

# Paul's Letter to TITUS

Dear Titus, my true son in the faith and assurance which is available to everyone:<sup>a</sup>

**T**his is from Paul, a slave-servant<sup>b</sup> of God and a messenger of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to further the faith of those whom God has chosen,<sup>c</sup> so they may recognize and agree with the truth that they must now live new lives that are pleasing to God.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>2</sup>They will then share our sure hope and assurance that we will live forever. It's our God who never lies who promised this, and He did so even before the beginning of time.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Then at the right time, He brought this Great News to light; when God our Savior entrusted me with it<sup>a</sup> and commanded me to preach it.

<sup>4</sup>Titus, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior grant you favor you never could have earned, resulting in God being merciful to you and giving you great peace of mind.

## *What Titus Was to Do in Crete*

<sup>5</sup>The reason I left you in Crete was to enable you to take care of whatever still needed to be done there among the churches, and especially to appoint church elders<sup>a</sup> in every city who would meet the qualifications I instructed you to insist on.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, an elder must be one who cannot justly be charged with any wrongdoing. He must have only one wife. His children must be followers of the Lord, children who cannot justly be accused of being wild and disobedient.

<sup>7</sup>To be an overseer of God's work, he must be blameless in every respect. He must not be one who always demands that things must be done his way, not quick-tempered or violent, not addicted to wine, not greedy for money, especially for money gotten by ignoble or dishonest means.

<sup>8</sup>Instead he must be one who truly enjoys opening his home to guests. He must love what is good and wholesome, be a man of common sense, one who is just and fair, devoted to God, and self-controlled.

<sup>9</sup>He must continue to hold firmly to the truth he has been taught, so that by sound teaching that is without defect, he may be able to further instruct and encourage the Lord's followers, and convince those who oppose the truth that they are wrong.

<sup>10</sup>Because there are many who rebel against obeying the truth. Some try to justify their stand by glib and empty talk, deceiving themselves and doing their best to deceive others. This is especially true of those who claim we must be circumcised and obey other Jewish rituals in order to be saved.

<sup>11</sup>They must be silenced, because they're overthrowing the faith of whole families by teaching things they have no business teaching. Their only concern is to please certain people because of their money.

<sup>12</sup>Even one of their own Cretan prophets spoke against them, saying, "All that these Cretans do is lie! They're like vicious wild animals! What's more, they're lazy, thinking only about having the best food and plenty of it."

<sup>13</sup>This is true. So you must make a practice of scolding such people sharply, so that the Lord's followers there may become sound in the faith,

<sup>14</sup>and will not continue to be influenced by Jewish myths or rules laid down by those who constantly reject the truth.

<sup>15</sup>Because we, whose hearts have been purified by Christ, look upon all food as pure and acceptable,<sup>a</sup> but for those who are legalistic, nothing is pure enough. Even their minds and consciences are impure.

<sup>16</sup>Such people say they know God, but the way they live denies their claim. They are detestable,

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**1:1a** This salutation is actually in v 4 in the Greek text.

**1:1b** See Romans 1:1.

**1:1c** See Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9.

**1:1d** See 2 Corinthians 5:17 note.

**1:2a** This seems to indicate that before God created anything by which time could be measured He

promised His Son, whom we know as Jesus, that He would grant eternal life to all who would receive Him as their Lord and Savior.

**1:3a** ... *together with others* ...

**1:5a** This does not mean that the churches had no say in these choices.

**1:15a** Romans 14:14, 20; Colossians 2:16; 1 Timothy 4:4-5.

disobedient, and worthless as far as accomplishing anything of present or eternal value.

### *Instructions for Various Groups*

**2** But as for you, Titus, keep speaking out and saying all that should be said in support of solid Christian teaching.

<sup>2</sup>Teach the older men to use self-control, to be dignified and sensible, to be strong in the faith, strong in love, and determined to remain altogether faithful to Jesus until they are finally glorified with Him.

<sup>3</sup>Likewise, teach the older women to honor God by the way they live. Insist that they not indulge in malicious gossip nor become enslaved to wine. Instead they should be teaching others what is right and good.

<sup>4</sup>Instruct them to teach the younger women to truly love their husbands,<sup>a</sup> and to give true parental love to their children.

<sup>5</sup>They should also teach them to be wise and sensible in all their conduct, never to cheat on their husbands, to gladly do the work that needs to be done in the home, and to be kind and submissive to their husbands so that God's word won't be mocked and ridiculed by those who know how they live.

<sup>6</sup>In the same way, you must continue to challenge the young men to be serious-minded about fully obeying God.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Of course, you yourself must continue to set a good example for them by always doing what's right, if these challenges are to be effective. So

make sure that when you teach you are in earnest, and serious, giving the whole truth without compromise, not corrupting the word of God.

<sup>8</sup>Use facts and arguments<sup>a</sup> that cannot be proven false, so that those who oppose you will be ashamed, because they'll have nothing to criticize regarding how you live or about what you've said.

<sup>9</sup>Challenge those who work for others<sup>a</sup> to be obedient to their employers,<sup>b</sup> doing their best to please them in everything.

<sup>10</sup>They must never talk back, nor steal from them, but always act in such a way that they can be fully trusted. As they deal honorably with their employers, in all situations, they will bring honor to the teaching of God our Savior.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Because God is now offering us kindness we don't deserve by offering forgiveness and eternal life to everyone.

<sup>12</sup>This Great News teaches us that we are to turn from a life that leaves God out, and from living to satisfy improper worldly desires. Instead, we are to live self-controlled, upright lives that please God as we live in this present age.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>13</sup>As we do so, we are to look forward with great anticipation to the blessed hope and assurance we have of the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>14</sup>He gave His life to redeem us, so that He might liberate us from living in all kinds of disobedience to God. He also did this to purify us for Himself, to be His very own special people who would be most eager to do whatever is right and good.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>15</sup>These are the things, then, that you must con-

*2:4a ... with the sincere and intimate conjugal love that needs to be constantly experienced between husband and wife ... There's a saying that "Four hugs a day are needed for love to even survive. Four more are needed for maintenance. And a total of twelve hugs a day are needed if love is to grow!"*

*2:6a ... and gaining the mastery over the appetites and passions of youth, because they never know when they may die and be called to stand before their Maker and Judge.* If they continue to live, and live to please God, they will receive a full reward at the Judgment for having faithfully obeyed and served their God and Savior thruout life. See 2 John v 8.

*2:8a ... mainly from the word of God ...*

*2:9a Literally slaves.*

*2:9b Literally masters.*

*2:10a ... resulting in others being attracted to Him.*

*2:12a Leaving God out* includes ignoring God

most of the time, even if you claim to be a Christian. He wants your constant companionship! You need to give God twelve hugs a day too (by enthusiastic praise and thanksgiving) (See v 4 note) if your love for Him is to grow. He loves you that much. The grace message of v 11 must include the teaching emphasized in this verse, or there will be no conversion, no born-again experience, no eternal life. Matthew 28:20; Proverbs 3:6.

**2:13a** As we have accepted the undeserved favor God offers us, and have accepted Christ as Lord of our lives, we indeed have the assurance of that blessed hope of the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Those who believe that Christ will come for the true Christians before the tribulation, claim that Paul had the pre-tribulation Rapture in mind when he spoke of that blessed hope.

But that this verse teaches a pre-tribulation Rapture is not evident. The blessed hope is that we will see Him in all His glory. But the time of His appear-

tinually teach and preach. You must continue to admonish and rebuke with the full authority that is rightfully yours! And don't let anyone at any time have any good reason to despise you.<sup>a</sup>

### *How to Behave as a Christian*

**3** Constantly remind the people that they are to be in willing subjection to the government in power and to those chosen to enforce the laws. They should obey and be ready to do whatever is good and right.

<sup>2</sup>Tell them not to speak evil of anyone, or to be quarrelsome, but in the spirit of true humility to be gentle and kind to everyone.

<sup>3</sup>Because there was a time when we ourselves were foolish, living in utter disobedience to God. We were fooled into living to satisfy only the various desires of our body and mind. So we lived for pleasure.<sup>a</sup> But this only resulted in our wanting to hurt others before they hurt us, and being jealous of what others had; hating them and being hated by them.

<sup>4</sup>But all of that changed when God our Savior revealed His kindness and love for us.

<sup>5</sup>This had nothing to do with anything we had done to earn His love. It was only by His mercy that He saved us from such a life. He recreated our lives and made new people out of us by washing and renewing us by the Holy Spirit.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>6</sup>It was God who so generously poured out the Holy Spirit on us thru Jesus Christ<sup>a</sup> our Savior.

<sup>7</sup>So it was all because of God's undeserved kindness and mercy toward us that we have been made right with Him. And now, because God has also made us His heirs,<sup>a</sup> we live in joyful anticipation and assurance that we will live forever!

<sup>8</sup>These are such trustworthy statements! And I want you to constantly and most emphatically

challenge the Lord's followers everywhere with these marvelous truths. This should strongly inspire those who believe God to take great care to keep up the practice of spending their lives in doing what is right and good. They'll all find out that doing so will be for their good, and for their profit.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>9</sup>But avoid foolish arguments, such as placing importance on one's ancestors, and arguments and heated debate about the Law. Such arguments don't help anyone. They're so useless!

<sup>10</sup>Warn anyone who causes divisions over unimportant matters. But if he refuses to stop after a second warning, have nothing more to do with him.

<sup>11</sup>You must conclude that such a person has twisted the truth because of his own sinning. But you can also know that his conscience is condemning him.

### *Final Remarks*

<sup>12</sup>I plan to send either Artemas or Tychicus to you. After they arrive, please make every effort possible to come to me at Nicopolis, because I've decided to spend the winter there.

<sup>13</sup>Send Apollos and Zenas the lawyer on their way as quickly as possible, and make sure they have everything they'll need.

<sup>14</sup>Also teach our people always to have a vital part in such good projects. Learning to meet urgent needs like this will enable them to make sure that they're not living useless lives.

<sup>15</sup>Everyone here with me sends you their greetings. Greet everyone who loves us because of our mutual faith in Jesus. May God's blessings abound toward all of you! So be it!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Paul

ing is not stated or even implied in this verse. The time when He will appear to receive His own to Himself is revealed in Matthew 24:29-31.

**2:14a** This describes the true Christian. A true Christian doesn't obey the Lord just when it's convenient or to his liking. Instead, he earnestly wants to be dead indeed to all selfish desires. He is *eager to do whatever is right and good*. His main desire in life is to please the Lord in everything. He has his eye on the goal: eternity with Christ!

**2:15a** ... *for being a hypocrite and living in sin,*

*or for preaching an easy way to Heaven, in order to please some of the people, instead of preaching the full, true message, and pleasing God.* Matthew 24:45-51.

**3:3a** ... *indulging our various corrupt passions, and our natural appetites in a wrong way.*

**3:5a** Ephesians 5:26; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

**3:6a** Acts 2:33.

**3:7a** Romans 8:14-17.

**3:8a** Galatians 6:7-10.