

The letter that Paul wrote to Titus (The book in the Holy Bible called Titus) About this letter

Paul wrote this letter to Titus about 2,000 years ago, about 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven, and it is now in the Holy Bible.

God sent Paul to lots of countries to tell people about Jesus. Titus was a young man that went with Paul to the island called Crete, near the country called Greece. Then Paul got ready to go to another place, but he asked Titus to stay at Crete to help the new Christians there.

In this letter Paul told Titus things that helped him be a good Christian leader. This letter has important messages for us Christians today, especially for ministers and pastors. It can help church leaders work out how to properly look after the people in their churches.

¹ Dear Titus,

I am Paul, and this letter is from me. I work for God, and I am one of Jesus Christ's special workers. God sent me to teach people about Jesus Christ, and to help his people believe in him more. And he sent me to help people understand his message better. Then they will know what they have to do to make God happy.

² A long time ago, before God made anything, he promised that his people will live with him for ever. And God doesn't lie. His promise is still true, and it stops his people from worrying about what will happen after they die.

³ At first, people didn't know what God promised, but now he says that it is the right time for them to hear his message, and he helps them understand it. God gave me that message, and he told me to tell it to other people. God is the one that saves us.

⁴ Titus, you and me, we both believe the same things about God, so you are like my own son. I am asking God our father, and Jesus Christ, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourself. You know, Jesus saves us.*

Pick good people to be church leaders

⁵ Titus, remember when I was with the Christians on that island called Crete, some things there were not right. So I asked you to stay there and try to fix those things. I also told you to pick good leaders to look after the Christians in all the towns on Crete.

⁶ Now I want to tell you what church leaders have to be like.* They have to be really good people, so that nobody can say anything bad about them. A church leader can only have one wife, and he can't sleep with any other woman, like a husband sleeps with his wife. His kids have to believe in God, and they have to do the right

* **1:4** 2 Corinthians 8:23; Galatians 2:3; 2 Timothy 4:10 * **1:6** 1 Timothy 3:2-7

things and not get into trouble. His kids have to do what he says.

⁷ Church leaders are in charge of God's work on earth, so they have to be really good people, and then nobody will say anything bad about them. Whenever you pick people to be church leaders,

- Don't pick people that think they are better than everyone else.
- Don't pick people that get angry too easily.
- Don't pick people that drink a lot of grog.
- Don't pick people that get into fights.
- Don't pick greedy people, that want lots of money and things.

⁸ Church leaders have to be like this,

- They have to let visitors stay in their houses.
- They have to really want to do good things.
- They have to control themselves.
- They have to be sensible.
- They have to do what is right.
- They have to do things that make God happy.
- They have to be strong for Jesus.

⁹ And they have to keep on believing God's message about Jesus, the message that we told you. That will help a leader teach true and right things to the people. And then that will help the people to believe in Jesus more strongly. Some people say, "That message isn't true." But it is true, and a good leader can show those people that they are wrong.

Stop people from teaching wrong things

¹⁰ You see, there are lots of people that don't do what God says. They talk about a lot of things that don't matter. They also try to trick people. They want people to believe what they say. They are the people that say that we Christians have to follow all the Jewish laws to get God to save us.

¹¹ Those people teach things that are wrong. They trick whole families. And they only do that to get money from people. So you have to stop them.

¹² Remember what one of Crete's own teachers said, a long time ago. He said,

"People from Crete are always lying.

They are bad, like cheeky animals.

They are lazy, and they eat too much food."

¹³ The things that teacher said are still true. You have to talk straight to those bad teachers and tell them that they are doing the wrong thing, so that they will properly believe the true message about Jesus.

¹⁴ They have to stop believing in the old stories that people made up. And they have to stop listening to rules from the Jewish people and rules from people that have stopped going God's way. Those rules are just people's rules. They are not God's rules.

¹⁵ You know, if people just want to follow God's way, they don't have to worry about people's rules. They are clean inside, so everything is all right for them. But nothing is all right for people that don't want to follow God's way. They can

only think in a bad way. They don't know what is right and what is wrong.

¹⁶ Those bad people say that they know God, but they do the bad things that God hates. So those people show that they don't really know God. They shame themselves. They don't do what God says. They can't do anything good.

2

Teach Christians to do the right thing

¹ But Titus, you have to teach people the properly good things, so they will live the right way.

² You have to teach the older men to control themselves. They have to do good things so that people will respect them. They have to keep on believing in Jesus strongly. They have to love other people. And, if they get trouble, they have to never give up following Jesus.

³ You also have to teach the older women to do the things that make God happy. Tell them not to say bad things about people, and not to drink a lot of grog, but they have to teach people good things.

⁴ Then the old women can teach the young women to love their husbands and their kids,

⁵ and to control themselves, and to only sleep with their own husbands, and not to do what married people do together with anybody else. And they can teach them to work hard at home, and to do good things, and to think about what their husbands want and agree with them. So people will see the things that the young women

do, and they will not be able to say anything bad about God's message.

⁶ You also have to teach the young men to control themselves.

⁷ You too, you have to always do good things. Then the young men will see you, and they will do good things too. You always have to teach the true message, and remember, your job is important.

⁸ The message you teach has to be right, so that nobody can rubbish it. Then your enemies can't say anything bad about you. Anyone that says bad things about you will shame themselves.

⁹ And now I want to talk about workers and their bosses. Workers have to do what their bosses say. They have to make their bosses happy. Tell them, "Don't talk back to your boss,

¹⁰ and don't ever steal from your boss, but show your boss that they can always trust you." Then people will say that those workers are good. And people will respect that message from God about Jesus, and they will want to know more about him.

We are God's own people, so we have to do things that make God happy

¹¹ It's like this. God has shown us that he is very good to us. He made a way to save everybody.

¹² He teaches us to say *no* to the bad things of this world. He tells us not to live a wild life. He tells us to control ourselves. He tells us to do good things that make him happy.

¹³ He tells us to do these things now, while we wait for Jesus Christ to come back. He is our God, and he is the one that saves us. He will come back, and he will show everybody in the world that he is really great. Then we will be very happy.

¹⁴ Jesus died to save us from all the bad things of this world. He did that to change us into his own special people, like he properly cleaned us inside, and now we don't want to do anything bad, but we only want to do good things.*

¹⁵ So you have to teach these things to all the Christians there, and teach them in a strong way. Tell the Christians to keep going strong for Jesus. And if they do anything wrong, tell them to stop it. Make sure they take notice of you.

3

Christians have to live properly

¹ Tell the Christians there to remember what we taught them, that they have to follow the government's rules. They have to follow the rules of all the government bosses, and they always have to be ready to do good things.

² And tell them not to say bad things about other people. They have to be happy with each other, and not fight or argue. They have to go easy on other people.

³ You know, we were like that before we believed in Jesus. We did silly things too. We

* **2:14** Psalm 130:8; Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6; 14:2; 1 Peter 2:9

didn't do what God told us to do. People tricked us, and we believed things that were not true. And we wanted to do all sorts of bad things. We couldn't stop ourselves. If anybody had a lot of things, we wanted those things for ourselves, and we were angry with those people. We hated people, and people hated us.

⁴ But then God did something to help us. He showed us how much he loves us.

⁵ God saved us, but he didn't save us because we did good things. No. He saved us because he felt really sorry for us. Then his Holy Spirit washed us so that we are really clean inside, and he made us like we got born again as new people.

⁶ You see, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us and save us, and then he properly filled us with his Holy Spirit.

⁷ God was very good to us, and he did all that for us. So now we are his friends, we are in his family, and we are sure that we will live with him for ever. So we can be very happy.

⁸ That is all very true. I want you to teach those things strongly. I want you to be sure that people understand those things. Then the people that believe God's message will think more about doing good things. And those good things will help everyone.

⁹ But make sure you don't argue with people about silly things. You know, some people argue about family groups from a long time ago. They argue about all sorts of old rules. Don't do that. It's a waste of time. It doesn't get you anywhere.

¹⁰ Some people teach things that are different from God's true message. They get Christians to fight with each other, so you have to tell those people to stop. You might even have to tell them 2 times. And if they don't stop after you tell them 2 times, then leave them and don't have anything more to do with them.

¹¹ Those people don't believe God's true message. They know that the things they do are wrong, but they keep on doing them anyway. They will not change.

Paul wanted to see Titus again

¹² And now, Titus, I want to tell you about some people that are with me here. Artemas and Tikicus are here now, and I will send one of them to help you. After he gets there, please try to come and meet me at Nicopolis town. I will stay there in the next cold weather time.*

¹³ And you know Zenas, the lawyer, and his mate, Apollos. Those 2 men will be leaving your place soon to go on a trip. Please help them as much as you can. Make sure they have everything they need for their trip.*

¹⁴ And teach our people to do good things like that all the time. They have to help anybody that really needs things. When they do that, they will be doing something good with their lives.

¹⁵ All right, I'm going to finish my letter here. Everybody here with me says *hello* to you, and

* **3:12** Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-8; 2 Timothy 4:12 * **3:13** Acts 18:24; 1 Corinthians 16:12

please say *hello* to the people there that love us
and that believe God's true message.

I pray that God will be very good to you.

From Paul

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who speak English as a second language

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