

Titus - A Life That Attracts People to Jesus



- *Who has had the strongest positive influence on your life spiritually? What qualities did you observe in them that attracted you to Christ and the gospel?*

Someone has said that we should seek to be a witness for Jesus everyday and at every opportunity—and **when necessary, use words**. This statement reminds us of how important our behavior and attitudes are to our witness for Christ. Our actions often speak louder than our words. Our lifestyle must backup our witness.

There are two extremes that we must avoid in witnessing. One is to witness with our life without verbally explaining the gospel. The other is to verbally explain the gospel without the witness of our life. To be an effective witness we must have both the witness of our life and the witness of our lips.

The book of Titus helps us with this balance between the witness of our life and lips. The people on the Island of Crete had a credibility problem. They were seeking to win their Island to Christ when their behavior contradicted their verbal witness. Paul quoted one of the Cretan's own philosophers who said, "**Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons**" (Titus 1:12). Paul continued, "**This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith**" (1:13). Paul was emphasizing that the Cretan Christians will never be effective in winning people to Jesus if their life did not support their witness. Their life had to be proof that Jesus changes hearts and lives. Their life had to show a distinction between the believer's behavior, attitudes and values from that of their sinful world. In the same way, we cannot spiritually influence people around us unless there is harmony between our life and lips, our walk and witness.

Central Lesson:

Every Christian should seek to live a life that **ATTRACTS** people to **JESUS**.

Author: The book identifies the Apostle **PAUL** as the author (1:1). The Early Church Fathers identified Paul as the author throughout the first three centuries. They asserted this more for 1&2 Timothy and Titus than for any other epistles except Romans and 1 Corinthians.

Date: Titus was written about A.D. 66 or **64**. John MacArthur writes: "**The evidence seems clear that Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus shortly after his release from his first Roman imprisonment (ca. A.D. 62-64), and 2 Timothy from prison during his second Roman imprisonment (ca. A.D. 66-67), shortly before his death.**" (The MacArthur Bible Handbook, p.438).

Title: The book is named after the recipient—**TITUS**, who was one of Paul's converts (Titus 1:4) and close companion. Titus is not mentioned in Acts, but he is mentioned thirteen times in Paul's epistles.

- Titus was probably from Syrian Antioch and was one of the disciples mentioned in Acts 11:26.

- Titus was a Greek Christian who had not been circumcised. Paul brought him to Jerusalem as an example of the Greeks being saved by faith without the works of the law and without conformity to Jewish rituals (cf. Galatians 2:3).
- Paul probably took Titus with him when he left Antioch on his third missionary journey (Acts 18:22) because Paul sent him to Corinth on three occasions during that time (cf. 2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:5-7, 13-15; 8:6, 16-24).
- Titus is not mentioned again until Paul leaves him in Crete to finish the organizational and discipleship effort in the new church.
- Titus was with Paul at his second Roman imprisonment but left to go to Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10), probably an evangelistic mission.
- Paul referred to him as his "**dear brother**" (2 Cor. 2:13), "**partner who works with me**" (2 Cor. 8:23), and his "**true son in the faith**" (Titus 1:4). He praised the character and conduct of Titus in 2 Cor. 7:13-15; 8:16-17.

Key Verses: Titus 2:10. (NLT). "**...Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.**"

Titus 2:5 and 8 also reflect the idea of conveying the attractiveness of Christianity. Titus 2:5 "**...Then they will not bring shame on the word of God**" (NLT). Titus 2:8 "**Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us**" (NLT).

Key Chapter: Titus chapter **2**.

Titus 2:5, 8, 10 (and 3:8) reveal to us Paul's under-lying aim and purpose for this letter. In short—the Christian should live in such a way that it casts a good light on Christianity, that is, they attract people to Jesus. We should make lost people thirsty for Jesus, the living water (John 4:10-11).

Outline: -

Chapter 1 - Church Leadership That Attracts People to Jesus

Chapter 2 - Church Laity That Attracts People to Jesus

Chapter 3 - Christian Living That Attracts People to Jesus

Bible Teacher, John MacArthur, writes: "**...the major thrust of the epistle is that of equipping the churches of Crete for effective evangelism. This preparation required godly leaders who not only would shepherd believers under their care (1:5-9), but also would equip those Christians for evangelizing their pagan neighbors... In order to gain a hearing for the gospel among such people, the believers' primary preparation for evangelization was to live among themselves with the unarguable testimony of righteous, loving, selfless, and godly lives (2:2-14) in marked contrast to the debauched lives of the false teachers (1:10-16). How they behaved with reference to governmental authorities and unbelievers was also crucial to their testimony (3:1-8).**" (The MacArthur Bible Handbook, pp.452-453).

Central Lesson: Every Christian should seek to live a life that **attracts people to Jesus**.

To effectively influence others for eternity we must have both the witness of our life and the witness of our lips. Does your life attract people to Jesus?

Next Steps: ► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.