

## Dave's Homework for Lesson 2

### Background Study for the Book of Titus

#### 1. Who is the author?

The opening text makes it clear that Paul is the author of this epistle.

#### 2. When was the book written?

This was written in the mid-60's AD, possibly between the years of 62 and 64 AD. It should be noted that this took place after the events of Acts and thus records the results of a post imprisonment journey in which Paul planted churches in Crete.

#### 3. What is the occasion for writing the book (why was it written)?

As mentioned above, Paul completed a journey to Crete and left Titus to make sure that the churches were properly established. False teachers seem to be the occasion for the letter. The description of the elders as well as the specific instruction for proper Christian living seem to be an intentional contrast with the false teachers. The exact nature of the false teaching is unknown but there seems to be a significant Jewish element with references to the "circumcision party" (1:10); "Jewish myths" (1:14); and perhaps ritual purity (1:15).

The false teaching which seemed to allow for licentious living would have been welcomed on the Island of Crete which was known throughout the ancient world for its immorality.

#### 4. What are some major themes which will be discussed?

The gospel by its very nature produces godliness in the lives of believers.

The importance of having godly men as elders.

True Christian living will commend the gospel to others.

It is important to deal clearly and firmly with doctrinal and moral error in the church.

The gospel is the basis for Christian ethics.

Some doctrines that are highlight include salvation, Christian works, and the importance of a sound faith.

5. What interpretive challenges await us in our study?

Are the children of 1:6 to be “faithful” or “believing”?

What is the blessed hope of 2:13?

6. What are you most excited to learn about the book?