

PM Jan. 21, 34  
W.V.

Left in a Hard Place

Titus

1:12

+

1:15

We will take you to-day to Crete an island in the eastern part of the Mediterranean sea. This island is some 158 miles long and very narrow.

In the time of Paul there were many Jews there. Even Jews who had been at Pentecost. In Acts 2:11 Creteans are named as being present.

On this island there were no beasts but Epimenides a Cretan poet said that the men there supplied their (the beasts) place. "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, gluttons."

Paul visited the place between his first and second imprisonments at Rome, and left Titus there and said, "For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting - and ordain elders in every city."

We will have to confess that it was a bad place to leave a person where every body were hois and beastly.

This letter to Titus must have been in answer to a letter from Titus to Paul. Imagine a letter.

"Dear Paul, This is an awful place etc. please tell me to leave."

then Paul writes back, "I know it is a bad place - their prophets say that they are hois, beasts, and idle gluttons but Crete needs you, it needs to be reconstructed. This is why I left you there."

Let us put ourselves in Titus' place. He thought likely on this line: "Paul is right - Happiness is not found but is created. So why not start in Crete as any where else?"

I guess all of us have been in Crete - why run away from hardship trying to find happiness? why not create it?

In Crete to-day they are excavating foundations of church from which went out teachers and preachers to fight paganism in the Roman Empire, whose name do you find on those churches? Titus - Saint Titus.

He found existence he created life.  
See a Scotch boy - Rev. A. Gordon - landed in Boston over 50 yrs ago. His father told him that his abilities were below the average. He was one of best scholars Howard ever graduated - celebrated 40th anniversary as D.D. of Old South Ch. Boston - His existence was what he found - his life was what he created.

Maybe we try to surround our children with too many luxuries - and do not teach them to tackle life's

hard places enough.

- ② I think it would say again "Paul is right - this is good Christianity" Christ belongs in Crete - He is always looking for Crete - "This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them" Suppose Christ would say, "I will leave the bad situation," a devil out of the unseen would have said, "For this cause sent I thee into the world," "They that are whole need not the physician."

The greatest joy in life is creativeness, even in realm of physical things.

Ill. The mail pilot who fell to his death in Peru, penning these words B. 4. dying "I go west but with a cheerful heart. I hope what small sacrifice I have made may be of use to the cause. we are of one, they say. But we risk our necks for the world at large - ~~stand~~ to it boys."

The joy of every true preacher is not crowds but once in awhile he may exercise a creative influence over some soul. Chorus girl in N.Y.

Columbus must have been thrilled to add the new world to the map but no more or than to find a soul in Crete and lead it the way up.

Titus must have said another thing  
"Paul was right the test of a man's  
faith in God is his power to see  
him through a tight place."

When one is in Crete how much  
easier it is to be indignant than  
constructive - maybe Titus would  
have liked to have said, "you are  
hors d'oeuvres" and left. But that is  
not always the best.

Some like to berate the church  
and say hard things but Titus built  
a better Crete - though unpleasant  
to do, we are to build a better home,  
church, and community and not  
throw up our hands and leave.

You have your Crete and I  
have mine. Our inward problem  
is to keep Crete from becoming  
our spiritual enemy and make  
it our friend.

Ill. The boy and the tiger he  
would dream of every night.  
Psychologist said, "The tiger is try-  
ing make friends so next time  
hold out your hand and  
say 'Hello, old chap!'"

The dragons in old myths when  
boldly forced turned out to be  
princesses in disguise. Happy

is the man who can so transform  
his Cretes and tame his tigers.

"For this cause I left thee in Crete  
that thou shouldst set in order  
the things that are wanting  
and ordain elders for every city!

