

# Titus 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

## Analysis

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**For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting**—The verb ἐπιδιορθόω (epidiorthoō, to straighten further/set right) indicates ongoing correction. The Cretan church had foundational issues requiring apostolic authority. Paul's absence necessitated a duly authorized representative (Titus) to complete the organizational work.

**And ordain elders in every city** (καταστήσῃς πρεσβυτέρους, katastēsēs presbyterous)—"appoint elders," not by congregational democracy but apostolic authority. Presbyteros (elder) emphasizes maturity and experience. The phrase **in every city** shows the expectation of plural elders per congregation—biblical church polity avoids both lone-ranger leadership and leaderless egalitarianism. **As I had appointed thee**—Titus's authority derives from Paul's apostolic mandate, creating a chain of delegated authority for church order.

## Historical Context

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First-century Crete had multiple cities (Gortyna, Knossos, etc.) requiring gospel witness. The island's proverbial reputation for falsehood (1:12) demanded leaders of proven character. Unlike modern corporate CEOs, biblical elders were mature spiritual shepherds tested over time, meeting rigorous qualifications (1:6-9).

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Does your church practice biblical plurality of elders, or does one-man ministry contradict this clear pattern?
2. What "things that are wanting" in your church community require attention—doctrine, discipline, leadership, mission?
3. How do you balance respect for pastoral authority with the biblical right to test all teaching against Scripture?

## Interlinear Text

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Τούτου χάριν κατέλιπόν σε ἐν Κρήτῃ ἵνα τὰ  
For this cause left I thee in Crete that G3588  
G5127 G5484 G2641 G4571 G1722 G2914 G2443

λείποντα ἐπιδιορθώσῃ καὶ καταστήσῃς  
the things that are wanting thou shouldest set in order and ordain  
G3007 G1930 G2532 G2525

κατὰ πόλιν πρεσβυτέρους ὡς ἐγώ σοι διεταξάμην  
in every city elders as I thee had appointed  
G2596 G4172 G4245 G5613 G1473 G4671 G1299

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 14:23** (Parallel theme): And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

**1 Timothy 1:3** (Parallel theme): As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

**Ecclesiastes 12:9** (Parallel theme): And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

**1 Corinthians 14:40** (Parallel theme): Let all things be done decently and in order.

**Isaiah 44:7** (Parallel theme): And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.

**Acts 11:30** (Parallel theme): Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

**Acts 27:21** (Parallel theme): But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

**Acts 27:12** (Parallel theme): And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

**Acts 27:7** (Parallel theme): And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

**1 Corinthians 11:34** (Parallel theme): And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.