

Titus 1:10-16

We continue our study of Titus this morning: Setting things in Order. Paul left Titus on the island of Crete so that he might set things in order. Things needed to be set in order because of the danger of false teachers and false doctrine.

There are 3 safe-guards that keep us from being deceived and falling away.

1. Elders or pastors
2. Brothers and sisters
3. The Holy Spirit

We see all three of these safeguards surface in our text today.

READ / PRAY

I. Elders or Pastors v10-11

Verse 10

Paul has left Titus in Crete in order to set things in order among the new churches they had planted together.

1. Part of setting things in order, as you saw last week, was appointing godly, biblically qualified leaders for these churches.
2. Why was it so important to make sure there were godly, biblically qualified leaders for these churches?
3. The first word of verse 10 alerts us that Paul is about to answer that question for us: “for.”

For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

A. For there are many...

1. Before Titus could get things in order there were already false teachers.
2. As fast as churches could be planted on Crete, false teachers were, sowing their seeds of error.

B. These false teachers are characterized as...

1. Rebellious Men: They are rebelling against sound doctrine.
2. Empty talkers and deceivers

- a. Empty talkers describes someone who talks about what he doesn't understand
- b. 1 Timothy 1:6 *For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to*

fruitless discussion

- c. They talk without understanding and end up leading people astray: deceiving

C. There are many who fit this description, but there is 1 group that is dominant: those of the circumcision party.

1. Crete had a sizable population of Jews, and some were stirring up confusion.
2. They are interpreting the Word through the lens of the Old Testament law and their traditions, which caused them to miss the truth.

Verse 11

1. One reason godly leaders must be put in place quickly is to oppose false teachers
2. How do they oppose them? By silencing them...by stopping their preaching and teaching from spreading.
3. Silence here literally means, put a muzzle on them.

II. Brothers and Sisters v12-14

Reprove them (the congregation, not the false teachers)

1. The congregation was apparently tolerating these false teachers instead of rejecting them
2. Titus is supposed to reprove them for this severely.
 - a. Titus's rebuke was to be sharp or severe.
 - b. In the words of Chrysostom, "Give them a stroke that cuts deep."
3. The rebuke was to cut with penetrating force...and why? So that they will be sound in the faith.

It is important as a congregation to help each other stay true to Scriptures and avoid false teachers.

1. Don't pay attention to them: in this case Jewish myths and commandments of men (traditions)
2. Brothers and Sisters are supposed to help each other recognize and reject false teaching and false teachers
3. There are still many false teachers who are popular with the masses...songs that communicate untruth...books that may be bestsellers but are misleading...traditions that interfere with a pursuit of holiness and the mission.
4. We need each other to help warn and guard!

III. The Holy Spirit v15-16

Simply put, it is important to have a true saving faith if we are to be able to stand in the face of false teaching and teachers.

1. The Holy Spirit indwells true believers
2. He gives them the ability to discern false teaching and the power to stand against it.

Both of the issues here have to do with works...deeds.

A. Detestable

1. Detestable literally points to that which causes horror and disgust to God.
 - a. They keep their rules and their laws.
 - b. They dot their religious i's and cross their religious t's but their hearts are far from Him!
 - c. Matthew 23:25-26 "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.*"

2. So what would make them detestable?
 - a. They were working in order to gain and maintain their standing with God.
 - b. They thought that by not eating, not touching, observing, etc. that they would be acceptable to God.
3. What could be more sickening to God than for us to treat the work of Christ like it is inadequate and like He needs our contribution to make it sufficient.
4. All of our works are filthy rags...stop trusting in them.

B. Disobedient

1. On the flip side there are those, not who rely on their good works for salvation, but who think there is no place for them.
2. Obviously this was an issue at Crete because it is a focus of the letter
 - a. Titus 2:7 *Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works*
 - b. Titus 2:13-14 *Jesus Christ, gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*
 - c. Titus 3:14 *And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works*
 - d. Just as much as they needed to be warned that they could not contribute to their own salvation, they also needed to understand the fact that faith without works is dead.
2. Matthew 7:21-27

C. Worthless

1. Literally he is disqualified in God's sight and nothing he does is acceptable to God.
2. If you are so prideful that you think that God needs you to add something to His death, burial, and resurrection in order to obtain or maintain your salvation, you are unfit because you do not understand the gospel! It is by grace through "faith."
3. If you are so ignorant that you think you will not be changed by the gospel, you are unfit because you do not understand the gospel. Faith without works is dead.
4. This is a battle for the truth of the gospel...and it is important because the indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of the saved is a major guard against false teaching and teachers

There are 3 major defenses against false teachers and teaching.

1. Godly, biblically qualified teachers and leaders
2. A congregation that will stand firm in the faith
3. The Holy Spirit indwelling us as true believers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?