

Paul's Letter to Titus (c. 63)

Titus 1–3

Salutation

1:1 Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of the chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth that *is* according to godliness,
2 in the hope of eternal life which God, who does not lie, promised before eternal ages,
3 but at the proper time has disclosed his message in the proclamation *with* which I was entrusted according to the command of God our Savior,
4 to Titus, *my* true child according to a common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Qualifications for Elders

5 On account of this, I left you behind in Crete, in order that what remains may be set in order and you may appoint elders in every town, as I ordered you.
6 If anyone is blameless, *the* husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of dissipation or rebellious.
7 For it is necessary *for* the overseer to be blameless as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain,
8 but hospitable, loving what is good, prudent, just, devout, self-controlled,
9 holding fast to the faithful message according to the teaching, in order that he may be able both to exhort with sound instruction and to reprove those who speak against *it*.

The Need for Qualified Church Leadership

10 For there are many rebellious *people*, idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,
11 whom it is necessary to silence, whoever are ruining whole families *by* teaching *things* which must not be *taught* for the sake of dishonest gain.
12 A certain one of them, *one of* their own prophets, has said, "Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
13 This testimony is true, for which reason reprove them severely, in order that they may be sound in the faith,
14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of people who turn away from the truth.
15 To the pure all *things are* pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing *is* pure, but both their mind and conscience are defiled.
16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny *him*, because *they* are detestable and disobedient, and unfit for every good deed.

Teaching Sound Doctrine

2:1 But you, speak *the things* which are fitting for sound instruction.
2 Older men are to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, *and* in endurance.
3 Older women likewise *are to be* reverent in *their* behavior, not slanderous, not enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
4 in order that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands *and* to love their children,
5 *to be* self-controlled, pure, busy at home, good, being subject to their own husbands, in order that the word of God may not be slandered.
6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be self-controlled,
7 concerning everything showing yourself *to be* an example of good deeds, in your teaching *demonstrating* soundness, dignity,
8 *a* sound message beyond reproach, in order that an opponent may be put to shame, because *he* has nothing bad to say concerning us.
9 Slaves must be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not to talk back,
10 not stealing, but demonstrating all good faith, in order that they may do credit to the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

God's Grace Trains Us in Godly Behavior

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,
12 training us in order that, denying impiety and worldly desires, we may live self-controlled and righteously and godly in the present age,
13 looking forward to the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
14 who gave himself for us, in order that he might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good deeds.
15 Speak these *things* and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Instructions for Living in State and Society

3:1 Remind them to be subject to the rulers *and* to the authorities, to obey, to be prepared for every good work,
2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all courtesy to all people.

3 For we also were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, enslaved to various desires and pleasures, spending our lives in wickedness and envy, despicable, hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and love for mankind of God our Savior appeared,

5 he saved us, not by deeds of righteousness that we have done, but because of his mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 The saying *is* trustworthy, and I want you to insist concerning these *things*, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and beneficial for people.

Final Warning Against Error

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and contentions and quarrels about the law, for they are useless and fruitless.

10 Reject a divisive person after a first and second admonition,

11 knowing that such a person is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Closing Instructions and Greetings

12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make haste to come to me in Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

13 Diligently send on their way Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that they may lack nothing.

14 But also our *people* must learn to engage in good deeds for necessary needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

15 All those with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace *be* with all of you.

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible \(LEB\)](#). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

Chronological Notes

- 1) “Paul’s letter to Titus was most likely written around the same time as 1 Timothy and for similar reasons. In Titus’s case, the occasion is stated in Titus 1:5 as follows: ‘The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.’ This is followed by a set of qualifications for elders in Titus 1:6–9. While initially given to provide guidance for Titus, this passage is hardly limited to the original occasion but continues to have relevance for the church today as it ensures that its leaders meet biblical requirements. Beyond this immediate purpose, Paul provided a variety of other instructions for Titus in overseeing the life of the church. He articulated a series of important and abiding Christian doctrinal truths, such as salvation not by works, the regeneration of believers by the Holy Spirit, justification by grace, and so on (see Titus 3:4–7).”¹

¹ Andreas J. Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown*, (B&H Academic, 2009), pp. 647–648.