

مَقْدَمَةُ الرِّسَالَةِ

¹بُولُسُ، عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ لِأَجْلِ إِيْمَانٍ مُخْتَارِي اللَّهِ وَمَعْرِفَةِ الْحَقِّ الَّتِي هُوَ حَسَبُ النَّقْوَى، عَلَى رَجَاءِ الْحَيَاةِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ بِهَا اللَّهُ الْمُتَرَهُ عَنِ الْكَذِبِ قَبْلَ الْأَرْمَةِ الْأَرْتِيَّةِ،² وَإِنَّمَا أَطْهَرَ كَلِمَتَهُ فِي أَوْقَاتِهَا الْخَاصَّةِ بِالْكَرَارَةِ، الَّتِي أَوْثِمْتُ أَنَا عَلَيْهَا بِحَسَبِ أَمْرِ مُخْلِصِنَا اللَّهُ،³ إِلَى تَبْطُسَ، الْإِبْنِ الصَّرِيحِ حَسَبِ الْإِيْمَانِ الْمُشْتَرَكِ، نِعْمَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَسَلَامٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْآبِ وَالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مُخْلِصِنَا.

تَوْصِيَاتُ الرِّسُولِ لِلْكَنِيسَةِ

⁴مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا تَرَكْتُكَ فِي كِرْبَتِ لِيَكُنْ تَكْمَلُ تَرْتِيبِ الْأُمُورِ النَّاقِصَةِ وَثِقِيمِ فِي كُلِّ مَدِينَةٍ شَيْخًا كَمَا أَوْصَيْتُكَ،⁵ إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يَلَا لَوْمَ، بَعْلَ امْرَأَةٍ وَاجِدَةٍ، لَهُ أَوْلَادٌ مُؤْمِنُونَ لَيْسُوا فِي شِكَايَةِ الْخَلَاةِ وَلَا مُتَمَرِّدِينَ.⁶ لِأَنَّهُ يَجِبُ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْأَسْفُفُ يَلَا لَوْمَ كَوَكِيلِ اللَّهِ غَيْرَ مُعْجَبٍ بِنَفْسِهِ وَلَا غَضُوبٍ وَلَا مُذْمِنِ الْخَمْرِ وَلَا صَرَّابٍ وَلَا طَامِعٍ فِي الرِّبْحِ الْقَبِيحِ، بَلْ مُضِيْفًا لِلْغُرَبَاءِ، مُجَنِّبًا لِلْخَبَرِ، مُتَعَقِّلًا، بَارًّا، وَرِعًا، صَابِطًا لِنَفْسِهِ،⁷ مُلَازِمًا لِلْكَلِمَةِ الصَّادِقَةِ الَّتِي بِحَسَبِ التَّعْلِيمِ، لِيَكُنْ يَكُونُ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَعْطِيَ بِالتَّعْلِيمِ الصَّحِيحِ وَيُؤَيِّجَ الْمُتَاقِصِينَ.

تَوْصِيَاتُ الرِّسُولِ فِي تَوْبِيخِ الْمُرْتَدِّينَ

⁸فَإِنَّهُ يُوجَدُ كَثِيرُونَ مُتَمَرِّدِينَ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِالتَّاطِلِ وَيَخْدَعُونَ الْعُقُولَ، وَلَا سِيَمَا الَّذِينَ مِنَ الْخِتَانِ⁹ الَّذِينَ يَجِبُ سَدُّ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ، فَإِنَّهُمْ يَفْلُبُونَ بُيُوتًا بِجُمْلَتِهَا مُعْلِمِينَ مَا لَا يَجِبُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الرِّبْحِ الْقَبِيحِ.¹⁰ قَالَ وَاحِدٌ مِنْهُمْ، وَهُوَ تَبِيُّ لَهُمْ خَاصٌّ: الْكِرِيْتِيُّونَ دَائِمًا كَذَّابُونَ، وَخُوشٌ رَدِيَّةٌ، بَطُلُونَ بَطَالَةً.¹¹ هَذِهِ الشَّهَادَةُ صَادِقَةٌ. فَلِهَذَا السَّبَبِ وَبَحْثُهُمْ بِصَرَامَةٍ لِيَكُنْ يَكُونُوا أَصْحَاءً فِي الْإِيْمَانِ،¹² لَا يُضْعَوْنَ إِلَى خُرَاقَاتِ يَهُودِيَّةٍ وَوَصَايَا أَنَاسِ مُرْتَدِّينَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ.¹³ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ طَاهِرٌ لِلطَّاهِرِينَ وَأَمَّا لِلتَّجْسِسِينَ وَعَبَرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَلَيْسَ شَيْءٌ طَاهِرًا، بَلْ قَدْ تَجَسَّسَ ذُهُنُهُمْ أَبْضًا وَصَمِيرُهُمْ. بَعَثَرُوهُمْ بِأَنَّهُمْ يَعْرِفُونَ اللَّهَ وَلَكِنَّهُمْ بِالْأَعْمَالِ يُنْكِرُونَهُ، إِذْ هُمْ رَجِسُونَ غَيْرَ طَائِعِينَ وَمِنْ جِهَةِ كُلِّ عَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ مَرْفُوضُونَ.

¹Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;³ But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;⁴ To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.⁵ For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:⁶ If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;⁸ But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;⁹ Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.¹⁰ For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:¹¹ Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.¹² One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.¹³ This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;¹⁴ Not giving

heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.¹⁵ Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.