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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.