

Titus: His growth and empowerment by Paul for ministry

1. Titus was a convert of Paul; He was a Gentile convert from early days in Antioch, perhaps in Acts 11:25, 26.¹ Titus was a son who brought much joy to his spiritual father in the faith. There is no greater joy than to know that our children are walking in the truth and being of service to the Lord. **(Connecting lost to Jesus.)**

Tit 1:4 *To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

2. Titus got right into ministry opportunities. Dr. Thomas Constable says, "Titus had been with Paul since the apostle's early ministry. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their mission of mercy to the Jerusalem church when Paul was laboring in Antioch of Syria, Titus' home. This happened before Paul's first missionary journey (Gal. 2:1; Acts 11:27-30)."² He was a Greek, uncircumcised believer that Paul and Barnabas used as testimony of changed life before the conference in Jerusalem. Paul's selection of Titus to bring to this crucial meeting speaks tons of the spiritual vitality, conviction and life change of this young convert. **(Life changing discipleship).**

Gal 2:1 *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.*

Gal 2:2 *I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.*

Gal 2:3 *But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.*

Gal 2:4 *Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in--who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery--*

Gal 2:5 *to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.*

Gal 2:6 *And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)--those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.*

Gal 2:7 *On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised*

Gal 2:8 *(for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),*

Gal 2:9 *and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.*

3. Titus was an associate of Paul for fifteen years or more. Paul calls him his brother (2 Cor. 2:13) and later his partner and fellow worker (2 Cor. 8:23). Titus had grown from a child to a brother. He was no longer an underling, but Paul had taught him to take his place as an equal in the work of the Church. **(Life changing discipleship, beginning of multiplying leadership)**

2Co 2:12 *When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord,*

2Co 2:13 *my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.*

2Co 8:23 *As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.*

4. Titus must have been with Paul on his third missionary journey. He served as Paul's emissary to Corinth when the church was rebelling. He was helpful in bringing them back repentance and loyalty. He carried the "severe letter" from Ephesus (2 Cor. 12:18; cf. 2 Cor. 2:3-4; 7:8-12) and, returning to Ephesus through Macedonia, met Paul in Macedonia (2 Cor. 7:6-16). **(Multiplying leaders, training, life in community)**

2Co 7:5 *For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn--fighting without and fear within.*

2Co 7:6 *But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,*

2Co 7:7 *and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.*

2Co 7:8 *For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it--though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while.*

2Co 7:9 *As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.*

2Co 7:10 *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

2Co 7:11 *For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.*

2Co 7:12 *So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.*

2Co 7:13 *Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.*

2Co 7:14 *For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true.*

2Co 7:15 *And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.*

2Co 7:16 *I rejoice, because I have perfect confidence in you.*

Titus travelled in Macedonia to collect funds that Paul had been raising. He was the leader of the group of men Paul sent to the churches in Macedonia and Achaia to pick up the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:6, 16, 23). **(Given leadership experiences, Generating local resources)**

2Co 8:1 *We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,*

2Co 8:2 *for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.*

2Co 8:3 *For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,*

2Co 8:4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints--
2Co 8:5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.
2Co 8:6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.
2Co 8:7 But as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you--see that you excel in this act of grace also.
2Co 8:8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.
2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
2Co 8:10 And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it.
2Co 8:11 So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.
2Co 8:12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.
2Co 8:13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness
2Co 8:14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.
2Co 8:15 As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

*[Barnes]The sense of this passage seems to be this, "We were encouraged by this unexpected success among the Macedonians. We were surprised at the extent of their liberality. And encouraged by this, we requested Titus to go among you and finish the collection which you had proposed and which you had begun. Lest you should be outstripped in liberality by the comparatively poor Macedonian Christians, we were anxious that you should perform what you had promised and contemplated, and we employed Titus, therefore, that he might go at once and finish the collection among you."*³

2Co 8:16 But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you.
2Co 8:17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord.
2Co 8:18 With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel.
2Co 8:19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will.
2Co 8:20 We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us,
2Co 8:21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.
2Co 8:22 And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you.
2Co 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.
2Co 8:24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

5. Titus walked in the same spirit. Barclay says, "(Paul) knew that Titus would deal with things as he would have dealt with them himself. Happy is the man who has a

lieutenant to whom he can commit his work, certain that it will be done in the way in which he himself would have wished to do it."⁴ **(Multiplying leaders)**

2Co 12:18 *I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?*

2Co 12:19 *Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved.*

6. Titus may have been included in the "us" of Acts 20:5. (2 Cor. 8:18 and 2 Cor. 12:18 mention another brother (who is famous among all the churches) being sent with Titus. Barclay says that this brother is commonly identified as Luke, and has been suggested that Luke and Titus were brothers. Titus not mentioned much in Acts, but Luke often says, "We did this" and "We did that". Maybe the "we" he is referring to is himself and Titus. Maybe they were not brothers, but they were both men of practical service.⁵ **(Life in Community)**

Act 20:1 *After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.*

Act 20:2 *When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.*

Act 20:3 *There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.*

Act 20:4 *Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.*

Act 20:5 *These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas,*

7. Paul empowers Titus and gives him a great task. He sends him to Crete to be an example, pattern, model of what Christians should be. (See also Titus 2:7, 1 Timothy 4:12). What a great compliment—not just go there and teach what a Christian should be like, but show them what they should be. **(New movement in Crete with empowered leader; Titus begins next generation)**

Tit 1:5 *This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you--*

8. Ending Well and Leaving a Legacy. The last reference to Titus mentions that he went to Dalmatia.

2Ti 4:10 *For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.*

2Ti 4:11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

2Ti 4:12 Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

Ending Well:

Demas not ending well: [From Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible, 2 Tim. 4:10]. "*For Demas hath forsaken me* - Demas is honorably mentioned in [Col 4:14](#); but nothing more is known of him than what can be gathered from that place and this - that he was at first a friend and fellow-laborer of Paul, but that, under the influence of a desire to live, he afterward forsook him, even in circumstances where he greatly needed the presence of a friend.

Having loved this present world - This does not mean, necessarily, that he was an avaricious man, or that, in itself, he loved the honors or wealth of this world; but it means that he desired to live. He was not willing to stay with Paul, and subject himself to the probabilities of martyrdom; and, in order to secure his life, he departed to a place of safety."⁶

Titus finishing well: [From John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible, 2 Tim 4:10]: "Titus to Dalmatia; who Titus was is well known; the place he went to, Dalmatia, is a country in Europe, a part of Illyricum, where the apostle had preached; see Gill on [Rom 15:19](#). Pliny says (e), that part of Pannonia, which lies to the Adriatic sea, was called Dalmatia; it had its name from Dalmius, a city in it. The Alexandrian copy reads "Dermatia". Here the apostle had doubtless been useful for the conversion of souls, and planting of churches, and therefore sent Titus thither, to assist them in their state and condition, and bring him an account of them. For in the "second" and "third" centuries we read of churches in Dalmatia; and likewise in the "fourth" century; for there were bishops from Dalmatia in the synod at Sardica; and in the "fifth" century, Glycerius was bishop of Salo, a city in this country; and in the "sixth" century, one Malchus was bishop of the Dalmatian church (f)." ⁷

Bobby Clinton on finishing well:

After an extensive investigation, J Robert Clinton, professor of leadership at Fuller Seminary concluded: 70% of leaders do not finish well!

Those who did not finish well had several common characteristics:

1. They plateaued-they stopped learning and growing
2. The attractiveness of their character diminished
3. They stopped living by convictions
4. They failed to leave a lasting legacy
5. They stopped leading, being aware of their influence and sense of destiny.
6. They lost their vibrant and dynamic walk with God.⁸

Compare Demas with Titus in each of these characteristics. How about us?

Additional comments and observations on the life of Titus:

Merrill C. Tenney says, "(Titus) seems to have been a stronger character than Timothy and better able to cope with opposition."⁹

It was said of Dundas, a famous Scotsman, by one of his friends, "Dundas is no orator; but he will go out with you in any kind of weather." When you are in need, you find out who your friends are. Titus was like that. When Paul was in need, Titus was there by his side. He was a companion for a difficult time and tough assignment when the trouble at Corinth hit its peak. Barclay describes him as having "the strength of mind and the toughness of fibre which enabled him to face and to handle a difficult situation." He was a man who brought order and peace out of chaos. He may not have been a gifted speaker, but he had a practical gift of administration. "The Church ought to thank God for the people to whom we turn whenever we want a practical job well done."¹⁰

The few references we have of Titus "reveal that he was a trustworthy, efficient, and valued young co-worker. He possessed a forceful personality, was resourceful, energetic, tactful, skillful in dealing with difficult situations, and effective in conciliating people."¹¹ (D. Edmond Hiebert in Expositor's Bible Commentary)

Tradition has it that Titus, may have become the first bishop of Crete, and later died there at an old age. Philip Hughes quotes Titus' successor, Andreas Cretensis, as having eulogized him in the following way: "*The first foundation-stone of the Cretan church; the pillar of the truth; the stay of the faith; the never silent trumpet of the evangelical message; the exalted echo of Paul's own voice.*"¹²

¹ Expositor's Bible Commentary Volume 11, p. 421 by D Edmond Hiebert commentary on Titus, Frank E. Gaeblein, General Editor.

² Dr. Thomas Constable notes on Titus found at :
<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/titus.pdf>

³ Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible on 2 Corinthians 8:6 found on E-Sword.

⁴ William Barclay, Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, p. 233.

⁵ William Barclay, Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, p. 233, 234.

⁶ Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible, 2 Tim. 4:10 found on E-Sword.

⁷ John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible, 2 Tim 4:10 found on E-Sword.

⁸ notes from Bobby Clinton study on leaders

⁹ Merrill Tenney, New Testament Survey, p. 337

¹⁰ William Barclay, Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, p. 233.

¹¹ Expositor's Bible Commentary by D. Edmond Hiebert, p. 422; Frank E. Gaeblein, General Editor)

¹² Philip E. Hughes, *Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians*, p. 76.