

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO TITUS

1 Paul, a slave of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the awakening of faith among the chosen people of God, and of knowledge of the truth that produces godliness, ²in hope of everlasting life (God who cannot lie promised this long ages since; ³and he has at his own good time made his word plain through the message that was put in my keeping by the command of God our Saviour);

⁴To Titus, my true son in the faith we share;

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

⁵I left you in Crete with the intention that you should finish putting things in order there, and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you, ⁶men under no charges, married only once, with children who are believers, who are not accused of loose living, and who are not disorderly. ⁷For a *bishop (as being God's agent) must be under no charges; he must not be self-willed or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or a trader in spiritual things; ⁸he must be a generous host, a lover of goodness, master of himself, a just man, religious, self-controlled; ⁹he must hold fast to the sure word as it has been taught, so that he may be able both to strengthen others with sound teaching and to meet objections.

¹⁰For there are many disorderly persons, empty talkers and deceivers, especially the circumcision party; ¹¹their mouths must be stopped, since they are overturning whole households by teaching for dirty money what they ought not to teach. ¹²One of themselves, their own prophet, said, Cretans are always liars,

wild beasts, idle bellies. ¹³That is a true saying. Rebuke them severely, therefore, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴instead of paying attention to Jewish tales, and to rules laid down by men who have disowned the truth. ¹⁵To the pure all things are pure; but to the impure and unbelieving nothing is pure; their thinking and their consciences are impure. ¹⁶They declare that they know God, but they disown him by their deeds; they are hateful, disobedient and unfit for any kind of good work.

2 What you teach them yourself must be in accordance with sound teaching. ²The older men are to be temperate, serious, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. ³The older women, in the same way, are to be reverent in manner, not tale-bearers or slaves to drink; they must teach what is good, ⁴so as to train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, chaste, good housewives, kind, and under the direction of their husbands, that the word of God may not be spoken against.

⁶Urge the younger men, in the same way, to be self-controlled. ⁷Show yourself in everything a model of good conduct, and in your teaching show sincerity, seriousness, ⁸and sound teaching which none can criticize, so that opponents may be put to shame by finding nothing evil to say against us.

⁹Slaves must be under the direction of their masters, and give them satisfaction in everything; they must not give rude answers; ¹⁰they must not steal; they must show themselves entirely faithful, so that they may in everything be an ornament to the teaching of God our Saviour.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, ¹²and it trains us to disown ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, righteous, and godly lives in this present world, ¹³while we wait for the blessed thing we hope

for, the appearing of the glory of the great God and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us, that he might deliver us from all wickedness, and purify a people to be his own possession, a people zealous for good deeds.

¹⁵Tell them these things, encourage them, rebuke them with full authority; let none treat you as of no importance.

3 Remind them to be loyal to rulers and authorities, and obedient and ready for any honest work; ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrels, to be friendly and to show perfect gentleness to everyone. ³For we ourselves were once senseless, disobedient, in error, slaves to lusts and pleasures of all kinds, living in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he saved us not by righteous works which we did ourselves, but of his own mercy, by means of the washing of the new birth, and new life in the Holy Spirit. ⁶This he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷that we might be delivered by his grace, and become heirs in hope of everlasting life. ⁸This is a word you can trust.

I desire you to declare these things, so that those, that have put their faith in God, may be careful to give themselves to honest kinds of work: these are fine things and useful to man. ⁹But avoid foolish discussions and family-trees and quarrels and fights over the law, for they are useless and fruitless. ¹⁰If a man is quarrelsome, warn him once and a second time, and then avoid him; ¹¹for you may be sure that a man like that is crooked at heart and living in sin: he is self-condemned.

¹²When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, try hard to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to pass the winter there. ¹³Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey; see that they have all they need. ¹⁴Let our

people learn to give themselves to honest kinds of work, so as to meet special needs: they must not be unfruitful.

¹⁵All who are with me greet you; greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all.