

NOT I BUT CHRIST! HOLY SPIRIT HAVE YOUR WAY! WOMBA!

TEX IS Titus 1, but focusing primarily on v. 10–16. ~ Characteristics of an Elder & False prophet

***NEED TO REITERATE MAIN PT THROUGHOUT THE SERMON –

FP R RAMPANT SO LETS KNOW SOUND DOCTRINE!

➤ **Background on the person of Titus**

- Titus was a Greek & Fellow laborer; traveled c Paul to Jerusalem & prob participated in the Jerusalem Council (Gal 2, acts 15); Probably went c Paul to deliver 1st Corinthians & went s/ Paul to deliver the 2nd. Was converted by Paul and was probably with Paul during his roman imprisonment later in Acts. Was told to raise up elders organize the church and died as the first bishop of Crete.
- Read titus 1:1–9 for context
- **V10: For there r many rebellious men, empty talkers, deceivers, especially those of the circumcisioN?**
- **If many FP → MANY qualified ELDERS! – reason Paul left Titus in Chrete!**
- **Rebellious**/insubordinate– STORY college debauchery ::excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures
 - Here we r specifically talking about FP – so what r they rebelling against?
 - CHURCH AUTHORITY – [Hbr 13:17](#) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. [\[fn\]](#)Let them do this with joy and not [\[fn\]](#)with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
 - In v 9 – elders are called to reprove with sound doctrine which FP don't likey
 - FP don't like being told what to do so they will try to avoid elders/biblicaly sound
 - People who love Jesus will try to obey all of Gods commands john 14 – so FP
 - The WORD OF GOD! – Hebrews 4 – sharper then dbl-edged
 - Why would a FP want to rebel against the painfully blunt/offensive WOG
 - Because the WOG can be destructive to our worldview and beliefs. Makes us uncomfortable
 - **What ppl want or the audiences of preachers → 2 timothy 4:1–5 → wanna have their ears tickled**

- why not tell people what they want to hear if it gains you a showing and money and popularity?
- **Empty talk**, vain/misleading/smooth/hollow/meaningless/fluent impressive but nothing constructive -
- **Dr knows you have a cancer - what should he do? Truth sets free - lies give false hope**
 - as long as FP have us entertained and comfortable and fat then they are good to go right? This is what our culture is about. Get our quick fix and then we are - **easy believism - EXPLAIN**
 - This is what false prophets thrive off of - our American dream mentality - no offensiveness or truth -
 - 2 TIM 4:1-5 - GIVE US WHAT OUR FLESH WANTS - MORE EMPOWERMENT TO SELF
 - How is feeding our sinful nature constructive? What is scripture for? 2 tim 3:16-4ish
 - What would constructive talk be? Speaking the truth in love
- **Deceivers - may be sincere but may be wrong/misled**
 - **List of lies: Saved by works (judaizers) EXPLAIN!** == list the others quickly
 - **Who are they deceiving? US! Even themselves! We may be FP to ourselves!**
- **esp those of the circumcision**
 - Cretans were among those specially mentioned as attending the great feast of Pentecost ([Acts 2:11](#)). — so mostly jewish, →acted Christian even though added stuff
 - Jews were such a pain - explain
- **Verse 11 - who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families,**
 - Why would FP go into homes rather than go into congregations? Well Titus was there duh! lol
- 1. **A large group is more likely to have believers who are mature making false teaching more likely to be recognized and contested. & Small group homes - can be intimidated more easily**
 - a. what does this look like today?
 - b. **Be gentle and don't bash on Mormons!**
 - c. Door to door Mormons/jws

- **teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain= sick, demented, selfish, morbid**
 - **the solar temple - Luc Joret -suicide is salv, escape frm apocalypse 2 star Sirius. In 94 - 53 members found dead in Switz - earned over 93 million bucks**
- Antithesis of 11 is 1 peter 5:1-4 summarize
- so we aren't that crazy to follow a charismatic psycho & give him our retirement \$ right?
- Huge problem cause \$ can cause self-sufficiency = easy prey for FP - remember 2 tim 4:1-5
 - But we r good at seeking comfort & if we can give \$ to self-atone for our sin and not have too die to self, surrender my will, repent, turn from our sin, then why would I wanna follow JC?
- **Verse 12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."**
 - Poet - epimenides, was a highly respected greek intellectual of the 6th century BC and in ancient times was considered to be one of the seven great wisemen of Greece - Zeus
 - He was a native of Crete, so knew them well & was probably just giving an honest assessment
 - liars is also reflected in the ancient phrase "to Cretanize" which was used as a figure of speech for lying
- **What other culture do you think of when you hear this phrase? USA!**
- Read - 1 John 2:15-17 -
 - We live in one of the fattest, prideful, buffet style, selfish ambitious, greedy, egotistical, materialistic societys in the world! We have this arrogant sense of self-entitlement - that we simply deserve anything we want = including salvation. Maybe that is why it's so hard to accept the Gospel message beause it is offensive and destroys our sense of adequacy and self-empowerment.
- **V 13 - This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,**
 - Because of the extreme spiritual danger of the FP, Titus was to reprove them severely with sound doctrine
 - Titus 1:9, 2:1 - sound doctrine

- “Severely” translates apotomōs, (hippo biting ur arm) a compound adverb formed from the preposition apo and the verb tennō, which means "to cut," as with a knife or ax. The reproof was 2 cut c penetrating force.
- What is the point of reproof? REPENT so that they may be sound in the faith! rev 3:19 those whom I love I reprove be zealous and repent
- **V14 – not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth**
 - Jewish myths are not ID’d specifically
 - Ancient Hebrew has no numerals as such, but used a complex sx that assigned a numeral value to each letter in the alphabet and to dif combos of letters, which, until the 8th had no written vowels
 - 100 yrs after the Babylonian captivity, many rabbis began adapting gnostic (Gnosticism, a name indicating the assumption of superior capacity for knowledge (Gk. gnosis, “knowledge”) Greek numerology – assigning mystical meanings to #'s – to the Hebrew language
 - Abraham 318 and genesis 1:1 (in the beginning) was 913
 - Hebrew numerology applied also to Talmud, authorized rabbinical interps of Scripture, esp the Mosaic Law, that started in Ezra (450 bc) and continued to 500 ad. By NT times, many learned jews/rabbis has mixed ideas of greek/ Hebrew numerology and added their own allegorical fancies, making the resulting interpretations super bizarre
 - **Commandments of men that turn ppl away from the truth** → Church going; Visions & Dreams; Lighting candles; Burning incense; Saying hail mary’s; Rubbing beads; Genuflecting; Repeating prayers/chanting; Rituals; Going through the motions at church; Facing mecca; Baptism; speaking in tongues; Bible classes; Confirmation; Memberships in church; Going to youth group; Saying all the right answers; Communion; Tithing; Service – helping others in vocation or just because; Dressing nice
 - Mark 7:5–9 – **we cling to our traditions at the cost of disobeying Gods commands**
 - **Relate this specifically to text**
 - Remember that they had known the truth but turned away
- **V 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.**

- Legalism/works righteousness/self-atonement has always been demonic –
- when a person is pure in heart and mind, his perspectives on all things are pure, and that inner purity always produces outer purity. FP may be able to put on a show for a while...but....soon.
- Ezekiel 36:26 – new heart to walk in statutes for right reason
- **defiled and unbelieving – all actions and perspectives are infected with their inner defilement**
 - mark 7:20–23 – defiled by our actions and words
 - defiled because we are diseased by our innate sinfulness. We are sinners.
 - Shower analogy
- **16– They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.**
 - FP have an air of superiority about them FOY
 - James 2– talk about denyig him with actions
- bdeluktos (**detestable**) was used by Jesus to describe Antichrist; abhorrent, loathsome, odious, vile.
 - Isaiah 64:6 – whats detestable is our sin to God
 - Story – Party someone vomits all over self – repulsive
 - Worthless – adokimos, which means "disqualified or rejected" (cf. [2 Tim. 3:8](#)) from doin genuine good deeds because they are done from an unregenerate, self-exalting and prideful heart
 - So these are some of the traits of a FP. What will you do to protect your church, family, friends?
 - WE MUST KNOW AND TEACH SOUND DOCTRINE! BABIES CANT TEACH BABIES!



➤ Gospel invite – focus on shower and being cleaned of our sin and defilement

➤ Pray – any one that needs prayer

➤ potluck