

## The Epistle of Paul to Titus

*Titus was most likely a Gentile from Macedonia (Gal. 2:3) who was led to Christ by Paul (Titus 1:4). Titus was with Paul in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1) when some dogmatic, Jewish brethren insisted that Titus should be circumcised Paul would not allow it (Gal. 2:3-5) because this would have suggested that all non-Jewish Christians were second-class citizens in the church.*

*Titus remained as Paul's traveling companion and may have been with Paul when he wrote the letter to the Galatians. After Paul's release from his imprisonment in Rome, Titus traveled with Paul to do mission work in the East. They landed at Crete and evangelized several towns (Titus 1:5). However, since Paul was unable to stay, he left Titus on Crete to complete the organization of congregations in that region. Titus met with considerable opposition and insubordination in the church, especially from the Jews (Titus 1:10). It is quite possible that Titus had written to Paul to report this problem and ask for spiritual advice. Paul responded with this short letter encouraging him to complete the process of organization, to ordain elders, to exercise his won authority firmly, and to teach sound doctrine while avoiding unnecessary strife.*

*Paul asked Titus to join him at Nicopolis (Titus 3:12), where he planned to spend the winter. It is probable that Titus was dispatched from there on a new mission to Dalmatia (2 Tim. 4:10).*

*The letter was probably delivered by Zenas and Apollos (Titus 3:13). It is believed, however, that Paul penned this sometime between his first and second imprisonments in Rome (9ca. A.D. 64) when he was in the city of Nicopolis (Titus 3:12). This was about the same time that the book of 1 Timothy was written. The instructive tone of this epistle to Titus is similar to that of Paul's first letter to Timothy. Both Titus and Timothy endured much criticism from false teachers during their ministries Paul exhorts Titus to continue to preach sound doctrine (Titus 2:1) and to use wise judgement concerning the appointing of leaders in the church (Titus 1:5-9).*

*(Key Word Bible, page 1507)*

### Chapter 1

1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

*Apostle 652, Apostolos, ap-os'-tol-os; from 649; a delegate; specially an ambassador of the gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ["apostle"] (with miraculous powers): -apostle, messenger, he that is sent.*

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### *The Qualifications Of an Elder*

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

12 One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

## Chapter 2

### *Teach Sound Doctrine*

1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

*In verse four, the word “sober” is the Greek verb sophronizo (4994). It means “to be sober minded or to voluntarily place limitations on one’s own freedom.” Some have mistakenly thought that the Apostle Paul inferred that women should not teach at all in the church ( 1 Cor. 14:34-40; 1 Tim. 2:12). However, Paul instructs Titus to teach the older women (v. 3) as well as the older men (v. 2). In addition, he urges the aged women to be “teachers of good things” (v.3).*

*Those older women who evidence spiritual maturity are to teach the younger women both in the church and at home, by counsel and by example. (Key Word, page 1508)*

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 *Exhort* servants to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not answering again;

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

## Chapter 3

### *God's Mercy Remembered*

1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

## ***Conclusion***

12 When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.

13 Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.

14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace *be* with you all. Amen. *(It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.)*

## ***References***

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