

July 7, 2019

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## TIME OF REFLECTION

“Most modern freedom is at root fear. It is not so much that we are too bold to endure rules; it is rather that we are too timid to endure responsibilities.”

“Without authority there is no liberty. Freedom is doomed to destruction at every turn, unless there is a recognized right to freedom. And if there are rights, there is an authority to which we appeal for them.”

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

“Despotism may govern without faith, but liberty cannot.”

“When a people’s religion is destroyed... then not only will they let their freedom be taken from them, but often they actually hand it over themselves.”

~Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859), French political thinker, famous for his studies on Americans and their way of life

“Freedom is when you have the desire, the ability, and the opportunity to do what will leave you with no regrets forever.”

~John Piper (1946-present), pastor and author

“A knight does not protect the truth; he lives inside it and the truth protects him.”

~Ethan Hawke in *Rules for a Knight*

“God has assigned [the Church] this illustrious position, and it is unlawful for them to forsake it because—as I said—this was no mere earthly fabrication which was delivered to them. Nor is it a merely human system of opinion that they judge it right to preserve so carefully. It is not an endowment of merely human mysteries that has been committed to them, but truly God himself, who is omnipotent, the Creator of everything, and invisible, has sent the Truth from heaven—the holy and unfathomable Word—placed him among men and firmly established him in their hearts.”

~Letter to Diognetus (c. A.D. 150), Chapter Seven

“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?*

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “Keeping the Church on Track” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

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

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, <sup>3</sup> 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,

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

<sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. <sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, <sup>11</sup> who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. <sup>12</sup> One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” <sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup> not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.