

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 عَنْ 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 الْمُسْتَرَكِ، نِعْمَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَسَلَامٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْآبِ وَالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مُخْلِصِنَا.

تَوْصِيَاتُ الرِّسُولِ لِلْكَنِيسَةِ

⁴مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا تَرَكْتُكَ فِي كِرِيَتِ 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 عَصُوبٍ وَلَا مُذْمِنِ الْخَمْرِ وَلَا صَرَّابٍ وَلَا طَامِعٍ فِي الرِّيحِ الْقَصِيحِ،⁷ بَلْ مُضِيْفًا لِلْغُرَبَاءِ، مُجَنِّبًا لِلْخَبَرِ، مُتَعَقِّلًا، بَارًّا، وَرِعًا، صَابِطًا لِنَفْسِهِ،⁸ مُلَازِمًا لِلْكَلِمَةِ الصَّادِقَةِ الَّتِي بِحَسَبِ التَّعْلِيمِ، لِيَكُنْ يَكُونُ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَعْطَى بِالتَّعْلِيمِ الصَّحِيحِ وَيُؤَبِّحَ الْمُتَاقِصِينَ.

تَوْصِيَاتُ الرِّسُولِ فِي تَوْبِيخِ الْمُرْتَدِّينَ

⁹فَإِنَّهُ يُوجَدُ كَثِيرُونَ مُتَمَرِّدِينَ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِالتَّابِطِ وَيَخْدَعُونَ الْعُقُولَ، وَلَا سِيَمَا الَّذِينَ مِنَ الْخِتَانِ¹⁰ الَّذِينَ يَجِبُ سَدُّ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ، فَإِنَّهُمْ يَفْلُبُونَ بُيُوتًا بِجُمْلَتِهَا مُعْلِمِينَ مَا لَا يَجِبُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الرِّيحِ الْقَصِيحِ.¹¹ قَالَ وَاحِدٌ مِنْهُمْ، وَهُوَ تَبِيُّ لَهُمْ خَاصٌّ: الْكِرِيَتِيُّونَ دَائِمًا كَذَّابُونَ، وَخُوشٌ رَدِيَّةٌ، بَطُلُونَ بَطَالَةً.¹² هَذِهِ الشَّهَادَةُ صَادِقَةٌ. فَلِهَذَا السَّبَبِ وَبَحْثُهُمْ بِصَرَامَةٍ لِيَكُنْ يَكُونُوا أَصْحَاءً فِي الْإِيْمَانِ،¹³ لَا يُضْعَوْنَ إِلَى خُرَاقَاتِ يَهُودِيَّةٍ وَوَصَايَا أَنَاسِ مُرْتَدِّينَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ.¹⁴ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ طَاهِرٌ لِلطَّاهِرِينَ وَأَمَّا لِلتَّجْسِينَ وَعَبَرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَلَيْسَ شَيْءٌ طَاهِرًا، بَلْ قَدْ تَجَسَّسَ ذُهُنُهُمْ أَبْضًا وَصَمِيرُهُمْ.¹⁵ يَغْتَرِفُونَ 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.