

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Number 38

Set In Order

By Jeff Asher

The Church on the [island of Crete](#) most likely had its beginning with the return of certain Jews converted in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus ([Acts 2:11](#)). It is impossible to assign a visit by any apostle other than Paul to this island before 62 A.D.

Paul's Influence There

Paul is recorded as having been on the island in the port of Fair Havens and the city of Lasea while in route to Rome. It is conceivable that Paul may have found and visited brethren during his lay over. However, none are mentioned ([Acts 27:1-14](#)).

After two years in [Rome](#), Paul was released from captivity. The epistles which he wrote just prior to his imprisonment and during it indicate that Paul was released ([Phil. 1:19-25](#)) and had definite plans about the continued evangelization of Mediterranean Europe ([Rom. 15:18-28](#)). Whether or not Paul realized all of his plans or not is difficult to say. However, that he was released and revisited many of the churches he established on the former three journeys is a reasonable conclusion.

Based on the evidence Paul very likely left Rome and traveled to Ephesus ([1 Tim. 1:3](#)). Leaving Timothy behind he came into Macedonia, very likely to [Philippi](#). From here Paul wrote 1 Timothy (cf. [1 Tim. 1:3](#)). Journeying south he passed through Greece

where Titus joined him at some point. Together they made their way to Crete where Paul left Titus for the purpose of maturing the Churches ([Titus 1:5](#)). From thence, Paul returned to Asia ([1 Tim. 3:14,15](#)) where he resided in Ephesus and visited the Asian Churches ([Phil. 22](#); [2 Tim. 4:13](#)).

At some point after this, Paul was arrested again and sent to Rome ([2 Tim. 4:6-12](#)). Paul was not without bitter enemies in Asia (Acts 19, 21:27-31; [2 Tim. 1:15](#); [2:17](#); [4:14](#)). He may have been charged and arrested there, or he may have journeyed again to Corinth and been arrested ([2 Tim. 4:20](#); cf. [Titus 3:13](#)). In either case, he was back in Rome and desired the companionship of his faithful friends and fellow laborers in the gospel ([2 Tim. 4:9](#)).

Set In Order The Things That Are Wanting

Paul left Titus in Crete for the purpose of setting in order the things that were wanting ([Titus 1:5](#)). Specifically, he was to ordain elders in every city.

There were obviously some among the Cretans that had been or were being influenced by the Judaizers (1:10). The false doctrine of circumcision had finally made its way to these saints (cf. [Acts 15:1ff.](#)). This was the principal error of

the first century and the one which occupied most of Paul's attention ([Phil. 3:1-3](#); [Gal. 5:6-12](#); [6:11-15](#)). Titus was no stranger to the conflict having been with Paul in it from the beginning ([Gal. 2:3-5](#)). Unlike Timothy whom Paul circumcised in order to use him in the work of converting Jews ([Acts 16:3-4](#)), Titus was from the other side of the conflict, one like Paul who recognized the liberty of the Gentiles and the danger of taking away that liberty ([Gal. 2:21](#)).

However, the Judaizers were not the only trouble on Crete. There was the problem of the Gentiles having lived in a society that was immoral and corrupt ([Titus 1:12](#); cf. [Rom. 1:18-31](#)). Thus, Paul writes about basic morality and human relationships ([Titus 2:11-12](#)). Titus was to be a good example in order that they might see in him what should be in themselves ([Titus 2:7-8](#)).

There was also the need to remind them of their duty to be obedient to the civil government, to live quietly among their fellows and to devote themselves to doing good deeds. If they would perfect themselves in this, they would be proper representatives of Christ ([Titus 2:10](#); [3:8](#)).

In order to accomplish this goal of mature Churches in every city, it was necessary that there be elders or bishops in every city. The maturation of the churches is

accomplished through the diligent oversight of qualified elders ([Titus 1:13,14](#)).

Elders provide a proper example of spiritual character, home life, morality and discipline to all believers ([Titus 1:16](#)). They have the knowledge and experience necessary to deal with those who would destroy the flock ([Titus 1:11](#)). Having demonstrated successfully that they do indeed "hold fast the faithful word," they have the respect of the saints and, thus, the influence to command others ([Titus 1:13](#)).

Modern Churches are no less in need of these spiritual guides today. Young families need good examples of parenting and spousal relationships. Preachers need the sound judgment that comes with experience to help them as they "speak, exhort and rebuke." There are still many "unruly and vain talkers and deceivers" whose mouths must be stopped. All Christians need encouragement and guidance concerning the daily trials that come on the job, at school or in the neighborhood.

What a blessing when things are in order.

-bibletalk.net

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Directory Information

There are several sheets ready for you to pick up on the table in the foyer. If you need your picture taken or updated, please see Amanda Willeford.

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Weekly Ladies Class

The Ladies' Class will meet this Wednesday, September 24, at **10:00 AM**. **Mary Burns** will be the teacher and all ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

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NEWS (continued from back page)

- **Emily Latson** has been ill, but was able to be with us on Wednesday night.
- **Bob Arnold** continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments
- **Boots Walker** continues to be very weak as he battles cancer. He is not able to attend services with us.
- Continue to remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Judy Hinson, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson, Ronald Stringer, and Bob Arnold.**
- Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*

NEWS

- **Kenny and Karen Ferguson's** grandson, **Kenneth Christopher Ferguson Jr.**, has been diagnosed with CHARGE syndrome. He has been improving, but is still at Children's hospital.
- **Judy Hinson's** cancer surgery is scheduled for September 22
- **Mike Lovell** has been suffering from cellulitis in his foot. He is currently back home.
- **Peggy Bellamy's** son-in-law, **Jimmy Franklin**, has suffered a stroke and is dealing with weakness on his right side and memory loss. (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 572-9306

DEACONS:

Ron Burns 577-9978
Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:

Jared Rogers 717-3788
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

September 28, 2014

**Serving The Lord's Supper
Sunday Morning**

Scripture: Thomas Hockaday

Zach Willeford **Alec Capel**
Colton Fulmer **Bobby Burns**

Sunday Evening

Zach Willeford **Alec Capel**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Ron Burns (Opening)
—Willie Don Davis (Closing)
PM—Kenneth Amerson (Opening)
—Andrew Arnold (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Kendall Johnson

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

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