

Paul's First Letter to Timothy

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the commandment of God our Saviour, and of Christ Jesus our hope: ² To Timothy, his beloved son in faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and from Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ As I desired thee to remain at Ephesus when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some not to teach otherwise, ⁴ Not to give heed to fables and endless genealogies: which furnish questions rather than the edification of God, which is in faith. ⁵ Now the end of the commandment is charity, from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and an unfeigned faith. ⁶ From which things some going astray, are turned aside unto vain babbling: ⁷ Desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither the things they say, nor whereof they affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully: ⁹ Knowing this, that the law is not made for the just man, but for the unjust and disobedient, for the ungodly, and for sinners, for the wicked and defiled, for murderers of fathers, and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰ For fornicators, for them who defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and whatever other thing is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ Which is according to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, which hath been committed to my trust. ¹² I give thanks who hath strengthened me, even to Christ Jesus

our Lord, for that he hath counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry; ¹³ Who before was a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and contumelious. But I obtained the mercy of God, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ Now the grace of our Lord hath abounded exceedingly with faith and love, which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ A faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief. ¹⁶ But for this cause have I obtained mercy: that in me first Christ Jesus might shew forth all patience, for the information of them that shall believe in him unto life everlasting. ¹⁷ Now to the king of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. ¹⁸ This precept I commend to thee, O son Timothy; according to the prophecies going before on thee, that thou war in them a good warfare, ¹⁹ Having faith and a good conscience, which some rejecting have made shipwreck concerning the faith. ²⁰ Of whom is Hymeneus and Alexander, whom I have delivered up to Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

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¹ I desire therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men: ² For kings, and for all that are in high station: that we may lead a quiet and a peaceable life in all piety and chastity. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God, and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who gave himself a redemption for all, a testimony in due times. ⁷ Whereunto I am appointed a preacher and an apostle, (I say the truth, I lie not,) a doctor of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸ I will therefore that men pray in every place, lifting up pure hands, without anger and contention. ⁹ In like manner women also in decent apparel: adorning themselves with modesty and sobriety, not with plaited hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly attire, ¹⁰ But as it becometh women professing godliness, with good works. ¹¹ Let the woman learn in silence, with all subjection. ¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to use authority over the man: but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was first formed; then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not seduced; but the woman being seduced, was in the transgression. ¹⁵ Yet she shall be saved through childbearing; if she continue in faith, and love, and sanctification, with sobriety.

3

¹ A faithful saying: if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. ² It behoveth therefore a bishop to be blameless, the husband of one wife, sober, prudent, of good behaviour, chaste, given to hospitality, a teacher, ³ Not given to wine, no striker, but modest, not quarrelsome, not covetous, but ⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all chastity. ⁵ But if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church

of God? ⁶ Not a neophyte: lest being puffed up with pride, he fall into the judgment of the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony of them who are without: lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. ⁸ Deacons in like manner chaste, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre: ⁹ Holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience. ¹⁰ And let these also first be proved: and so let them minister, having no crime. ¹¹ The women in like manner chaste, not slanderers, but sober, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife: who rule well their children, and their own houses. ¹³ For they that have ministered well, shall purchase to themselves a good degree, and much confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ These things I write to thee, hoping that I shall come to thee shortly. ¹⁵ But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. ¹⁶ And evidently great is the mystery of godliness, which was manifested in the flesh, was justified in the spirit, appeared unto angels, hath been preached unto the Gentiles, is believed in the world, is taken up in glory.

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¹ Now the Spirit manifestly saith, that in the last times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to spirits of error, and doctrines of devils, ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy, and having their

conscience seared, ³ Forbidding to marry, to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful, and by them that have known the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be rejected that is received with thanksgiving: ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. ⁶ These things proposing to the brethren, thou shalt be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished up in the words of faith, and of the good doctrine which thou hast attained unto. ⁷ But avoid foolish and old wives' fables: and exercise thyself unto godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise is profitable to little: but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. ⁹ A faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. ¹⁰ For therefore we labor and are reviled, because we hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of the faithful. ¹¹ These things command and teach. ¹² Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the faithful in word, in conversation, in charity, in faith, in chastity. ¹³ Till I come, attend unto reading, to exhortation, and to doctrine. ¹⁴ Neglect not the grace that is in thee, which was given thee by prophesy, with imposition of the hands of the priesthood. ¹⁵ Meditate upon these things, be wholly in these things: that thy profiting may be manifest to all. ¹⁶ Take heed to thyself and to doctrine: be earnest in them. For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee.

5

¹ An ancient man rebuke not, but entreat him as a father: young men, as brethren: ² Old women, as mothers: young women, as sisters, in all chastity. ³ Honour widows, that are widows indeed. ⁴ But if any widow have children, or grandchildren, let her learn first to govern her own house, and to make a return of duty to her parents: for this is acceptable before God. ⁵ But she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, let her trust in God, and continue in supplications and prayers night and day. ⁶ For she that liveth in pleasures, is dead while she is living. ⁷ And this give in charge, that they may be blameless. ⁸ But if any man have not care of his own, and especially of those of his house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. ⁹ Let a widow be chosen of no less than threescore years of age, who hath been the wife of one husband. ¹⁰ Having testimony for her good works, if she have brought up children, if she have received to harbour, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have ministered to them that suffer tribulation, if she have diligently followed every good work. ¹¹ But the younger widows avoid. For when they have grown wanton in Christ, they will marry: ¹² Having damnation, because they have made void their first faith. ¹³ And withal being idle they learn to go about from house to house: and are not only idle, but tattlers also, and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. ¹⁴ I will therefore that the younger should marry, bear children, be mistresses of families, give no occasion to the adversary to speak evil. ¹⁵ For some are

already turned aside after Satan. ¹⁶ If any of the faithful have widows, let him minister to them, and let not the church be charged: that there may be sufficient for them that are widows indeed. ¹⁷ Let the priests that rule well, be esteemed worthy of double honour: especially they who labour in the word and doctrine: ¹⁸ For the scripture saith: Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn: and, The labourer is worthy of his reward. ¹⁹ Against a priest receive not an accusation, but under two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Them that sin reprove before all: that the rest also may have fear. ²¹ I charge thee before God, and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing by declining to either side. ²² Impose not hands lightly upon any man, neither be partaker of other men's sins. Keep thyself chaste. ²³ Do not still drink water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake, and thy frequent infirmities. ²⁴ Some men's sins are manifest, going before to judgment: and some men they follow after. ²⁵ In like manner also good deeds are manifest: and they that are otherwise, cannot be hid.

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¹ Whosoever are servants under the yoke, let them count their masters worthy of all honour; lest the name of the Lord and his doctrine be blasphemed. ² But they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but serve them the rather, because they are faithful and beloved, who are partakers of

the benefit. These things teach and exhort. ³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to that doctrine which is according to godliness, ⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but sick about questions and strifes of words; from which arise envies, contentions, blasphemies, evil suspicions, ⁵ Conflicts of men corrupted in mind, and who are destitute of the truth, supposing gain to be godliness. ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world: and certainly we can carry nothing out. ⁸ But having food, and wherewith to be covered, with these we are content. ⁹ For they that will become rich, fall into temptation, and into the snare of the devil, and into many unprofitable and hurtful desires, which drown men into destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the desire of money is the root of all evils; which some coveting have erred from the faith, and have entangled themselves in many sorrows. ¹¹ But thou, O man of God, fly these things: and pursue justice, godliness, faith, charity, patience, mildness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith: lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and hast confessed a good confession before many witnesses. ¹³ I charge thee before God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate, a good confession, ¹⁴ That thou keep the commandment without spot, blameless, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Which in his times he shall shew who is the Blessed and only Mighty, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; ¹⁶ Who only hath immortality,

and inhabiteth light inaccessible, whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and empire everlasting. Amen. ¹⁷ Charge the rich of this world not to be highminded, nor to trust in the uncertainty of riches, but in the living God, (who giveth us abundantly all things to enjoy,) ¹⁸ To do good, to be rich in good works, to give easily, to communicate to others, ¹⁹ To lay up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the true life. ²⁰ O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding the profane novelties of words, and oppositions of knowledge falsely so called. ²¹ Which some promising, have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

Douay-Rheims 1899
The Holy Bible in English, Douay-Rheims American
Edition of 1899, translated from the Latin Vulgate

Public Domain

Language: English

Dialect: archaic American

Translation by: English College, Douai

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2022-11-03

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 3 Mar 2023 from source files dated 3 Nov 2022

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