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ST. PAUL'S Epistle to TITUS

Translation by John Wesley

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CHAPTER 1

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of the elect of God, and the knowledge of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began; And he hath in his own times manifested his word, through the preaching wherewith I am entrusted, according to the commandment of God our Savior: To Titus, my own son after the common faith, grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou mightest set in order the things which are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I appointed thee: If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having believing children, not accused of luxury, or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not passionate, not given to wine, not a striker, not desirous of filthy gain: But hospitable, a lover of good men, prudent, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word, as he hath been taught, that he may be mighty by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision, Whose mouths must be stopped, who overturn whole families, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of filthy gain. One of themselves, a prophet of their own, hath said, The Cretans are always liars, evil wild beasts, lazy gluttons. This witness is true; therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. To the pure all things are pure; but to the defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but both their understanding and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their works they deny him, being abominable and disobedient, and void of judgment, as to every good work.

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CHAPTER 2

But speak thou the things which become wholesome doctrine: That the aged men be vigilant, serioius, prudent, sound in faith, love, patience: That the aged women in like manner be in behavior as becometh holiness; not slanderers, not given to much wine; teachers of that which is good: That they instruct the young women to be wise, to love their husbands, to love their children, Discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. The young men like wise exhort to be discreet, In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works, in doctrine, uncorruptness, seriousness; Wholesome speech, that cannot be reproved; that he who is on the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of us. Exhort servants to be subject to their own masters, to please them in all things, not answering again, Not stealing, but showing all good fidelity, that they may in all things adorn the Gospel of God our Savior.

For the saving grace of God hath appeared to all men, Instructing us, that having renounced ungodliness and all worldly desires, we should live soberly, and righteously, and godly, in the present world, Looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God, even our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak and exhort, and rebuke with all authority: let no man despise thee.

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CHAPTER 3

Remind them to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready for every good work; To speak evil of no man, not to be quarrelsome, to be gentle, showing all meekness toward all men. For we also were formerly without understanding, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various desires and pleasures, living in wickedness and envy, hateful, hating one another: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his own mercy he saved us, by the laver of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he poured forth richly upon us, through Jesus Christ our Savior; That being justified by his grace, we might become heirs, according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they who have believed in God be careful to excel in good works; these things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A heretic, after a first and second admonition, reject; Knowing that such a one is perverted and sinneth, being self-condemned.

When I shall send Artemas or Tychicus to thee, be diligent to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Send forward with diligence Zenas the lawyer, and Apollos, that they may want nothing. And let ours also learn to excel in good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. All that are with me salute thee. Salute them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

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THE END