

# “GOD DOES NOT LIE”

Titus 1:1-4

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## INTRODUCTION

The Book of Titus is shorter than those of I & II Timothy and has often been overshadowed by them; but, since it is “rich in doctrinal and practical values” it is worthy of receiving careful attention. Titus is a letter from the apostle Paul to another one of his *young* “preacher boys.” We aren’t exactly sure how old Titus was at this point, but he has been in Paul’s circle of workers for at least 15 years. When we compare I Tim. 4:12 [Timothy’s youth] with Tit. 2:15 [“let no one despise you”—no mention of his youth], we may conclude with some plausibility that Titus was older than Timothy; however, But 2:6-7 may imply that he was still a relatively young man (“Urge the young men to be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds”).

In this book we learn about the young preacher, and we also learn about the apostle who sent him out and exhorts and motivates him through this letter. But even more importantly, we learn about the God who called and commissioned the apostle Paul and who saved Titus and through Paul sent him out to serve him.

We have a *great commission*, a *great ministry* to carry out, and a *Great God* who motivates and empowers us. God has chosen his people through faith in Christ, knowledge of the truth, resulting in godliness of life, and founded on the sure hope of eternal life—which the God who cannot lie has promised from eternity and manifested in the proper time through the atoning work of His Son and the entrusted preachers of the Good news.

## **GOD DOES NOT LIE—GOOD NEWS FOR BOTH THE PREACHERS AND THE BELIEVERS!**

### I. THE YOUNG PREACHER (4)

#### A. His Character

1. “True child”—genuine, not adopted, not illegitimate
2. “In a common faith”—shared with Paul and with other believers

Titus is not mentioned in the Book of Acts. Yet the NT gives us a fairly clear picture of him in II Cor. 2:13; 7:6-15; 8:6-24; 12:16-18; Gal. 2:1-3; Tit. 1:4-5; 3:12; and II Tim. 4:10—his name appears 13 times—nine in II Cor., twice in Gal., once in II Tim., and here in Tit. 1:4.

Surely Titus was one of Paul’s converts, since here in v. 4 Paul calls him “my true child in a common faith.” Some NT scholars are of the opinion that Titus was from Syrian Antioch and that he was converted there during the time of Paul’s effective ministry there prior to his first missionary journey (see Acts 11:19-26; cf. 14:26—return to Antioch after 1<sup>st</sup> journey; 15:2—departure from Antioch to Jerusalem to deal with circumcision controversy; and Gal. 2:1, 3. In other places Paul refers to Titus as his “brother” (II Cor. 2:13) and as his “partner and fellow worker” (II Cor. 8:23).

His name is not mentioned again until the time of Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (ca AD 53-57); perhaps Paul had taken him with him from Antioch (Acts 18: 22-19:1). Titus was one of those mentioned who ministered to him in Ephesus (Acts 19:22). Then Paul sent him to Corinth more

than once—likely twice: once from Ephesus when he was likely the bearer of I Cor. and initiated the offering for the Jerusalem saints, and once from Macedonia when he carried II Cor. to the city (see II Cor. passages listed above).

- B. His Christian gifts
  - 1. Their identity
    - Grace
    - Peace
  - 2. Their Source
    - From God the Father
    - [From] Christ Jesus our Savior [Christ equally deity with the Father]

## II. THE APOSTLE (1-3)

- A. His Position (1)
  - 1. Bondservant of God
  - 2. Apostle of Jesus Christ
- B. His Commission
  - 1. Entrusted with His “word”
  - 2. Proclamation of His “message”
  - 3. Command by “God our Savior” [note “Jesus Christ our Savior” in v. 4]
- C. His Purpose
  - 1. Faith of the elect
  - 2. Knowledge of the Truth
  - 3. Godliness of life—*the result*
  - 4. The Hope of eternal life—*the foundation*
- D. His Promise (2b)
  - 1. From a God who cannot lie
  - 2. From eternity
  - 3. To the *exactly right seasons* for manifestation
    - In the life & ministry and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:4)
    - In the Gospel proclamation of His servants

## CONCLUSION

God wants you **to believe the Gospel and be saved.**

God wants you **to know the truth.**

God wants you to become **godly in character and life.**

God wants you to live in the sure “hope”—confident expectation—of **eternal life.**

God promised it; God has manifested it.

You and I must preach it and live it.

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