

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 argumentive, 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

^{3:1}Remind *people* to submit to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready to do everything that's good. ²*Remind 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 Tychycus 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

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