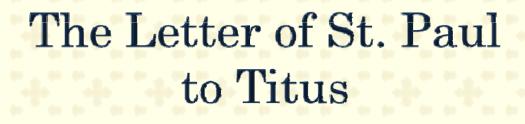


#### Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



#### Chapter 3

#### **Bishop Youssef**

#### 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?