

## Synthetic Reading and Application Summary

Text: Titus

Atmosphere:

The apostle Paul writes to Titus, his “true son in our common faith” to instruct him from Nicopolis after having left him in Crete (3:12; 1:5). Paul left Titus in Crete for the purpose of tying up loose ends in establishing the church there and to “appoint elders in every town” (1:5). Therefore, Paul outlines the criteria by which elders ought to be chosen (1:6-9). Paul instructs Titus to sharply rebuke “the circumcision group” who promote “Jewish myths,” (1:10-16). Apparently, dishonesty, laziness, and gluttony were prominent problems among Cretan Christians and Paul instructs Titus to discipline them and set them an example by his own immaculate integrity (1:12; 2:5-7, 9-15; 3:1-2). Division, quarreling “foolish controversies and genealogies” were also problems among the Cretans, and Paul tells Titus to avoid them and to set a limit as to how many times a divisive person ought to be warned (3:9-11). Titus may have been having a hard time establishing his authority among the Christian Cretans for Paul exhorts him to “not let anyone disregard him” (2:15).

Highlights:

- *The Qualifications of an Elder:* When choosing elders or overseers of a church, one must be careful to choose godly men who meet these biblical standards (1:6-9).
- *Sound Church Discipline:* Firm rebuke must be administered to those who are corrupting the community and certain standards must be in place for correction and discipline (1:13; 2:15; 3:10).
- *Just say, “No” to Ungodliness:* The grace of God teaches us to reject world passions (2:11-15).
- *Key Passage:* on the qualifications of an elder (1:6-9); on setting an example (2:7); on rebuking with authority (2:15); on being subject to rulers and authorities (3:1, 2)

## Personal Application

- Principle: Titus 2:7 – In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Contemporary Situation: I sometimes leave my church teaching at the altar or in the classroom and do not live what I teach.

Application: If my teaching is to have weight and power, I must set an example by seriously attempting to live out the principles and practical applications of my teaching.