

TITUS

Paul writes to Titus (1:1-4)

1 From Paul, God's servant, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ to encourage faith in God's chosen ones and to bring them knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness. ²This is the result of the hope of eternal life that was promised by God from the beginning of time; and He never lies! ³At the appointed time, this life was revealed through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour.

⁴To Titus, my true child in the faith we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour impart grace and peace to you.

Elders and overseers (1:5-9)

⁵I left you in Crete so that you could set in place the things that were lacking in the church there and so that you could appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶Elders should be men who live blameless lives, have only one wife, with children who are believers and not open to charges of being wild or unruly.

⁷It is essential that an overseer of God's people also leads a blameless life, for he is called to please God by doing His works rather than living for himself. So he is not to have a liberal sexual lifestyle, nor be a drunkard, nor one who is violent or out for his own gain. ⁸No, he should be hospitable, one who loves what is good, and is upright, holy and self-controlled. ⁹He must be a firm believer in God's revealed Word, so that he may be able to teach others correctly and stand against those who oppose the truth.

Rebuke the rebellious (1:10-16)

¹⁰There are many rebellious people who speak empty words to deceive others. I refer especially to the Jewish legalistic party. ¹¹They must be silenced, for they upset whole households by teaching what they have no right to teach, only to fulfil their own base objectives. ¹²One of their own prophets actually said, "All Cretans are liars, evil beasts, who are greedy and lazy." ¹³⁻¹⁴Truly this is what was said.

Therefore be strong in the way you rebuke such so-called prophets so that the people may believe the truth, instead of listening to Jewish myths or to the commands of men who pervert the truth.

¹⁵To those who are pure, everything is pure; but to the corrupt and unfaithful, nothing is pure; both their minds and consciences have been defiled. ¹⁶They claim to know God, but their actions deny this, for they do what is abominable in God's sight. They are disobedient and incapable of doing anything good!

Orderly living (2:1-15)

2 But you are to be very different because you teach what is right. ²Encourage the older men to live sober lives, being serious, sensible and sound in what they believe, in the way they love and in persevering in obedience. ³⁻⁵In like manner, older women should have a godly disposition. They should not slander others nor be slaves to drink. Instead, they should teach what is good and right so that they can train the younger women correctly: to love their husbands and children, to be sensible and pure, to be good homemakers who are kind and submissive to their husbands, so that God's Word is not in any way discredited.

⁶In the same way, you are to encourage the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷⁻⁸Show them by your example how to live a good life. Teach with integrity, with depth and with the soundness that cannot be refuted; so that any who oppose the truth may be shamed, having nothing bad to say about us.

⁹Teach workers to obey their employers in every way, seeking to please them and not argue with them. ¹⁰They are not to steal anything, but are to prove themselves trustworthy, so that they are good examples of the teaching of God our Saviour.

¹¹For the saving grace of God has appeared for all men. ¹²⁻¹⁴He teaches us to deny our fleshly desires and lusts so that we might live sober, upright and godly lives in this present time, as we await the fulfilling of the great blessing for which we long, when the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ is revealed, He who sacrificed Himself on our behalf. In doing this, He paid with His own blood to rescue us from all that is sinful, and to make us a people God could possess for Himself, who long to please Him by doing good.

¹⁵Titus, proclaim these things clearly. Both encourage and correct, using fully the authority given you. And do not allow anyone to despise you!

Devotion to that which is good (3:1-15)

3 Remind the people to submit themselves to the secular rulers and authorities by being obedient to the law and ready to do good in any way possible. ²Tell them not to speak badly of anyone, nor be argumentative. Instead, they are to be patient, giving an example of humility to everyone.

³There was a time when we ourselves were foolish, disobedient, easily led astray and more than ready to satisfy our lusts and fleshly desires. We did what was evil, envying others; we were hated by others and hated them in return!

⁴⁻⁶But when our God and Saviour's kindness and love were revealed He saved us, not by any works of our self-righteousness, but through His own mercy. He saved us by washing away our past and giving us a new birth, by making us new through the Holy Spirit that He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour. ⁷So we are made completely acceptable to God by His grace and have become heirs with the expectation of eternal life. This is the Word of truth on which you can depend.

⁸I want you to affirm these truths with great confidence, so that those who trust in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good and pleasing to Him. This is the right and profitable way for everyone to live.

⁹Avoid foolish arguments, interest in family trees, quarrels and fighting over legal niceties. All such things are vain and useless.

¹⁰⁻¹¹If anyone causes unrest and division, warn him once or twice, knowing that such a person has departed from the truth, is sinful and self-condemned.

¹²When I send Artemas and Tychicus to you, come as soon as possible to Nicopolis where I have decided to spend the winter.

¹³Do all you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so they lack nothing. ¹⁴Let all our people learn to persist in doing good deeds, so that those with pressing needs can be helped, and so that they will not themselves prove to be unfruitful.

¹⁵All with me send you their love. Give my best to those who love us in the faith. May God's grace be with you all.

