

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF TITUS***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 1 - Titus' Task on Crete - Titus 1:1-16**

**Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.**

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

TIT 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-- [2] a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, [3] and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

TIT 1:4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

TIT 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint\* elders in every town, as I directed you. [6] An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. [7] Since an overseer\* is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. [8] Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. [9] He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

TIT 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. [11] They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain. [12] Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." [13] This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith [14] and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. [15] To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. [16] They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. How is Paul's description of himself at the beginning of this letter significant? (1:1)
2. How did Paul describe the faith that he had? (1:1-2)
3. In light of Paul's reference to Titus, what kind of relationship did these two believers have? (1:4)
4. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? (1:5)
5. For what reason was it necessary to appoint elders in the towns? (1:5, 10)
6. What qualifications were necessary to be an elder in Titus's church? (1:6-9)
7. Why is it necessary for an elder to be blameless? (1:7)
8. What is the result of holding firm to the "trustworthy message"? (1:9)
9. How should believers respond to "rebellious people" in the church? (1:10-13)
10. What were the rebellious people doing that Paul so strongly condemned? (1:11)
11. What did Paul tell his audience to pay no attention to? (1:14)
12. How is it possible to learn whether a person truly knows God? (1:16)