

Many of the epistles begin primarily with unfathomable things God has done for us and end with essentially how to live in such a way that says "I love you" back. The book of Titus is no exception. Paul writes this letter to **Titus**. Why? "...to further the faith of God's chosen ones and the knowledge of the truth that is in keeping with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before time began" (1:1-2 NET). There is little interpretation needed to understand this book --- instead, it is chock full of things God says make us beautiful to Him, and things that make us dishonorable, and leave Him dishonored.

1 Paul, [Once a "Pharisee, adhering to the strictest sect of our religion...convinced that I ought to do all I could to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With authority from the chief priests, I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were condemned to death, I cast my vote against them. I frequently had them punished in the synagogues, and I tried to make them blaspheme. In my raging fury against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them" (Acts 26:4-11)] **a bond-servant of God** [because he "was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" that is described in Acts 26:12-19)] **and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God** [Our just God "...does not show favoritism", but welcomes those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right....(Acts 10:34) and how does one do "what is right"? 2 Timothy 2:20-21 explains how to "do what is right" so that one can be "chosen of God" ..."...if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work..." And of course, repentance and baptism are what cleanse us according to Acts 2:38; Romans 6; 1 Peter 3:21)]**and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness**, ["to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—" (NIV)]**2 in the hope of eternal life**, [God graciously offers to us truth and when we receive that truth, we learn what is objectively right and wrong, and when we live out what is right this is called godliness is an imitation of God's virtues required to prepare us for eternal life and give us hope] **which God, who cannot lie**, [Praise You, Father! May this beautiful quality be added to the character of all who love You, so that we find protection from the "father of lies" (John 8:44) who would destroy us] **promised long ages ago**, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..." (Hebrews 1:1-3)] **3 but**

at the proper time [During the Roman Empire predicted by Daniel (Daniel 7:11:3-39), who invented crucifixion used as a death penalty for a short, but precise window of time in fulfillment of (Psalms 22:16 “They pierced My hands and My feet”). They also built the first advanced road systems for the proclamation of the gospel to go forth from Zion” Micah 4:2] manifested, [“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9)] even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, [Paul accepted his divine commission from the Lord at the time of his vision to “...get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen from Me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:15-18)]

4 To Titus, [A gentile convert who was perhaps never circumcised (Galatians 2:4)] my true child in a common faith: [How fulfilling the family bonds that form when those we teach those who are open to God’s truth and we are blessed to witness their being born again (John 3:5) and watch their spiritual growth from babe in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1) to maturity “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ...” Eph. 4:13-14] Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. [Although the scriptures never use the word “trinity”, it is very clear that there is “one God and Father of all” and “One Lord” and “One Spirit” (Eph. 4:6) through whom resides our only source of grace and deep, eternal peace].

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, [a challenging location, given what we’ll learn in verse twelve] that you would set in order what remains [“...put in order what was left unfinished...” (NIV). Though denominationalism is against the will of God (John 17:21), “organized religion” is *very much* the will of God when it is composed of the pattern that follows...] and appoint elders in every city [How wonderful that every city must have had a church and every church must have had men that met the following qualifications, though Christianity was but in its infancy] as I directed you, [through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit according to the perfect will of God “We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.” 1 Cor. 2:12-13] 6 namely, if any man is above reproach, [though “all have sinned” (Rom 3:23), this “blameless” man is

known for having matured into “unquestionable integrity” (AMP)]**the husband of one wife**, [this would exclude females, widowers, and polygamists] **having children who believe**, [If someone were to ask “do your children believe?” and your full discloser/most honest answer is “sort of” (because some do believe and some do not), then you should consider yourself “sort of” qualified to be an elder, in which case the humble thing to do is to count yourself blessed to not have to bear the additional burden of shepherding the flock of God, and rather than seeing the disqualification as your being blamed for the freewill choice of your children. Instead, you’d do best to see it as God’s mercy to free you up to work just as productively as you would have under the title of “elder” and using every opportunity you are given to win your child back to the Lord, though you are not necessarily responsible for their allowing themselves to be deceived (Ez. 18)] **not accused of dissipation or rebellion**. [“wild and disobedient” (CEV) “insubordinate in immorality” (ARA) “A foolish son is a heartache to his mother” Proverbs 10:1). He was, after all, her life’s work, and she will now need your comfort to live with this crop failure, which is enough for any man to bear without the additional burden of the office of elder. **7 For the overseer must be** [not “should be” or “preferably be”, but “must be”] **above reproach** [anyone can be accused of wrongdoing, but in this man’s case his consistent, exceptional behavior speaks louder than any false accuser’s words] **as God’s steward**, [managing well what he is given] **not self-willed**, [relinquishing his preferences for the well-being/advantage of others] **not quick-tempered**, [for shepherding a spiritual flock will be maddening at times] **not addicted to wine**, [and when eldering becomes exceptionally stressful, he must turn to the Lord for strength and comfort rather than the bottle (Ephesians 5:18)] **not pugnacious**, [enjoying conflict is the opposite of being a peacemaker (Mt. 5:9) as far as it depends on you (Rom. 12:18)] **not fond of sordid gain**, [“those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction” (1 Tim. 6:9), including accepting bribes from the sheep under your authority in appreciation for sweeping the truth under the rug for their own personal advantage, as seen, for one example, in the outrageous practice of selling “indulgences” in the Catholic church) **8 but hospitable**, [providing for the needs of strangers passing through] **loving what is good**, [too pure of heart to take in what the culture is taking in for recreation] **sensible**, [there’s an intelligent logic behind his every move] **just**, [without unfair bias] **devout**, [living like holy things are ... holy] **self-controlled**, [leading his life with his spirit trained “mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16) rather than by his passing feelings (Prov. 28:26)] **9 holding fast** [nothing over] **the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching** [“hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught” (NIV) not how he wishes it had been taught], **so that he will be able** [and the inference is obviously quite “willing”] **both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those**

who contradict. [...to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.” (NLT)]

10 For there are many [thus, it’s not “if” you’ll be refuting those who contradict, but “when”] rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, [and in this present “wicked and perverse generation” there is unprecedented easy access to their mind poison than ever] especially those of the circumcision, [Jews resistant to the New, “... better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises” --- promises that would be inclusive to those outside the nation of Israel] **11** who must be silenced [“free speech” only works when everyone is committed to teaching only what is true, otherwise both souls and bodies often perish] because they are upsetting whole families, [“...turning whole families away from the truth...” (NLT) teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. [“...in order to make money in a shameful way” (ISV). **12** One of themselves, a prophet of their own, [Even they themselves admit the following:] said, “Cretans are always [apparently without exception, which proves how extensive a spiritual pandemic sin can be, and why God would entirely remove the wicked from the land... a rescue mission to eternally save the eternal souls of innocent children whose souls (God knows) the parents would have most certainly destroyed] liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” [When no one is telling the truth and everyone is a sluggard, and everyone is behaving like wolves, rats, and snakes, even commerce becomes impossible] **13** This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely [some cases call for “gentleness”, while others are so hardened, they call for more severity if there is to be any hope the truth will be enough to make it through their thick skulls all the way to where it needs to go to sting the conscience and move the heart] so that they may be sound in the faith, [the goal is not to punish, for vengeance is the Lord’s (Romans 12:19), but rather to persuade the lying, lazy, evil gluttons, toward being “free from doctrinal error” (AMP) --- which, by the way, infers the “objective” nature of faith, that is, that “faith comes from hearing the word of God” (Romans 10:17) and is thus rooted in objective truths] **14** not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. [We must set our hearts to not acquire a taste for sweet little lies rooted in manmade teachings (Mark 7:7) that “tickle the ears” (2 Timothy 4:3)] **15** To the pure, all things are pure; [as we gather wisdom, we best close our eyes and ears from the “wisdom from below”, for we need not know the details about evil things of any kind “not proper to mention” (1 Tim. 5:13)] but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, [unbelief will make one defiled, not to mention, in many cases, crazy] nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. [walk a wide circle around these “death on two wheels” types, who are walking menaces to society] **16** They profess to know God, [“You can trust me. See!”] but by their deeds they deny Him, [“you will recognize them by their fruits” Mt. 7:20 (ESV).

Take notice: Are they bearing the fruits of the spirit: "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23) or the deeds of the flesh: "...sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these..." ? (Galatians 5:19-21)] **being detestable** ["disgusting" (CEV); "vile" (NAB); abominable (LSV)] **and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.** [Disgust is an appropriate emotion toward those who disgust God. "Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?" (Psalm 139:21) and yet we are to be open to and happily welcome their 180-degree turns, as the very writer of this epistle turned from detestable to disciple (Acts 9).

2 But as for you, [The only one over whom we have complete power to control] **speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.** [To ensure such we must have a properly interpreted book, chapter, and verse for everything that we teach, congruent with the everything else the Holy Spirit has revealed] **2 Older men are to be temperate,** [self-controlled [CSB], level-headed (HCSB), sober (GNT)] **dignified,** ["worthy of respect" (NIV), **sensible** ["use good judgment" (GWT)], **sound in faith** ["grounded in the faith" (GWT)], **in love,** ["agape love ever fails (1 Cor. 13:8), but rather exhibits..."] **in perseverance.**

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, ["behave as women should who live a holy life" (GNT)] **not malicious gossips** [people will come up in our conversations, and when they do, we best treat them the way we would want to be treated and say only what we would say to their faces, and when appropriate "talk people up" behind their backs (that is what I call "reverse gossip") **nor enslaved to much wine,** [...we best take Proverb's 23:31's wise advice to not even look at it when it "sparkles in the cup", much less see how close we can get to the dragon of addiction without being consumed by it] **teaching what is good,** ["right" (DBT), "honest" (GB), "excellent" (ABPE), that is, every Christian virtue mentioned in the scriptures such as the fruits of the Spirit "... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23) and the Christian virtues of 2 Peter 1:5-7 "...applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love." Why work so hard on growing these virtues? Verses 8-11 go on to explain, "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither

useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice *these* things, you will *never* stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be *abundantly* supplied to you.”] **4 so that they may encourage the young women to love** [Youngs Concordance reveals the Greek word here for love to be “philandros”. 5362 philandros (from 5384 /phílos, "loving friend" and 435 /anér, "husband, the male companion of a wife" – properly, the special affection of a woman for her life-time mate (husband), embracing him as her "calling" (stewardship) from God (used only in Tit 2:4)(HELPS word studies); “From philos and aner; fond of man, i.e. Affectionate as a wife -- love their husbands.” In contrast to the the Greek verb “agape”, where, as with our enemies, we are to maintain an “active good will”, this kind of love involves an emotional attachment, and since emotions are affected by more subjective forces, it is often the kind of love that can wax and wain over time due to the natural course of our human nature where familiarity can breed contempt and the ever-growing discoveries of variances of preferences and character flaws can cause the hearts of husbands and wives to grow cold toward one another or their children unless they nurture thoughts and actions of gratitude, humility, contentment, patience, kindness, and sacrifice. Virtue is the answer. As is weeding out dark thoughts] **their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible,** [“self-controlled” (NIV), “live wisely” (NLT), “use good judgment” (GLT)] **pure,** [purity is only achievable if we also weed from our lives all “evil companions”, including the virtual ones whose influence “corrupt good morals” through television/internet programs, podcasts, books, music, magazines, movies, and any other media in which deception is spoken] **workers at home,** [every moment is a gift, and we’ve no time to waste on anything that is not genuinely maturing us and making us better in some way spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially, intellectually, physically] **kind,** [Any of us could make a long list of who owes us an apology, but even unbelievers have noticed that those who are “others centered” are happiest] **being subject to their own husbands,** [If you’ve chosen wisely and have been blessed with a man who has stayed faithful to God, and has been submitting to you (Eph. 5:21) that is, kindly yielding his preferences to your own as he nourishes and cherishes you ... “just as Christ also does the church” (Eph 5:29) **so that the word of God will not be dishonored.** [What’s more important to you, the word of God being honored, so a dying world can see that God’s way is always the best way including keeping our proper domain/fulfilling our roles, or is it more important that you get your way?]

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; [“self-controlled” (NIV), “live wisely” (NLT), “use good judgment” (GLT) **7 in all things** [“all things” includes... “all things”]

show yourself to be an example of good deeds, [you are a role model because you, like everyone else, are being watched and are either convicting onlookers to reach for becoming all they can be, or helping underachievers make excuses by normalizing mediocrity, or worse excusing those in darkness by endorsing and promoting what is evil... so instead, along with engaging in good needs, we are also to be good role models when it comes to...] **with purity in doctrine**, [maintaining the exact meaning of the scriptures that God intended by properly interpreting the books, chapters, and verses we cite for everything we teach, seeing to it that all the teachings are harmonious with the everything else the Holy Spirit has revealed throughout the entirety of the scriptures] **dignified**, [“Gravity/sincerity KJV] **8 sound in speech** [the third occurrence in this short book] **which is beyond reproach**, [“that cannot be condemned” (ASV) (at least not legitimately by a reasonable person)] **so that the opponent will be put to shame**, [though no longer envogue by our shameless generation, shame is as useful to a culture as brakes on a car] **having nothing bad to say about us**. [The slander of heathen enemies can’t stick forever]

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, [a command that assumes the instructions of the master are congruent with the commands of the master’s Master, which applies in the current employer/employee relationship as well, for only when authority is not being abused, and subjects willingly comply with benevolent leadership, can society even begin to function] **10 not pilfering**, [not even minimal stealing, for “he who is faithful in little, is faithful in much (Luke 16:10)] **but showing all good faith** [“to show that they can be fully trusted” (NIV)] **so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect**. [When we live out the teachings of God, we display to a sick and dying world how beautiful our Savior’s wise words make life in every direction]

11 For the grace of God has appeared, [as has been the case throughout history, but no more profoundly than when the holy child was visited by the wise men as he lay in the manger] **bringing salvation to all men**, [Hallelujah! That He now “welcomes those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right” (Acts 10:35) and just what *is* right? ...] **12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires** [“deny” speaks to the call that will be made day in and day out to instead do what feels good] **and to live sensibly**, [“self-controlled] **righteously and godly in the present age**, [whether the present age appreciates and praises you for it, or “insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me” (Matthew 5:10)] **13 looking for** [with eager anticipation] **the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God** [Jesus is divine “1 John 4:14: “We have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” In Isaiah’s proclamation, Yahweh is speaking (we see this back at the

beginning of the speech in Isaiah 45:1, 3, 5, 6 etc.). And yet in 48:16 He (Yahweh) says “Yahweh has sent” Him!” (Joel Settecase)]and Savior, Christ Jesus, [We’ve been rescued from an eternal sentence in hell fire!]**14** who gave Himself for us [voluntarily: John 10:18] to redeem us [We are “bought back” from damnation with the holy blood of this perfect Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:19)] from every lawless deed, [every evil thought, word, intention and action]and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession,[we belong to Him, but must be holy to remain so] zealous for good deeds. “...you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Cor. 6:20)]

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority.[Let’s shine our light with God as our confidence! “Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” Mt. 13:43) Let no one disregard you. [“Let no one make light of your authority.” (WNT) Though we cannot control how evil people will react to us, when we speak what God speaks, and are silent where He is silent, their disregard for “sound doctrine” becomes a matter between them and their Creator, the one true and living God.]

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, [Even those as unjust as Nero, who ruled Rome from 54-68 AD, to the extent that expresses subjection to our Lord first and foremost, so that when the two are in conflict we obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29)]to be obedient, [Obedience is Christ’s love language, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15)]to be ready for every good deed, [which often involves knowing the word of God by daily study, knowing the needs of the body of Christ, not overspending, stewarding our bodily health as best we can, not being self-absorbed, etc.] **2** to malign [“slander” (NIV) “speak evil of” (ESV)] no one, [at times we must, with sadness, acknowledge the reality of those who have turned to walk in darkness, as inspired Paul did, as in the case of Demas in 2 Timothy 4:10, but this is entirely unrelated to finding glee in passing on misinformed half truths to unnecessarily cause others to disrespect another] to be peaceable, [peacemakers shall be called “sons of God” (Mt. 5:9)] gentle, [“...the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit...is precious in the sight of God.” (1 Peter 3:4)]showing every consideration for all men.[The considerate are humble, gentle, and courteous, which is often far more persuasive than being heavy-handed] **3** For we [every one of us!] also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, [Three levels of finding trouble from falling into darkness, to premeditated rebellion, all resulting in

being...]

enslaved to various lusts and pleasures,[our enemy cares not which frivolity or desire takes us down, just as long as he can destroy us] spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.[We only get one life to spend, why choose the misery of hate when we can frolic in the joys of love?] 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, [when “the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14)] 5 He saved us, [Hallelujah!]not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness,[“So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’” (Luke 17:10)] but according to His mercy, [upon which we are utterly dependant moment by moment whether we realize it or not (Luke 18:13)]by the washing of regeneration [“Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name!” (Acts 22:16)]and renewing by the Holy Spirit, [“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17”; “To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:22-24)]6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [Praise You, Father!]

7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [It's noteworthy that after such a challenging list of imperative qualities we are to add to our lives, the letter gives this blessed reassurance! As the spiritual descendants of Abraham by faith (Gal 3:70, we have *everything* to look forward to in the afterlife. Glorify His name!]

8 This is a trustworthy statement; [We can know with certainty that God's grace is entirely sufficient enough to cleanse us until we are “whiter than snow” and worthy only through His abundant mercy of living in heaven eternally with Him after this life] and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, [though God's spokesmen are to be gentle, humble, and kind they also have every reason to be as bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1)]so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. [“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves. For anyone who hears the word but does not carry it out is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror, and after observing himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom, and continues to do so—not being a forgetful hearer, but an effective doer—he will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:22-25)BRB]

These things are good and profitable for men. [Good deeds are rewarded by God and that reward lasts throughout all eternity and thus exceeds the profit we obtain from earthly pursuits that can often be distracting]

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. [pugnacity is an an ugly quality in anyone, not only potential elders (1 Tim 3:3)]10 Reject a factious man after a

first and second warning, [Divisive troublemakers are heretics and must be banned because there's too much at stake, and of course forgiven and welcomed home should he or she come to his or her senses] **11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning**, [a condition that is highly contagious (2 Timothy 2:17) **being self-condemned**. [If a soul ends up condemned, it is not God's fault]

12 When I send Artemas ["He is believed to have served as the Bishop of Lystra, and to have been one of the Seventy Disciple" wiki] **or Tychicus** ("...an Asiatic Christian who, with Trophimus, accompanied the Apostle Paul on a part of his journey from Macedonia to Jerusalem. He is also alluded to have been with Paul in Rome, where the apostle sent him to Ephesus, probably for the purpose of building up and encouraging the church there." wiki] Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:12) **to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos (Acts 18; 1Cor. 3) on their way so that nothing is lacking for them. 14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.** [It takes faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love to do these good works, and 2 Peter 1:8 explains that if these qualities are ours and are increasing, they render us neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. ["Tell those we both love I said 'Hello' is a itself a way to retain attachments for those we are parted from]

Grace be with you all. ["Grace" is the best wish any soul could want for another]

***God's Definition of Inner Beauty:	devoted to what is good	dignity
blamelessness...	sensible	self-controlled
monogamy	upright	sound in faith, in love,
having faithful children	devout	and in endurance
humbleness	self-controlled	not slandering
not being prone to anger	holding firmly to the	not slaves to excessive
not a drunkard	faithful message	drinking
not violent	giving exhortation	teaching what is good
not greedy for gain	correcting those who	loving our spouses
hospitable	speak against it. (1:3-11)	loving our children
	purity (1:15)	fulfilling our domestic
	temperance	responsibilities

kind
submissive
being an example of good works
showing integrity in teaching Biblically sound messages
dignity
Being good, honest and faithful to our employers (chapter 2)
rejecting godless ways and worldly desires
living...upright, and godly lives
eager to do good
earning a good reputation (chapter 2)
being subject/obedient to rulers and authorities
being obedient

ready for every good work
not slandering anyone
being peaceable
gentle
courteous
not arguing about things that are spiritually irrelevant (chapter 4)

"Life-Ruining" Qualities:

Rebelling against goodness
idle talkers
deceiving
teaching lies for dishonest gain
lying
acting like evil beasts
laziness
gluttony

promoting spiritual myths
dirty minds (1:10-14)
detestable behavior
disobedient to God (chapter 2)
foolishness
disobedient
easily misled
enslaved to various [destructive -cd]passions/desires
wasting our lives in evil envy
hateful and hating one another(chapter 3)