

The Letter of Paul The Apostle to Titus

The Epistle to Titus, often referred to simply as Titus, is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to Titus, a trusted coworker and fellow disciple, who was appointed to oversee the Christian community in Crete. Here's an introduction to the Book of Titus:

- **Authorship:** The letter is attributed to the Apostle Paul, who identifies himself as the author in the opening greeting (Titus 1:1). Paul wrote the letter to Titus while he was in Macedonia, likely during his fourth missionary journey or during his imprisonment in Rome.
- **Purpose:** The primary purpose of Titus is to instruct and encourage Titus in his leadership role as an overseer of the churches in Crete. Paul provides guidance on matters of church order, doctrine, and conduct, emphasizing the importance of appointing qualified elders, maintaining sound doctrine, and living godly lives.
- **Background:** Titus was a Gentile believer and a close companion of Paul, mentioned in several of Paul's letters as a trusted coworker and fellow laborer in the gospel. Paul had left Titus in Crete to complete the work of organizing and strengthening the churches there.

Themes

- **Church Order and Leadership:** Paul emphasizes the importance of appointing qualified elders (or overseers) to lead and shepherd the church. He provides a list of qualifications for elders and instructions for their appointment and conduct.
- **Sound Doctrine and Teaching:** Paul underscores the importance of holding fast to sound doctrine and teaching, grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He warns against false teachers and urges Titus to refute false teachings and promote sound doctrine.
- **Christian Conduct and Good Works:** Paul emphasizes the importance of living godly lives and practicing good works as evidence of genuine faith. He encourages believers to live in a manner that reflects the transformative power of the gospel and to be zealous for good works.
- **Unity and Mutual Edification:** Paul encourages Titus to promote unity, peace, and mutual edification within the church community. He emphasizes the importance of avoiding divisive controversies and maintaining a spirit of love and humility.
- **Grace and Salvation:** Paul emphasizes the grace of God as the source of salvation and the basis for Christian living. He reminds believers of God's mercy and the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Structure: The Book of Titus is structured as a letter from Paul to Titus, with a focus on practical instructions for church leadership and Christian living. It includes: Introduction and Greeting (Titus 1:1-4), Instructions for Church Leadership (Titus 1:5-16), Teaching Sound Doctrine (Titus 2:1-15) Living Godly Lives (Titus 3:1-11), Final Instructions and Greetings (Titus 3:12-15)

In summary, the Book of Titus offers practical guidance for church leadership and Christian living, emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine, godly conduct, and unity within the church community. It underscores the transformative power of the gospel and the call to live as faithful witnesses of God's grace and truth.



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CHAPTER 1

Greetings; Qualifications of Elders; Correct Whoever Teaches What Is Wrong

Greetings

- 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;
- 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.

Qualifications of Elders

- 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.

Correct Whoever Teaches What Is Wrong

- 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

Christian Living; God's Grace to Live a New Life

Christian Living

- 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.
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.

God's Grace to Live a New Life

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

Godly Living; What God Did for Us; Advised to Avoid Discord; Personal Concerns; Farewell

Godly Living

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.

What God Did for Us

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.



Advised to Avoid Discord

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.

Personal Concerns

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 our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Farewell

15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.