

The colour coding is my own addition – Neil Godfrey, November 2023

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Paul's posts are in *large italics*.

The Marcionite writing is in large straight characters.

The anti-Marcionite additions are in small size, straight characters.

## EPISTLE TO TITUS

I Paul, a servant of God, an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and for the knowledge of the truth which is in accordance with the Lord, 2 for 1 the hope of eternal life, which the God who does not lie has promised from everlasting times. 3 But at the appointed time he made his word clear through the preaching which was given to me by the order of God our Saviour. 4 To Titus, my true son in the faith which is common to us, grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### WHAT A BISHOP SHOULD BE

5 I have left you in Crete, so that you may put the finishing touches to the things which are still to be done, and make priests in every town as I have given you orders, 6 (when you come across) a man who is blameless, the husband of one wife, whose children are true to him, not accused of living in debauchery or disorder.

7 For the bishop must be blameless, because he is God's administrator. He must not be arrogant, violent, given to wine, a fighter, or greedy; 8 but hospitable, honest, serious, just, holy, chaste, 9 attached, as regards teaching, to the faithful word, so as to be able to give exhortations in accordance with sound doctrine and to refute opponents.

#### CONDEMNATION OF JUDAIC FABLES

10 For many are the rebellious, the talkers of nonsense, the deceivers, especially in the world of the circumcision. 11 Their mouths are to be stopped, for they are turning whole houses upside down, teaching, in a shameful spirit of profit, things which ought not to be taught. 12 One of their own prophets said, "The Cretans are always lying; they are evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore refute them seriously, so that they may profess a sound faith, 14 instead of clinging to Judaic fables, to human prescriptions that turn away from the truth. 15 Everything is clean for those who are clean. But to those who are unclean and have no faith, nothing is clean, but their minds and consciences are unclean. 16 They say they have knowledge of God, but by their works they are false to him, because they are evil, rebellious, and unable to do any good work.

#### CHRISTIAN LIFE

11 But you, say what is consistent with sound doctrine. 2 Tell the old men to be sober, worthy, serious, sound in faith, charity, patience. 3 Likewise tell the older women to be of honorable deportment, neither to be slanderers nor slaves to wine, but to be of good counsel, 4 so as to bring them to duty; teaching the young women to love their husbands, their children, 5 to be serious, pure, housewives, good, submissive to their respective husbands, so that the word of God is not an object of blasphemy. 6 Likewise urges young people to be serious. 7 In all things, set forth in yourself an example of good works. Observe purity and seriousness in teaching. 8 Distribute a sound and blameless word, so that on the other side they may be ashamed, having nothing bad to say about us. 9 Tell the slaves to be

submissive to their masters, to please them in all things, not to resist them, 10 to steal nothing, but to be faithful always, to honor the doctrine in everything. of our Savior God.

11 For the grace of God who saves has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to renounce ungodliness and the lusts of the world and live with dignity, righteousness and godliness in this present age, 13 looking forward to the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus , 14 who gave himself for us, to redeem us from all iniquity and to have a people purified, who are his own and are devoted to the practice of good works.

15 Speak these things, exhort and rebuke with full authority. Let no one despise you.

III Remind them that they must be subject to constituted authorities, obey, be ready for every good work, 2 curse no one, be peaceful, moderate, always show gentleness to all men. 3 For we also were formerly foolish, unbelieving, deceived, slaves of all lusts and pleasures, wickedness and envy, hateful, with hatred one toward another. 4 But when the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not by works done in righteousness, but according to his mercy by the washing of rebirth and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 which he has poured out on us abundantly<sup>1</sup> through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, being justified by his grace, we might become heirs of eternal life in hope.

1. This text, as it presents itself to us, means that the bath of rebirth and renewal is a metaphorical bath consisting of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, because it is to this outpouring that the rebirth. Now originally bathing was certainly taken in the literal sense, and it designated the immersion of the Christian in water. This antinomy between the vocabulary and the syntactic construction of the sentence is the effect and the indicator of a retouching. The early writing attributed rebirth and renewal to the baptismal bath. Later, a Catholic who was favorable to the Montanist movement and to the “abundant effusion” of the Spirit that the Montanists received, thought it necessary to mention this prodigy and attribute to it the birth of the Christian life.

8 This word is sure, and I want you to affirm these things, so that those who have faith in God may practice good works. This is what is good and useful to men. 9 But avoid ridiculous questions, genealogies, <sup>2</sup> quarrels, and controversies concerning the law: they are useless and vain. 10 Put the heretic man away from you <sup>3</sup> after a first or a second warning; 11 knowing that such a man is perverted and a sinner, because he has excluded himself.

2 See the note on I Tim. I, 4.

3. This heretic is the man who believes in the earthly kingdom of Christ and in the resurrection of the body, that is to say the Christian attached to the belief of Justin and Irenaeus.

#### PAUL'S POST

*12 When I send you Artemas or Tychicus, make haste to come to me at Nicopolis; for it is there that I have decided to spend the winter. 13 Take care to provide for the journey of the doctor of the law Zenas and Apollos, so that they lack nothing. 14 Ours also must learn to do good works in times of pressing need, so as not to be fruitless. 15 All who are with me salute you, salute those who love us in faith.*

May grace be with you all.