

## THE LETTER OF PAUL TO TITUS

### *Greeting*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, appointed to further the faith of God's chosen ones and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, <sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before time began; <sup>3</sup> in his own time he revealed his word through the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup> to Titus, my true child in our common faith: \*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and †the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

### *Qualifications for Elders*

<sup>5</sup> The reason I left you in Crete was for you to put in order what remained to be done and to appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. <sup>6</sup> An elder must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not rebellious and cannot be accused of debauchery. <sup>7</sup> For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for sordid gain, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a

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\* **1:4** Grace, mercy, 91.3% | Grace CT 4.2% † **1:4** the Lord Jesus Christ | Christ Jesus CT

lover of goodness, sensible, just, holy, and self-controlled, <sup>9</sup> holding firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others with sound doctrine and refute those who contradict it.

<sup>10</sup> For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision faction. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, because they are ruining entire households by teaching what they ought not to teach, for the sake of sordid gain. <sup>12</sup> One of their very own prophets said,

“Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons.”

<sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they may become sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup> not paying any attention to Jewish myths or the commandments of men who turn away from the truth. <sup>15</sup> To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and their consciences are defiled. <sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but by their works they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient, and have proven themselves to be unqualified for any good work.

## 2

*Teach Sound Doctrine*

<sup>1</sup> But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Elderly men are to be sober-minded, dignified, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. <sup>3</sup> Elderly women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderous or enslaved to much wine, but teaching what is good, <sup>4</sup> so that they can admonish the young women to be loving to their husbands, loving to their children, <sup>5</sup> sensible, pure, \*homemakers, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. <sup>6</sup> In the same way, urge the younger men to be of sound mind. <sup>7</sup> Show yourself to be a model of good works in every way, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, †incorruptibility, <sup>8</sup> and sound speech that is above reproach, so that any opponent may be put to shame because he has nothing bad to say about ‡us. <sup>9</sup> Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters and well-pleasing in everything, not talking back, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in every way they may adorn the teaching of God Sour Savior.

<sup>11</sup> For the \*saving grace of God has appeared to all people, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly manner in the present age, <sup>13</sup> as we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing

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\* **2:5** homemakers | working at home CT † **2:7** incorruptibility, 68% | — CT 3.1% ‡ **2:8** us | you TR § **2:10** our | your ST \* **2:11** saving grace of God has appeared | grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation CT

of the glory of our great God and Savior, †Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. <sup>15</sup> Declare these things; encourage and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

### 3

#### *Be Ready for Every Good Work*

<sup>1</sup> Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to slander no one, and to be peaceable and considerate, always showing gentleness toward everyone. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, and enslaved to various lusts and pleasures. Living in wickedness and envy, we were loathsome and hated one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any righteous works we had done, but according to his mercy, through the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> He richly poured out his Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have put their trust in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

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† 2:13 Jesus Christ † Christ Jesus WH

These things are good and beneficial for people. <sup>9</sup> But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, quarrels, and \*disputes about the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. <sup>10</sup> Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. <sup>11</sup> For you know that such a person is corrupted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

*Final Instructions and Greetings*

<sup>12</sup> When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

<sup>13</sup> Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, and make sure they lack nothing. <sup>14</sup> Our people must learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

<sup>15</sup> All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all. †Amen.‡

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\* **3:9** disputes † any dispute PCK WH † **3:15** Amen. † — CT  
 ‡ **3:15** The following scribal note is included in the colophons of many Greek manuscripts: *Written from Nicopolis of Macedonia to Titus, who was ordained as the first overseer of the church of the Cretans.*

**Text-Critical English New Testament**  
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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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