

Passage: Titus 1:5-16

Title: Setting Things Straight

Summary: Paul is giving instruction to Pastor Titus that some things are off there in the church in Crete, and Titus needs to get the spiritual things straightened out for the sake of the church and its members. One of the main reasons things were off in the church and the believers, was because of the outside cultural influences that were prevalent and rampant in the region. A most applicable study considering the days we live, and the cultural influences the church faces today.

Titus 1:5–16 (NKJV) ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Titus 1:5 NKJV) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you;

For this reason I left you in Crete – Titus, my like-minded son, I left you in Crete for the furtherance of the gospel, so that the people there may be taken further in the Lord, and grow deeper in Christ.

set in order the things that are lacking - there was some disorder in the church and Titus needed to set things right. Verse 5 is the theme, the reason for the letter (we call them epistle), “to set things in order that are lacking”. That phrase is a medical term; it was applied to the setting of a crooked limb.” (Wiersbe) There were crooked things that had to be set straight among the congregations of Crete.

So first is the establishment of elders in the church. Elders were the leaders who could teach and counsel the congregation.

Overview

The Book of Titus, written by the Apostle Paul, to another young Pastor called Titus. We will see a resemblance to the Epistles of 1&2 Timothy, for they too were written to a young Pastor. These three books make up what are called the Pastoral Epistles.

This book was written around 62-64AD. The book of Titus chronologically fits between 1 Timothy, and 2 Timothy. So it is right after his imprisonment in Rome, and sometime before his final imprisonment before Nero that we just studied in 2 Timothy. This Book of Titus is the next to last epistle written by Paul

Titus like Timothy was a young protégé of the Apostle Paul, maybe even coming to the saving knowledge of Christ through Paul's ministry.

Titus is ministering in the area of Crete. Crete, modern day area of Greece, is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, it was and is a beautiful mountainous area. Crete is a mountainous island southeast of Greece, approximately 160 miles long and 35 miles wide

The church most likely got its start on the Day of Pentecost, as Crete were present when Peter was preaching, and the Holy Spirit descended and many people were saved (Acts 2:11)
Acts 2:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."*

Crete was a tough place, we are told in verse 12 of chapter one that the people were very carnal:
Titus 1:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² *One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,*

They were of the Greek cultural, so all the Greek lifestyles and myths would be prevalent in this region, and creeping into the church. Titus himself was a Greek, not a Jew, so he was well aware of the culture he ministered in. God will do that, he will call you out of a place, teach you, then send you back to that very same place to lead others out.

Besides being a Greek and understanding the culture, Titus was well prepared to serve in such an area. Titus was with Paul (Galatians 2) at the infamous Acts 15 counsel on circumcision. It was at that counsel where the Apostles, lead by the Holy Spirit, said that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised to become followers of Christ. A decision that Titus, being a Greek, was very pleased with. Titus was also instrumental in helping raise money for the church in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8), It was from Corinth that he was sent on to the island of Crete where he is when this letter arrives, so he ministered with Paul at the church in Corinth.

Galatians 2:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. ² And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. ³ Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.*

Acts 15:6–12 (NKJV) ⁶ *Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. ⁷ And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, ⁹ and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." ¹² Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.*

2 Corinthians 8:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.*

This young minister has quite the resume. He is present in the revolutionizing decision on circumcision regarding the Gentiles, that they are free in Christ, free from the rituals. Then he ministers with Paul in Corinth dealing with a very carnal church, he is center for a church giving and offering effort to help the those in need, and then on to take the pastorate at the church in Crete. Crete a very carnal place, and Titus was prepared by his ministry in Corinth. It is wonderful how the Lord prepares us for ministry and we really never realize it at the time..

Titus was well trained, but here in the church of Crete he faced continual opposition by ungodly men within the church. Paul writes him to encourage and instruct him to hold fast to the Word, and to establish leaders within the church who can co-labor with him to combat the poison within the church from these ungodly men, and that everybody in the Church will do good works.

This is applicable for us because remember, a true leader does not create followers, but a true leader creates other leaders. So application for all of us today, not just those with the title/appointment in the church to be elders, but to mothers, and fathers, and all the ministry leaders. So the calling, the shard and deep desire of what we studied back in 2 Timothy 2, to raise up the next generation.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

(Titus 1:6 NKJV) if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

Some of the things we will read, and study are repetitive of what we just studied in timothy 1&2, but don't drift away on me, for as we know verse-by-verse teaching is always right on time, and exactly where God wants us to be at in His word. So continue to study to show thyself approved, and remember, "We are going through the Bible and the Bible is going through us."

I might note, this epistle doesn't focus on explaining or defending doctrine, but the application of doctrine. This is a good point for us, our understanding of doctrine and theology must be translated and applied into our everyday living.

Blameless - means can they withstand a 60 Minutes investigative story. That people can't say look what he is doing in the church and look at what he is doing at home.

(1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) Abstain from every form of evil.

husband of one wife - he has quit being a player, and is a one woman man,

having faithful children - The leader must establish authority at home before he can lead in the church.

Funny story, Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messnier, who was the first man to scale Mt Everest without oxygen, and conquered every mountain over 26,000 feet in the world broke his leg after falling off a wall surrounding his home in Italy. He was climbing the wall around his home after he had locked himself out of the house. So here is a man who is conquered every mountain in the world but breaks his leg in his home. That seems to be the way it goes so often; there are so many men who are skilled and respected at their workplace, they are the go-to man, if he can't fix it, we are doomed, but at home they get no respect and bumble through trying to lead their homes. You must get your home in order first, before you serve anywhere else. If you are involved in ministry and things aren't right at the home, then back out of ministry, take a leave of absence, your family, your spouse and kids have to be your first priority, you have to make sure your kids are grounded in the Lord

Not accused dissipation or insubordination – living dissipation (lavishly or excessive), or insubordination (not subject to leadership).

(Titus 1:7 NKJV) For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

For a bishop - The term "bishop" (synonymous with "elders," verse 5) can be translated "overseer" and suggests responsibility. "Steward of God" conveys the idea of a manager of a household or estate. The overseer or steward of God's "household" (the local church). A bishop was a helper around the church, doing whatever needed to be done. They are the behind the scene workers of the church, but ever so vital. For us, the qualities of both the elder and bishop, are characteristics of a godly man or woman of God, and things we should desire.

as a steward of God, not self-willed. – the helpers in the church we to just be faithful with whatever the Lord had them doing. A steward doesn't own, he just manages what has been given to him. All ministers in the church are just managers of God's church, God owns the building and the people. Ministers and Pastors start to destruct when they forget they don't own, they just manage what God has given them. When I minister starts thinking these are my people, this is my ministry, he will implode that ministry, because he will be striving to gain or maintain.

Some indicators of this are being self-willed and quick tempered, which will lead to being judgmental of the people. Anger - you can't be angry in the ministry; you can't get angry with the people

Not given to wine - It's a privilege to be a leader in the Body of Christ, but that privilege comes with responsibility. The men at the helm make important decisions at the spur of the moment - and they can't afford a cloudy judgment. Admittedly, opinions differ on whether the phrase, "not given to wine" requires total abstinence or extreme caution - but there's no doubt it's intended to limit the elders' use of alcohol, and warn him of its dangers.

(Titus 1:8 NKJV) but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

Next Paul lists positive requirements. First, he is to be philoxenon (literally, "a lover of strangers," in other words, "hospitable").

Crete was a wretched place, so public sleeping areas were very immoral and dangerous. The church was to take in traveling Christians to bless them and protect them.

A spiritual man or woman is to be hospitable. The question is why aren't more people hospitable. I believe it is the Martha Mentality. Do you mean the Mary and Martha story from Luke 10 where Mary is sitting at Jesus' feet and Martha is doing all the work, no not really. I mean the Martha Stewart mentality. The mentality that when someone comes over the house has to be spotless; the meal has to be a 7 course, 5 star meal. What happens is it becomes so much work that people say I can't do this again, or it will be a long time before I do that again.

I find that truly hospitable people are the ones who don't really go to much effort when people come over. They don't vacuum before you come figuring you're just gona get dirty, so might as well wait until you leave. When they say help yourself, that means the cokes are in the refrigerator and the glasses are in the paper cups are on the counter. Honestly, when I go over to someone's home, and they are nervous and uncomfortable, worried about pleasing everyone, then I start to get uncomfortable and nervous. It is easy to please me, all I want, is to be with you. I don't come for the food, I have a job, I could go out to eat and buy what I want. But your fellowship, your friendship, I can't get that at a restaurant.

The key to hospitality is to keep it simple. Subway, spaghetti, I'm happy. Hospitality isn't to be difficult or burdensome, just relax, keep it simple and enjoy the fellowship.

The story of Zacchaeus sums it up

(Luke 19:5 NKJV) And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

(Luke 19:6 NKJV) So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

Lover of what is good - Next, he is to be philagathon ("a lover of good things" or "a lover of good people"). The Greek word is used only here in the New Testament. Probably the sense is "good things" or "goodness" more than "good men."

Sober-minded - An elder is to be sōphrona (“prudent, thoughtful, self-controlled, sober”). The sense here is the wise control of every thought and instinct. I would say, he speaks before he speaks, his tongue is under control.

Just - As to the elder’s spiritual requirements, he is to be dikaion (“upright, just, righteous”), giving respect to man and reverence to God, as well as hosion (“pious, devout, holy”).

holy...” The term means “reserved for God”. Here’s how you spot holiness... It’s a man willing to give stuff up to spend time with God, and be more accessible for service, and be a better witness!

Self-controlled - “Temperate” (enkratē) means “disciplined, in full control of oneself.” It is similar to “sober” but has the added meaning of possessing inner strength to control one’s desires and actions.

(Titus 1:9 NKJV) holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

The leader (elder, overseer) must hold the “faithful (reliable, sure, trustworthy) word” he has been taught. By “sound doctrine” (occurring eight times in the Pastoral Epistles, it means “correct teaching”) he will be able to “exhort” (encourage, edify) and “convince” (refute, convict, point out, rebuke in a convincing way) the “gainsayers” (those who oppose sound doctrine).

This applies to every person, but as it is applied to the elder who I appointed, is it comes with the authority (and expectation) to administer church discipline on behalf of the church to keep the church pure and protected from things of the world, the flesh, and enemy.

Back to 2nd Timothy, holdfast to sound doctrine. –

(2 Timothy 1:13 NKJV) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

(1 Thessalonians 5:21 NKJV) Test all things; hold fast what is good.

(1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) Abstain from every form of evil.

Hold fast to what is good, hold on to this word, make it a very part of your being, let the Word be your very breath. God will not give His word apart from Himself, this word isn’t for knowledge, it is for communion with our Creator. When we commune with Him, we know and fall deeper in love with Him, and become more like Him.

It is through the Sound Doctrine, this Word that we can exhort and convict those who contradict. Back in 2nd Samuel, David’s boy Eleazar, which means “God is my help” went to battle for David, he was known as one of the mighty men of David. The Philistine’s came up against Israel and it says that Eleazar clave to his sword, and the Lord gave him a great victory. The word for clave there in verse 10 was used in its day for permanent glue, it is the same word used in Genesis 2 for the husband and wife cleaving together, the two becoming one. Eleazar’s hand and sword became one, the sword became an extension of Eleazar, and the Lord gave him a great victory over his enemy.

(2 Samuel 23:9 KJV) And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

(2 Samuel 23:10 KJV) He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

The same applies to all of us, we are to clave to our sword as we battle in this life.

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

You a Bible that is falling apart, usually belongs to someone who isn’t.

That is what a godly, spiritual leader does, gets into the Word. Folks it has to be non-negotiable part of your week

The average person is on their smartphone 5 hours and 42 minutes. If you just spend 15 minutes a day reading your bible on our CCAAC Bible App, you will read through the whole bible in a year! I promise you power if you do, not because of my personal experience which is true, but because the promise of God who says He will prosper His Word to you!

Isaiah 55:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalms 1 (NKJV) ¹ Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 1. Keeps it simple for me. And I love the part delighting in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. So we see an idiom of day and night means continually. And that word meditate means continually in the sense it was a word that was used with animals, such as cows, who continually were meditating, chewing on the food that they just ate. And cows are interesting. If you watch them in the field, they can be laying there chewing, but they hadn't taken in new grass or hay, if you watch them. Well, what they're doing is that's how God designed them is they chew on the fresh food. They swallow it. It goes into an inner stomach, and there it's being worked upon and nutrients drawn and the likes. And then the cow brings that back up and chews on it some more and swallows it again and will go through that multiple times before it moves into the final stomach for the final processing. Fearfully and wonderfully made. These animals are amazing creations.

And so God likens that to us as the Word of God. And there is this beauty of the continual chewing on the word and to come back to the same word later in the day. And oh, the power of having regular times of word and prayer throughout your day. We see that in the Old Testament. They literally three times a day and boy, they lived in power. Look at the life of Daniel. And so too will it be for us.

And with the regular routine through the scripture comes a place of the searching through the scriptures where we search through it, dig through it, come back to it, ponder on these things, meditate on these things. And they're beautiful, and they're exciting things. I think there's a place where we have to come back to the remembrance of the need to just simply come back to be reminded of the Word of God. So even when we reach the place I've read through the Bible once, twice, or as many times, I find how many times, regardless how many times I've been through it, I come to that place. Oh yeah, I forgot that promise. Oh yeah, I forgot that passage. Oh yeah, I forgot that story. How rich it is. It reminds me of just yesterday being deep in the woods in the mountains here in western Maryland. Just had several inches of snow and another foot, maybe even 18 inches to two feet coming soon, to which I said to myself, I need to test out my four-wheel drive and make sure everything is in operating order. And so the four-wheel drive high was no problem. Then I got to a thicker spot, and I said, "Let's go into four-wheel drive low," and my truck would not engage at all into four-wheel drive low. And your system tells you that it's not by this continual beeping. And it flashes that it's not engaged into four-wheel drive low, which is definitely what would be a need a couple miles back into woods of the mountains with a foot or two of snow. But luckily I didn't need four-wheel drive low. I was able to get out in two-wheel drive, but I used four-wheel drive high just to make myself feel like I was off-roading.

So I was getting a little aggravated in the sense that I go, "Well now, I've got to take my truck to the dealer to find out why my four-wheel drive low is not working." But then this strange thought came to my mind. I'm not sure why I would even consider such a thing, that I said I should read the manual. And so as I read the manual, the manual clearly told me what I was doing and wrong, that I was putting it in park and then trying to go into four-wheel drive low. And the manual says that I have to put it in neutral, not park. And so once I did, immediately my four-wheel drive low worked exactly as it was designed, with pure power enough that I said, let's go find out how it will handle over here in this off-road condition. And so reading the manual brought me to a place of peace, a place of confidence that it was there if I needed it, but it also brought me to a place of joy that I could venture off and do something exciting out of my normal trail and daily routine of life.

And it's kind of like the hunt. Sometimes you really have to search it out, and you have to do the legwork. It's energy. It's effort. It's time. It's going deeper into the woods where nobody else is going. And in that, there is a joy along the way in the energy, the effort and the time as in the hunt. We enjoy the outdoors, and we can walk with the Lord and let the sweetness of fellowship of just walking in his glorious creation, seeing his omnipotent power, see his genius in his creation, his creativity, his artistic beauty, the things that he creates. We get to walk among that and get away from the sound of cars and worldly sounds and just get into the simplicity of like it was in the garden. And it's a beautiful place to be. And like Psalm 1, Psalm 5 in verse 1 says, "Give ear to my words, O Lord, and consider my meditation." And so the Word is more than just the one way God speaking to us, but we get to meditate on the Word and speak back to the Lord and have conversations with him and even, when need be, cry out to him. Verse 2 of Psalm 5 says, "Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to you will I pray. My voice shall you hear in the morning, O Lord. In the morning, I will direct it to you, and I will look up." And that's a beautiful promise as we meditate on the word.

Psalm 5:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. ² Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

But for the hunters that know public hunting and all the challenges that comes with it and the need to go further away from the crowd and get away from all the foxes that want to steal your grapes, as that passage declares, and you have hikers and bikers and people walking their dogs and other hunters, and you can be out there for an hour, and then your hunt is totally blown up. It's not their fault. It's public land, and everybody has a right to it.

But there's a place that we hunt for the freezer, but there's also a place that's as sweet in hunting, where we get to hunt 12 months out of the year, even though the season's only three or four months long. And what I mean by that is that off-season and the excitement of going back into the woods and searching through the woods and looking for the signs and the trails that are left by the deer and looking for indications of their movement and looking at places that we normally wouldn't do when it is hunting season, because then we would be the ones blowing the hunt and ruining that habitat. But in the off-season, we get to search it out and not have to worry about so much destroying the habitat.

And so you see the power of the Word and the joy of it. There's just the joy of the searching out of the Word, looking for the signs, taking it into deeper places. And it's always alive. It's never stale. And we get to enjoy something every day of the year, not just for a particular season. When we come to the place of, I get to search through these scriptures, hear the voice of God, meditate on what he has spoken, and then speak back and say, "Consider my meditation, the things I have been chewing on," and the Lord would answer. All of life's questions are answered in the Bible, and people still have a lot of questions because they don't search deep for the answers. They don't go back to the remembrance. The manual tells us how to get into four full-wheel power, and that's what I love about this scripture. Every day, as Lamentations 3:23-24, "His mercies are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness." And every day he has something waiting for us as he rains the manna down from heaven. So I encourage you to enjoy searching the scriptures, meditating on them, getting before the Lord and ask him to hear your meditation of what you've

been chewing on and thinking of. And you'll have this sweet fellowship that lasts all year, not just for one season.

Lamentations 3:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* ²⁴ *“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”*

Convict those who contradict - Pastor Titus needed help. A pastor can't be the only one who takes a stand. He needs other men who are sound in their doctrine, and not afraid of confrontation.

(Titus 1:10 NKJV) For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Verses 10–16 describe false teachers whose character is totally opposite to that of the elder just described. False teachers were

- (1) anupotaktoi (“unruly, rebellious, insubordinate”). This rebelliousness is against God’s Word and God’s messengers, specifically those who were troubling Paul and Titus. T
- (2) hey were (2) mataiologoi—“vain talkers, empty-headed babblers” (compare 1 Timothy 1:6).
- (3) They were (3) phrenapatai (“deceivers, misleaders”) who taught things without substance.

Paul then identified them as “of the circumcision.” These Judaizers (Galatians 2:12ff.) believed circumcision and the keeping of Jewish ceremonial laws were necessary for salvation. They held to unscriptural Jewish myths (verse 14) and genealogies (Titus 3:9; see 1 Timothy 1:4). They were ascetics with scruples against things God considered good (Titus 1:14, 15; see 1 Timothy 4:3–5).

The only way to fend off the insubordinate and babblers is through the word. Be like Eleazar, become one with your sword, your word, and battle them.

especially those of the circumcision - the circumcision are the rule keepers, those that put burdens on you, and inflicts pain. They put bondage on you all in the name of religion.

You need to be in the word and have sound doctrine to withstand them. Why? Because the Word is freeing, it liberates me from trying to figure out what is best for me. I can just trust that if God said to do it, or not to do it, then it is the right thing to, and I am assured that His blessings will follow His word.

(Titus 1:11 NKJV) whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Paul wrote Titus that these Judaizers’ “mouths must be stopped” (muzzled, silenced, bridled) because they were subverting (ruining, upsetting, overturning) “whole houses” (households, families). They were teaching what was wrong “for filthy lucre’s sake”; that is, “for dishonest gain.”

Their mouths must be stopped. By the way, do you notice back in verse 5, that the elders were appointed not elected. It is not based on popular vote or who has the most dominating personality. Church leaders are to be appointed, not elected. You see, if they are elected, then they have to maintain that favor with their electors. So when their electors don't like what they are saying, they elect someone else. The resultant is the sheep are leading the shepherd. The shepherd should be in direct leading form the Lord on where God wants the church to go. When people elect a pastor, then he is under pressure to preach and teach on the things they like to hear, and he quits teaching the word.

They do it for their personal gain. I wonder how many ministries would continue if there was no money coming in, how many ministers would go get a tentmaking job in order to support

themselves so they can still minister. I wonder how many ministers would keep ministering if their ministry dropped to just a few people.

(Titus 1:12 NKJV) One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

Paul quoted Epimenides, a 6th-century, B.C., native of Knossos, Crete, and a philosopher held in high esteem. In Greek literature "to Cretanize" meant to lie and cheat. "Evil beasts" (brutes) suggests the maliciousness attributed to animals. The words "slow bellies" can be translated "lazy gluttons." This describes the Cretan's uncontrolled greed.

This is kind of like the saying today, what happens in Vegas, as Vegas is known for its immorality.

It's interesting that Paul both knew, and had read the Greek classics. Epimenides had written in 659 BC, 700 years earlier - and Paul was familiar with his work. Obviously, Paul saw the value of educating himself in the culture and thought of the folks he wanted to reach.

(Titus 1:13 NKJV) This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

With the words "this witness (testimony) is true," Paul gave credence to the words of Epimenides (verse 12). Because Cretans were liars and lazy gluttons, Titus was to "rebuke them sharply." "Rebuke" is from the Greek verb *elenche* which has three basic meanings in the Pastorals:

- "bring to light, expose, set forth" (Titus 2:15);
- "convict, convince, point out" (Titus 1:9); and
- "reprove, correct" (see 1 Timothy 5:20).

**The second meaning is the sense in this verse.*

"Sharply" is the Greek adverb *apotomōs* ("severely, rigorously"). It occurs only here and in 2 Corinthians 13:10. "That they may be sound in the faith" is the purpose and objective of this sharp rebuke. Correction and restoration are the goals Paul set before Titus. "The faith" refers to the doctrine (accepted tenets of faith among the early Christians).

(Titus 1:14 NKJV) not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

This verse describes what the Cretan Christians were already doing. It shows the Judaistic influence, first toward fables, then toward asceticism.

- The Cretans were giving heed to "Jewish fables" (myths). (Compare Titus 3:9; see 1 Timothy 1:4 and comments there.)
- They were being turned from the truth of the gospel by the "commandments of men."

This is reminiscent of the Colossian heresy that Paul addressed in Colossians 2:20–22 and is further delineated in Titus 1:15.

These guys are creeping around causing problems, telling lies. They make up their own commandments, turn from the faith, and turn others from the faith. Rebuke them Paul says to Titus.

Today Paul would be accused of judging them, but what he really is doing them is identifying them by their lifestyle. Paul goes on to say in verse 15:

Along the same lines, it seems, no it is, the world the world is in hysteria, madness over the Covid-19 virus variant, omicron. Nothing is logical, our president calls it the pandemic of the unvaccinated, and pitting countryman against countryman, employee against employee, serviceman against serviceman, but without facts or proof. They say the vaccine needs updated because omicron breaks through it, but they still hold the position the pandemic of the

unvaccinated, and mandates, and firing, and overreaching governing authorities. The world will need to learn how to live with the virus, as it is not going away anytime soon. But the mantra pushes fear into believers, don't go to church, but its ok to go to work and the grocery store. As me and Renee early this week said (in a rhetorical question), what is the church to do, how is the church to respond, and we simultaneously said and echoed, "teach the truth", for the truth of Christ needs to counter the madness of world's mantra.

John 8:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:34–36 (NKJV) ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Church, it is vitally important to stay in the loop on the prophecy updates we do here every month, as we can see clearly how the continually dripping of the world's mantra can seep in and sound so wise, until we step back and look at it in the light of God's truth.

(Titus 1:15 NKJV) To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

It is not saying that everything a believer does will be pure, but, that the believer is pure, because they have been made pure.

John 15:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

And we come to the communion table to remember that it is so:

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

How do I walk in purity? Same – Truth! Psalm 1, Isaiah 55, is pure power, the mediating on the Word, day and night, and then the world's thoughts don't become my thoughts, but God's thoughts become my thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Psalms 119:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Titus 1:16 NKJV) They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

1:16. A strong contrast exists between the first two clauses: "They profess (claim) ... but in works they deny (disown)."

False teachers stood condemned by their own conduct. Paul said they were

- bdeluktoi ("abominable, detestable, repulsive");
- apeitheis ("disobedient"); and

- adokimoi (“reprobate, unfit, unqualified, worthless, useless, rejected after testing”).

The mention of “every good work” introduces a key emphasis in Titus (see 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14).

Jesus said you will know them by their fruit, not just their words.

Matthew 7:17–21 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

We are not to judge, but we are to identify them, we are to be fruit inspectors.

Mark this passage as it is very prophetic, in just like Paul said to Timothy, people will have a form of godliness in the last days, many will even say that is godliness, and true godliness will be rejected as being narrow and judgmental:

2 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

So Titus, chapter 1, part of the Pastoral Epistles, teachings and calling for all those who desire to be godly spiritual leaders in their homes, churches, and the world.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.