

تيموثاوس يتعرف على إيمان الكنيسة

¹لِذَلِكَ، إِذْ لَمْ نَحْتَمِلْ أَيْضًا، اسْتَحْسَنَّا أَنْ نُتْرَكَ فِي أَيْتَا وَحْدًا² فَأَرْسَلْنَا تِيمُوثَاوُسَ، أَخَاتَا وَخَادِمَ اللَّهِ وَالْعَامِلَ مَعَنَا فِي إِنْجِيلِ الْمَسِيحِ، حَتَّى يُبَيِّنَكُمْ وَيُعْطَكُمْ لِأَجْلِ إِيْمَانِكُمْ³ كَيْ لَا يَتَرَعَّرَ أَحَدٌ فِي هَذِهِ الصِّيقَاتِ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ مَوْضُوعُونَ لِهَذَا⁴ لَأَنَّا لَمَّا كُنَّا عِنْدَكُمْ سَبَقْنَا فَقُلْنَا لَكُمْ، إِنَّا عَتِيدُونَ أَنْ تَصَافِقَ، كَمَا حَصَلَ أَيْضًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ⁵. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا، إِذْ لَمْ أَحْتَمِلْ أَيْضًا، أَرْسَلْتُ لِكَيْ أَعْرِفَ إِيْمَانَكُمْ، لَعَلَّ الْمُجَرَّبَ يَكُونُ قَدْ جَرَّبَكُمْ فَيَصِيرَ تَعْنَبًا بَاطِلًا⁶. وَأَمَّا الْآنَ فَإِذَا جَاءَ إِلَيْنَا تِيمُوثَاوُسُ مِنْ عِنْدِكُمْ وَبَشَّرَنَا بِإِيْمَانِكُمْ وَمَحَبَّتِكُمْ وَبِأَنَّ عِنْدَكُمْ ذِكْرًا لَنَا حَسَنًا كُلَّ جَيْنٍ وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْتَأْفُونَ أَنْ تَرَوْنَا كَمَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا أَنْ تَرَائِمْ⁷، فَمِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا تَعَرَّيْنَا، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، مِنْ جَهْتِكُمْ فِي صِيقَتِنَا وَصُرُورَتِنَا بِإِيْمَانِكُمْ⁸، لَأَنَّا الْآنَ نَعِيشُ إِنْ تَبَيَّنَ أَنْتُمْ فِي الرَّبِّ.

بولس يصلي لأجل الكنيسة

⁹لأنَّهُ أَيُّ شُكْرٍ نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نُعَوِّضَ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ جَهْتِكُمْ عَنْ كُلِّ الْفَرْحِ الَّذِي تَفْرَحُ بِهِ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ قُدَّامَ إِلَهِنَا،¹⁰ طَالِيَيْنَ لَيْلًا وَنَهَارًا أَوْفَرَ طَلَبٍ أَنْ تَرَى وُجُوهَكُمْ وَتُكَمِّلَ نَقَائِصَ إِيْمَانِكُمْ¹¹. وَاللَّهُ نَفْسُهُ، أَبُونَا، وَرَبُّنَا يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ يَهْدِي طَرِيقَنَا إِلَيْكُمْ¹²، وَالرَّبُّ يُبَيِّنُكُمْ وَيَبْزِدُكُمْ فِي الْمَحَبَّةِ بَعْضَكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ وَلِلْجَمِيعِ، كَمَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا لَكُمْ¹³، لِكَيْ يُبَيِّنَ قُلُوبَكُمْ بِلاَ لَوْمٍ فِي الْقَدَاسَةِ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ أَيْتَا فِي مَجِيءِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مَعَ جَمِيعِ قَدِّيسِيهِ.

¹Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;² And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:³ That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.⁴ For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.⁵ For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.⁶ But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:⁷ Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:⁸ For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.⁹ For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;¹⁰ Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?¹¹ Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.¹² And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:¹³ To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all

his saints.