

## Paul's Letter to Titus (c. 63)

### Titus 1–3

#### Salutation

1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,  
 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,  
 3 but at the proper time manifested, *even* His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,  
 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

#### Qualifications for Elders

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,  
 6 *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.  
 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,  
 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,  
 9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

#### The Need for Qualified Church Leadership

10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,  
 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain.  
 12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."  
 13 This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,  
 14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men 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 their conscience are defiled.  
 16 They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

#### Teaching Sound Doctrine

2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.  
 2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.  
 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,  
 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,  
 5 *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.  
 6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;  
 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified,  
 8 sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.  
 9 *Urge* bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,  
 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

#### God's Grace Trains Us in Godly Behavior

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,  
 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,  
 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,  
 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.  
 15 These things speak 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 rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,  
 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.  
 3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.  
 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,  
6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.  
8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

**Final Warning Against Error**

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.  
10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,  
11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

**Closing Instructions and Greetings**

12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.  
13 Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.  
14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.  
15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in *the* faith. Grace be with you all.

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**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)."<sup>1</sup>

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