



Liars, Brutes, and Gluttons A Relevance-Theory Solution for Titus 1:12

Isaiah Allen

Did the author of Titus consider Cretans to be liars, brutes, and gluttons, or was he confronting bigotry head-on? Isaiah Allen revisits long-held, conventional interpretations of Titus 1:12 that maintain that the author, using Paul's name, considered Cretans to be crude, vicious, and worthy of rebuke. Based on insights from the cognitive linguistics approach of relevance theory, Allen contends that the way Titus's original first-century audience would have engaged the text is quite different from how many modern interpreters read it. Additionally, Allen proposes that the letter's context corresponds more closely to the situation of the early church during the lifetime of Paul than many conventional interpretations suggest. Allen concludes that Paul was not participating in bigotry but instead exposed and rebuked it in his letter to Titus. Allen examines linguistic evidence that reveals an ancient biblical antibigotry message that presages modern sensibilities about ethnic prejudice and racism.

Isaiah Allen is Assistant Professor of Religion at Booth University College in Winnipeg, Canada. He is the coauthor of *In Their Own Words: The Greek New Testament for Students and Pastors* (2015).

January 2025, 346 pages

Emory Studies in Early
Christianity 29

Paperback \$55.00

ISBN 9781628375985

Hardcover \$75.00

ISBN 9781628376050

E-book \$55.00

eISBN 9781628376067

PURCHASES, EXAM AND DESK COPIES:

SBL Press Customer Service
P.O. Box 2243, Williston, VT 05495
Phone: 802-864-6185 / 877-725-3334 (toll-free)
Fax: 802-864-7626
Email: sblpressorders@aidcvt.com
<https://cart.sbl-site.org/books>

REQUEST REVIEW COPIES FROM:

SBL Press
Heather McMurray, Sales Manager
Email: heather.mcmurray@sbl-site.org