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## COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

### **Titus**

*by Matthew Henry*

*To the Students of the Words, Works and Ways of God:*

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# AN EXPOSITION, WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS, OF

## THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO

### TITUS

This Epistle of Paul to Titus is much of the same nature with those to Timothy; both were converts of Paul, and his companions in labours and sufferings; both were in the office of evangelists, whose work was to water the churches planted by the apostles, and to set in order the things that were wanting in them: they were vice-apostles, as it were, *working the work of the Lord, as they did*, and mostly under their direction, though not despotic and arbitrary, but with the concurring exercise of their own prudence and judgment, <sup><430></sup>1 Corinthians 16:10, 12. We read much of this Titus, his titles, character, and active usefulness, in many places — he was a Greek, <sup><403></sup>Galatians 2:3. Paul called him *his son* (<sup><500></sup>Titus 1:4), *his brother* (<sup><403></sup>2 Corinthians 2:13), *his partner and fellow-helper* (<sup><403></sup>2 Corinthians 8:23), *one that walked in the same spirit and in the same steps with himself*. He went up with the apostles to the church at Jerusalem (<sup><403></sup>Galatians 2:1), was much conversant at Corinth, for which church he had *an earnest care*, <sup><403></sup>2 Corinthians 8:16. Paul's second epistle to them, and probably his first also, was sent by his hand, <sup><403></sup>2 Corinthians 8:16-18, 23; 9:2-4; 12:18. He was with the apostle at Rome, and thence went into Dalmatia (<sup><500></sup>2 Timothy 4:10), after which no more occurs of him in the scriptures. So that by them he appears not to have been a fixed bishop; if such he were, and in those times, the church of Corinth, where he most laboured, had the best title to him. In Crete (now called *Candia*, formerly *Hecatompolis*, from the hundred cities that were in it), a large island at the mouth of the Aegean Sea, the gospel had got some footing; and here were Paul and Titus in one of their travels, cultivating this plantation; but the apostle of the Gentiles, having on him the care of all the churches, could not himself tarry long at this place. He therefore left Titus some time there, to carry on the work which had been begun, wherein, probably, meeting with more difficulty than ordinary, Paul wrote this epistle to him; and yet perhaps not so much for his own sake as for the people's, that the endeavours of Titus, strengthened with apostolic advice and authority,

might be more significant and effectual among them. He was to see all the cities furnished with good pastors, to reject and keep out the unmeet and unworthy, to teach sound doctrine, and instruct all sorts in their duties, to set forth the free grace of God in man's salvation by Christ, and withal to show the necessity of maintaining good works by those who have believed in God and hope for eternal life from him.