



# Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



## The Letter of St. Paul to Titus

### Chapter 3

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# Introduction

- In this chapter, St. Paul instructs Titus to remind us to be kind to all men
- Remembering the kindness of God toward us, not because we are worthy but because of His goodness, will help us to be kind toward others too
- The Christians and the government (1-3)
- The kindness of God to us (4-8)
- Heretical and schismatic members (9-11)
- Final remarks, greetings, and benediction (12-15)

# Christians and Government (3:1-3)



- Chapter 1 (church), 2 (home), and 3 (world)
- Obey the rulers (Mk 12: 13-17, Rom 13: 1-7, 1 Pet 2: 13-17)
- God's laws must be obeyed first (Acts 4:19, 20)
- Christians pray for government (1Tim 2: 1, 2)
- We can work, at least in quiet ways, to get bad laws changed
- We need the government because some people have to be kept in check by the law

# Christians and Government (3:1-3)



- Christians are not to speak anything that is bad about anyone
- The Christian will long for peace and he will not want to fight
- Then we are to be gentle and humble to other people
- To be 'meek' is very different from being 'weak'

# Christians and Government (3:1-3)



- We were 'foolish' or mindless
- We were 'disobedient'
- We were 'deceived' or 'led astray'
- We were slaves to pleasures and to strong desires
- We wasted our time in bad feelings about other people. We hated them

# The Kindness of God to Us (3:4-8)



- God is kind to us not because we are worthy but because of His love
- It was because of His mercy that God saved us.
- We receive this salvation through Baptism and Chrismation
- We are made new by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 5: 17)
- God does not give to us little or just enough but plenty of His Spirit



# The Kindness of God to Us (3:4-8)



- This is because the Lord Jesus died and rose again
- Christians are 'justified' (as if I had never sinned)
- Now we are qualified to be heirs and have hope in eternal life
- Those who have trusted in God must be careful to be busy doing what is good: (faithful saying)
- They must think and plan how to do more good to help other people
- Faith and works

# Heretical and Schismatic Members (3:9-11)



- Some people waste time on arguing
- We are to avoid these things or 'turn our backs on them'
- If our ideas divide the church, it is wrong
- The church leaders are to stop a man like that who wants to talk about his own ideas all the time
- A man who will not listen has 'turned out' from the teaching of God's Word
- Sadly there are people whose lives are so bad that they have to be put out of the church



# Final Remarks, Greetings, and Benediction (3:12-15)



- St. Paul will send Artemas or Tychicus to Crete, so Titus will be free to leave Crete and join St. Paul
- It may be that Zenas and Apollos took this letter with them to Crete
- St. Paul gives them two reasons why they should work: that they may give help to people who are in need and that they will produce something of value
- St. Paul closes his letter with greetings and benediction



# Conclusion

- How does the relation between the Christian and the government look like?
- What are the four virtues that we should keep in dealing with others?
- Why did God save us?
- How we receive this salvation?
- What does it mean to be justified?
- What are the blessings of salvation?
- What should the Christian avoid?