

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Titus

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Titus

1 I, Paul, *write this letter to you, Titus. I* am a servant of God
and a representative of Jesus the Messiah. God sent me
to teach the people whom he has chosen as his own to trust
him more. I work to help his people to know what is true, so
that they can live in a way that pleases God. 2 His people can
learn how to live like this because they are confident that
God will cause them to live forever. Even before the world
began, God promised to cause us to live forever, and God
does not lie. 3 Then, in God's own timing, he communicated
his plan through this message that he trusted me to preach. I
do this in order to obey the command of God, who saves us.
4 Titus, you have become like a real son to me because we
both now believe in Jesus the Messiah. May God the Father
and the Messiah Jesus who saves us continue to be kind to
you and keep you peaceful.

5 I left you on the Island of Crete for this reason: that you
do the work that is still unfinished and also appoint elders
for the group of believers in every city, just as I told you to
do. 6 Now every elder must be someone whom no one can
criticize. He must also have just one wife, his children must
trust in God, and people must not consider his children to
be out of control or disobedient. 7 Everyone who leads God's
people is like the person who manages the servants and
property of someone else, but he is doing this for God. So it
is necessary for this person to have a good reputation. He
must not be proud and he must not get angry quickly. He
must not be an alcoholic, not someone who likes to fight and
argue, and not a greedy man. 8 Rather than that, he must
welcome strangers and love the things that are good. He
must always act sensibly and treat other people in a fair and
honest manner. He must always act in a way that is right for
someone who is devoted to God and he must always control
his emotions. 9 He must always believe the true things that
we have taught him, and he must live according to them. He
must do this so that he can persuade people to live like this
too, and so that he can correct people if they do not want to
live like this.

10 I tell you these things because there are many people
who refuse to obey those who are in authority over them.
What these people say has no value. They persuade people to
believe wrong things. The people who are the most like this
are the ones who tell all followers of the Messiah to become
circumcised. 11 You and the leaders whom you appoint must
prevent such people from teaching the believers. They are
teaching things that they should not teach, causing entire
families to believe wrong things. They only do it so that
people will give them money. This is very shameful! 12 One
man of Crete, someone his people thought was a prophet, said,
"Cretans frequently lie to each other! They are like dangerous
wild animals! They are lazy and always eat too much food."
13 What he said is true, so correct them forcefully so that they
may believe and teach correct things about God. 14 In order
to believe correct things about God, they must stop living
according to stories invented by the Jews and commandments
that did not come from God. These commandments came
from people who have stopped obeying what is true. 15 If
some people only want to do or think about doing good
things, then everything that they do is good. But if people are
wicked and do not believe in the Messiah Jesus, everything
that they do is bad. Such people's way of thinking has been
ruined. They do not even feel guilty when they do what is
evil. 16 Even though they claim to know God, what they do
shows that they do not know him. They are disgusting. They
disobey God and can do nothing good for him.

2 But as for you, Titus, teach people the things that agree
with what you know is true about God. 2 Tell the older
men that they must control themselves at all times, that
they must live in a way that other people respect, and that
they must act sensibly. Tell them that they must also firmly
believe the true things about God, love others truly, and
do all these things even when it is difficult. 3 Tell the older
women, like the men, to live so that everyone knows that
they respect God very much. Tell them that they must not
say mean or false things about other people, and that they
must not be addicted to drinking a lot of wine. Instead, they
should teach others what is good. 4 In this way, they will
be able to instruct the younger women to love their own
husbands and children. 5 The older women should also teach
the younger women to control what they say and do, not to
act in a wrong way toward any man, to work well at home,
and to do what their husbands tell them. They should do
all these things so that no one can mock God's message to
us. 6 As for the younger men, urge them likewise to control
themselves well. 7 You yourself must continually do what is
good so that others will see what they should also be doing.
When you teach the believers, make sure that everything
you say is true and say it in a way that they will respect.
8 Teach people what is right with messages that no one can
criticize. Then, if anybody wants to stop you, other people
will shame them because they will have nothing bad that
they can justly say about any of us. 9 As for those believers
who are slaves, teach them that they should always submit
to their masters. Tell them to live in a way that pleases
their masters in every way, and to not argue with them.
10 They must not steal even little things from their masters;
instead, they should be faithful to them, and they should
do everything in a way that leads people to admire all that
we teach about God, who saves us. 11 The believers should
behave in these good ways because God is offering to save
everyone as a gift that no one deserves. 12 By means of this
free gift, God trains us to stop doing what is wrong and
what people of the world want to do. He teaches us to be
sensible, to do what is right, and to obey him while we live
during this present time. 13 At the same time, God teaches us
to wait for what he will certainly do in the future, which is
something that will make us very happy: That is, Jesus the
Messiah, our Savior and powerful God, will return to us in a
glorious way. 14 He gave himself *to die* in our place so that
we can be free to live in the way that God wants us to live,
and to remove our sin from us so that we can be a special
group of people who belong only to him, and who eagerly
desire to do what is good.

15 *Titus,* speak about these things. Urge *the believers to
live as I have described* and correct *them when they do what is
wrong,* using your right to command *them if necessary*. Make
sure that everyone pays attention to what you say.

3 Titus, continue to tell our people again that they should
obey the people who rule over them. They need to be

ready to be helpful whenever they are able. 2 They should
not say disrespectful things about anyone. They should be
peaceful. They should treat everyone gently and as more
important than themselves. 3 We need to remember that there
was a time when we ourselves were foolish and unwilling to
obey God. We strongly desired to do things that made us feel
good, and so we did those things. But then we discovered
that we were unable to stop doing those things. We were
constantly envying each other and doing other evil things.
We caused people to hate us and we hated each other. 4 But
then when God showed us that he was acting generously
to save us because he loves us, 5 he saved us by removing
our sin from us as though he had washed it away. As he did
this, the Holy Spirit made us new and enabled us to start
living in a new way for God. He did not save us because
we do good things, but he saved us because he is merciful.
6 God generously gave us his Holy Spirit when Jesus the
Messiah saved us. 7 When Jesus freely gave himself for us,
God declared that everything was made right between him
and us. Because Jesus did that, God gave us the Holy Spirit
so that we can share in everything that the Lord Jesus has
to give us, especially everlasting life with him. 8 This is a
statement that everyone can trust. I want you to continually
emphasize these things so that those who have believed God
may constantly devote themselves to doing those things that
are good and that help others. These things are excellent
and beneficial for everyone. 9 But many people will want to
debate with you about senseless things, such as about lists of
Jewish ancestors. They will want to dispute with you about
religious law and argue with you about many things. Do not
engage with them in any of that. Those kinds of things are
useless and they do not help you in any way. 10 If someone
insists on engaging in these divisive activities after you have
warned him one or two times to stop doing it, then have
nothing more to do with him, 11 because you know that
someone like that has rejected the truth; he is sinning and
condemns himself.

12 I plan to send Artemas or Tychicus to you. After one of
them arrives, come quickly to me at the town of Nicopolis,
because I have decided to stay there for the winter. 13 Do
everything you can to equip Zenas the law expert and Apollos
for their journey, making sure that they have everything that
they need. 14 In the same way, make sure that our people
learn to occupy themselves with doing good things for people
who need help. By doing this, they will be living in a useful
way for God.

15 Titus, all those who are with me greet you! Please greet
for us everyone there who loves us as fellow believers. May
God continue to be kind to all of you.