

June 23, 2019

TIME OF REFLECTION

“If churches are to be healthy, then pastors and teachers must be committed to discovering the meaning of Scripture and allowing that meaning to drive the agenda with their congregations.”

~Thabiti M. Anyabwile in his book *What Is a Healthy Church Member?*

“We don’t need a Church that moves with the world; we need a Church that moves the world.”

“The spirit of the age is very often the worst enemy of the age.”

~G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), English writer and journalist

“‘Fools despise wisdom and instruction’ (Prov. 1:7), but it is the nature of true godliness, maturity, and health in church members to accept the loving instruction and rebuke of others.”

“Churches become unsafe places if its leaders fail to be honest, transparent, and reliable. Sincerity may not be the final basis of truth, but there is no deep truth communicated where sincerity is lacking.”

~Thabiti M. Anyabwile, pastor of Anacostia Baptist Church in metro DC

“I think that churches would be places of greater intimacy and growth in Christ if people stopped lying about what we need, what we fear, where we fail, and how we sin.”

~Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, former professor of English at Syracuse

“Take heed to yourselves, lest your example contradict your doctrine... lest you unsay with your lives what you say with your tongues; and be the greatest hinderers of the success of your own labors.”

~Richard Baxter (1615-1691), English pastor and writer

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Setting the Church in Order: Gospel-Driven Leadership” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Titus 1:1-16 (NASB)*

¹ Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, ² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, ³ but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,

⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. ¹² One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.