

TITUS

Conversational Version

Salutation

1:¹Paul, servant of God and apostle of Jesus Christ^{Messiah} for the faith God's chosen *people* have, and for the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness and ²hope for eternal life. God our Savior, who doesn't lie, promised that life before times eternal. ³Then at an appropriate time, he made the message available by the preaching he entrusted to me according to the commandment of our Savior God. ⁴To Titus, *my* loyal son in the faith we share. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Tit 1:1-4

Characteristics of Elders

⁵I left you in Crete to arrange what still needed to be done and to appoint elders in every city like I instructed you. ⁶A man needs to be above criticism, faithful to his wife, whose children aren't accused of reckless living or disobedience—⁷because a bishop needs to be above criticism as God's steward. *He must not be* stubborn, quick-tempered, addicted to wine, violent, or greedy for dishonest gain. ⁸*He needs to be* hospitable, loving what's good, sensible, just, self-controlled. ⁹*He needs to hold on tight to the trustworthy message he was taught. That way he can encourage people in sound doctrine and show the error of the ones that speak falsely.*

Tit 1:5-9

Silencing Disorderly People

¹⁰There are lots of disorderly people, empty talkers, and deceivers, especially from the Circumcision, ¹¹that need to be silenced. They overthrow whole families by teaching things people don't need to do, and they do it dishonestly to make money. ¹²One of their own prophets has said, “*Cretans are always liars, bad animals, lazy gluttons.*” ¹³That's true; so reprimand them sharply to make them sound in the faith, ¹⁴not caught up in Jewish myths and human rules that distract people from the truth. ¹⁵Everything's pure to people that are pure; nothing's pure to people that are not pure. They've defiled their minds and consciences. ¹⁶They claim to know God, but they deny *it* by how they act. They're detestable, disobedient, and worthless for doing anything good.

Tit 1:10-16

Older Christian's Decorum

2:¹But you, encourage the kind of living that is appropriate to sound doctrine. ²Older men should be serious-minded, respectable, sensible; sound in faith, love, and endurance. ³The same thing applies to older women. They should be reverent in behavior, not prone to gossip or addicted to wine, *but* teaching what's good. ⁴Then they can teach young women to love their husbands and children. ⁵They *should be* sensible, pure, devoted to their families, kind, *and* deferring to their husbands so people won't slander God's message.

Tit 2:1-5

Young Men's Decorum

⁶In the same way, *encourage* younger men to be sensible. ⁷Present yourself as an example of doing good. *Demonstrate* pure doctrine, respectable conduct, ⁸and sound speech that people can't criticize. Then critics will be ashamed because they can't find anything bad to say about you.

Tit 2:6-8

Salvation Offered to Everybody

⁹*Urge* servants to submit to their masters, to be pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not stealing, but showing good faith so they can adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Tit 2:9-10

¹¹God's grace has appeared and offered salvation to everyone. ¹²His grace instructs us to set aside ungodliness and worldly pleasures and to live wisely, justly, and godly in the present age. ¹³All the while, we look forward to the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He gave himself to redeem us from lawlessness and to purify a special people for himself, *a people* with zeal for doing good. ¹⁵Speak these things, urge, and reprimand with authority. Don't let anybody disregard you.

Tit 2:11-15

Respecting Earthly Rulers

³¹Remind *people* to submit to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready to do everything that's good. ²Remind *them* not to insult or get pushy, *but* to be considerate and gentle toward everybody. ³At one time we were foolish too, disobedient, deceived, addicted to various lusts and pleasures. We spent our lives in evil and envy, hated and hating one another. ⁴But,

"the kindness of God our Savior appeared along with love for other people. ⁵We didn't save ourselves by doing good. In mercy he saved us by the washing that regenerates and by the renewal the Holy Spirit gives. ⁶God poured out his Spirit on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷In grace he justified us so we could inherit the hope for eternal life."

Tit 3:1-7

⁸That's a reliable statement. I want you to emphasize doing these things so the ones that have believed God will concentrate on doing good. *Such things* are good and profitable. ⁹But, avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, rivalries, legal disputes; they're pointless and unprofitable. ¹⁰After a first and second warning, quit having anything to do with people who cause division. ¹¹They're perverted sinners that have condemned themselves.

Tit 3:8-11

Plans for Further Ministry

¹²When Artemas or Tychicus get to you—that I'm sending—do your best to meet me at Nicopolis. I've decided to spend the winter there. ¹³Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos

get on their way with what they need. ¹⁴Have our *people* learn to practice doing good to meet pressing needs so they'll be productive.

¹⁵The ones that are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace *be* with you all.

Tit 3:12-15

Translator: Virgil Warren,

christir.org