

Titus: Gentile inclusion and difficult reconciliation

What made Titus important to Paul's ministry?

Titus appears in Paul's letters as a Greek coworker, a trusted intermediary with Corinth, and a partner in organizing generosity. His uncircumcised status matters in Galatians because Gentiles belong to Christ without first becoming Jews.

A person within a disputed question

Paul takes Titus to Jerusalem and reports that Titus was not compelled to be circumcised. In Galatians, this personal detail supports the freedom of Gentile believers and the truth of the gospel. The letter's Jerusalem visit has been aligned with different visits in Acts; Titus's role should not be used to make one chronological reconstruction appear certain.

Biblical references: Galatians 2:1-10

Sources: letters, chronology

Carrying difficult news

Second Corinthians records Paul's anxiety while waiting for Titus and his relief when Titus brings news of the Corinthians' response. Titus is also involved in the collection for believers in Jerusalem. He is more than a delivery mechanism: Paul commends his concern and partnership. These passages show the emotional labor and accountable administration that accompany church reconciliation.

Biblical references: 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 · 2 Corinthians 7:5-16 · 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Sources: letters

Care, teaching, and integrity

The letter addressed to Titus presents work in Crete, appointment of elders, sound teaching, and practical goodness. Direct Pauline authorship of the Pastoral Letters is disputed in scholarship and defended in traditional evangelical interpretation. That debate should be labeled. Across the material, Christian leadership is accountable to the saving grace of Christ and its fruit in trustworthy conduct, not merely persuasive speech.

Biblical references: Titus 1:5-9 · Titus 2:11-14

Sources: letters, brown

Sources

- [letters] Romans through Philemon; passage references are supplied in each section. <https://ebible.org/web/>
- [chronology] Pauline Letters chronology: Acts, the letters, dated external anchors, and explicitly qualified reconstructions. <https://paulineletters.com/explore/timeline>
- [brown] Raymond E. Brown, An Introduction to the New Testament (Doubleday, 1997), chapter 30, “Who Wrote Titus and I Timothy?”.

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