

# TITUS

4-14-17 AA

## CHAPTER ONE

This letter is from Paul, a voluntary slave-for-life of God and a specially-chosen missionary of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim the Gospel of the Grace of God through Faith in Jesus to those God has chosen to be saved and to teach them to know the truth that shows us how to live godly lives, 2 and gives us confidence that we have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised us before the world began, 3 but has now at this time revealed this message by entrusting me with the work of announcing it everywhere I go, by the command of God our Savior.

4 I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace.

5 I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. 6 An elder must live a blameless life. He must be married, and faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. 7 An elder is a manager of God's household, a representative of God - responsible to oversee a house church - so he must live a blameless life. He must not be demanding or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money.

8 Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a holy and disciplined life. 9 He must be a firm believer in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

10 For there are many disruptive people who engage in unproductive prattle and lead others astray. This is especially true of those who insist on keeping the Old Testament, Jewish Law for salvation. 11 They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money. 12 Even one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, "The Cretians are all liars, wicked animals, lazy gluttons." 13 This is an apt description. So reprimand them sternly to make them strong in the faith. 14 They must stop listening to Jewish tradition and the commands of people who have turned away from the truth.

15 Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.

TITUS 2

As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. 2 Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

3 Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. 4 These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, 5 to live wisely and be pure, to be good homemakers, to minister to others, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the message of Christianity.

6 In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. 7 And you yourself must be an example to them in ministering to others. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. 8 Teach the truth carefully so that what you say and the way you say it cannot be criticized. Then those who oppose you will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about you.

9 Employees must always obey their employers and do their best to please them. They must not talk back 10 or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.

11 For the message of the grace of God that brings us salvation has been revealed to all people. 12 And, as saved people, this message motivates us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures, and to live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

13 while we look eagerly forward to the fulfillment of our blessed hope - the Rapture! that wonderful day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, comes to take us to Heaven. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his special people - totally committed to ministering His life and goodness to others.

15 It is your responsibility to teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.

### TITUS 3

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should obey the law; be always ready to minister to others; 2 not slander anyone; avoid quarreling and, instead, be gentle and show true humility to everyone.

3 For, once, we too were foolish and disobedient, deceived and slaves to many lusts and pleasures, full of malice and envy, hateful and hating each other.

4 But, when the love and kindness of God our Savior was revealed to us, 5 God saved us from that kind of lifestyle — not because of any good things we had done, but totally because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit 6 who He generously poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 By his grace he made us perfectly right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

8 It is very important, and I want you to insist on it, that all who trust in God devote themselves to ministering Christ's life to others. This lifestyle is good and beneficial for everyone.

9 Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time. 10 If people are causing divisions among you about these things, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. 11 For people like that have turned away from the truth, and their own lives prove it.

12 I am planning to send either Artemas or Tychicus to you. As soon as one of them arrives, do your best to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to stay there for the winter. 13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos with their trip. See that they are given everything they need. 14 Our people must learn to minister to the needs of others; then they will not be unproductive.

15 Everybody here sends greetings. Please give our greetings to the believers there - all who love us.

May God's grace be with you all.