that is consistent with the grace of the gospel that confers a status of blamelessness in God's sight.
10. Paul says elders should be blameless, faithful to his wife, have believing children, not be overbearing or quick-tempered, not be a drunkard or violent, and he should be hospitable, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer the following questions in essay format. Use evidence from the source material to support your claims.

1. Discuss the significance of the term "Savior" in the book of Titus, specifically addressing how it is used in relation to both God and Jesus Christ. Why does the author claim that this usage affirms the divinity of Jesus?
2. Analyze the reasons Paul emphasizes good works and transformed behavior in the book of Titus. How does this emphasis relate to the historical context of Crete and the potential issues within the early church there?
3. Explain the complexity of the historical context surrounding the church in Crete as outlined in the source material. What were the potential paths the gospel took to arrive in Crete, and how might these paths have impacted the church's development?
4. Compare and contrast the roles of Timothy and Titus as Pauline co-workers. Based on the lectures, what similarities and differences are apparent in their respective relationships with Paul and the tasks they were assigned?
5. Explore the ways in which Paul's description of the qualifications for elders in Titus 1 challenges or reinforces common perceptions of leadership. Discuss the balance between theological ideals and practical application in Paul's instructions.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostolic Instruction:** Teaching and guidance given by the apostles (in this context, primarily Paul) to pastoral leaders and their followers.
- **Pastoral Epistles:** Letters written by Paul to Timothy and Titus, providing instructions and guidance for church leadership and organization.
- **Nominalism:** The state of being Christian in name only, without genuine faith or transformed behavior.
- **Antinomian:** The belief that Christians are not bound by moral law and that they can live however they please without consequence or penalty.
- **Kaphtor:** An ancient name for Crete, referenced in the Old Testament.

- **Eschatological:** Relating to the end times or the final destiny of humanity and the world.
- **Incarnation:** The belief that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Regeneration:** The spiritual rebirth of a person through the Holy Spirit, often described as a washing of rebirth.
- **Justification:** The act by which God declares a sinner righteous in His sight through the atoning work of Jesus Christ.
- **Doulos:** Greek word for servant or slave, used by Paul to describe his relationship to God.
- **Apostolos:** Greek word for apostle, meaning one who is sent with a specific mission; it is a position of authority and leadership.
- **Elect:** Those chosen by God for salvation.
- **Godliness:** The quality of living in a manner that reflects the character of God; practical obedience.
- **Sound Doctrine:** Healthy and correct teaching that aligns with the truth of the gospel.
- **Overseer:** Another term for elder, emphasizing the role of supervising and caring for the church.
- **Blameless:** Describing a quality of life characterized by integrity, lacking any evidence of persistent unrepentant sin, and reflecting the grace of the gospel.
- **Agathos:** Greek word meaning "good" but having more of a moral connotation
- **Kalos:** Greek word meaning "good" but having a more aesthetic or desirable connotation.
- **Prescript:** The standard opening of a letter, including the sender's name and the addressee.

5. FAQs on Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 12, Introduction to Titus, Titus 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about the Book of Titus

1. **What is the primary purpose of the letter to Titus?** The letter's main purpose is to address the challenges faced by the church on the island of Crete. Paul tasked Titus with putting in order what was left unfinished, primarily appointing elders in every town. He needed to address the issue of people within the church who claimed to know God but whose actions denied Him, and also establish sound teaching and practice. Paul also aims to encourage and ground Titus more deeply in his leadership role, equipping him to address these issues and ensure the church's health and growth.
2. **What are some of the key concerns Paul addresses in Titus regarding Christian leadership?** Paul stresses that Christian leaders must meet stringent standards. They should exhibit qualities like being blameless, faithful to their spouse, having believing and well-behaved children, being hospitable, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. They must also hold firmly to sound teaching to encourage others and refute those who oppose it. He wants leaders who demonstrate true transformation and a commitment to God's word, not just a superficial religious facade.
3. **What is the significance of Paul's emphasis on "good works" in Titus?** The recurring emphasis on good works in Titus highlights the necessity of transformed behavior in the lives of believers. It's not enough to simply profess faith; Christians must live in a way that honors God and reflects their transformed nature. This emphasis is meant to combat potential lawlessness within the church and also to push back against an idea that Christian living is about fitting in and conforming to culture. Instead, the good works demonstrate the revolutionary nature of Christian life and show that they are engaged with society in a way that considers others due to their understanding of their own former unregenerate state.

4. **What historical and cultural context is important for understanding the book of Titus?** Crete was an island in the Mediterranean with a rich cultural history, including ties to the Minoan civilization and Greek mythology. It was under Roman administration in Paul's time. The presence of Jewish communities in Crete and the possible journey of Jewish pilgrims from Crete to Jerusalem during Pentecost provide plausible explanations for the church's beginnings there. There's an indication that there were also issues related to false teachers who wanted believers to conform to Jewish law.
5. **Who was Titus, and what was his relationship with Paul?** Titus was a close co-worker of Paul's, involved in his ministry for nearly two decades. He was a Gentile, and his uncircumcised status became a point of contention for some early believers who believed all Christians should be circumcised. He was involved in negotiations between Paul and the Corinthians, acted as a courier and mediator, and was also part of the team who delivered the financial offering from Gentile churches to Judean believers. He was highly regarded by Paul who called him his "partner" and "co-worker."
6. **What does it mean for a leader to be "blameless," as described in Titus?** "Blameless" does not mean sinless or perfect. Instead, it signifies that the person is living in a way that is consistent with the grace of the gospel. Their life should offer no convincing evidence of wrongdoing, and they should be committed to living a godly life characterized by repentance and growth in the gospel, which should be evident through the practical application of faith and in their daily life and interactions.
7. **What is the significance of the word "Savior" in the book of Titus?** The term "Savior" is used extensively in Titus, particularly in reference to both God and Jesus Christ. This usage is significant as it underscores the divinity of Jesus Christ. Since there is only one God, the Bible teaches there is only one Savior. By using the term "Savior" in association with both God and Jesus, Paul affirms that Jesus is indeed God and equal in essence with the Father. The use of "Savior" may also be contextual to Titus, who, as a Roman, might understand the term in a more comprehensive way and in a manner that connected it with divine rule.

8. **What is distinctive about the opening of the letter to Titus compared to other Pauline letters?** The prescript of Titus stands out because of its length. Paul includes 46 words in Greek between his name and the addressee, "Titus, my true son in our common faith." This is much longer than in most of Paul's other letters. This expanded section is packed with theological information about God's plan, his faithfulness, the role of apostles, and the hope of eternal life. It reinforces key theological themes from the outset and is likely done intentionally, both for Titus's understanding and to be used in instruction to the church in Crete.