

The Work of Reformation (Titus 1:9-16)

Introduction

Acts 20:29-31, “savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”

The problem: *Those who contradict*

1. “Insubordinate” (v. 10a)

Trapp: “Lawless, yokeless, masterless men, untractable, untameable, that refuse to be reformed, hate to be healed.”

2. “Idle talkers and deceivers” (v. 10b).

Like “Talkative” in the *Pilgrim’s Progress*.

3. “Especially those of the circumcision” (v. 10c)

They taught, “You must be circumcised and keep the law” (Ac 15:24, Gal 2:11).

4. “Subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not” (v. 11a)

Verse 14, explicitly, “Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.” Extra-biblical matters of faith, and extra-biblical matters of practice.

5. “For the sake of dishonest gain” (v. 11b)

They’re doing it to draw a well-paying crowd.

6. “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him” (v. 16).

The solution: “By sound doctrine, both exhort and convict those who contradict.”

1. *The teachers’ mouths must be stopped* (v. 11).

For example, Paul dealing with the circumcision sect, first in Acts 15.

2. *The Christians following them must be rebuked sharply to be sound in the faith.*

“Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withheld him to his face, because he was to be blamed” (Gal 2:11, 14, 21). O foolish Galatians! “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel” (Gal 1:6). “Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2Tim 4:2-4).

Application

We don’t want the reformation of the church. We want the separation of the church. We don’t want to struggle with problems in the camp. We’ll a new camp.

“First, call to mind the fearful calamities of the Church, which might move to pity even minds of iron. Nay, set before your eyes her squalid and unsightly form, and the sad devastation which is everywhere beheld” (Calvin, *Necessity of Reforming the Church*).