

Paul, whose interest had probably been aroused in the Cretans during the time when the ship was touching at Fair Havens, visited Crete and left Titus to continue the work which he had begun. The Cretes and Arabians were amongst those who had been present at the Day of Pentecost, so that there may have been before Paul's visit to the island some knowledge of Christianity, but probably of a low type, for we find that St. Paul had to spend his time chiefly in organizing the Church and endeavouring to give a higher tone of morality and spirituality to it.

Titus remained in Crete, as Timothy remained in Ephesus, and St. Paul brooded over the thought of his work and character with the affectionate interest which characterized him. Titus was strong but Paul, as well as other contemporary writers of the period, knew that the Cretans were a peculiarly low type of men, avaricious, quarrelsome, and intemperate, and, therefore, he sends a letter full of detailed instructions, containing what may be called the first principles of the morality of Christianity, which, although written for the use of the unruly and difficult Cretans, contains throughout a note of highest aspiration. Thus the Cretans are told to "deny ungodliness and worldly lust," and "to look for that blessed hope and the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." These letters to Timothy and Titus form what may be called the pastoral charters of Church order and discipline and contain definite instruction for the use of the student in the Theological college of to-day, which is far more direct, incisive and far-reaching than any other teaching that can be put into his hand.

As we read the Epistles we see that Paul in giving his parting charge to the two men who so soon were to fill his place is giving, though he does not know it, a charge through the Holy Ghost to the long succession of witnesses of Christ of all nationalities and throughout all succeeding ages, a standard of life and conduct which will continue until the great Shepherd and Bishop of their souls returns to call His servants to render account to Him of that which has been committed to their charge.