

Titus 1:9 — “The Duty of Every Elder/Pastor: Hold Fast the Word to Teach the Truth & Prevent Lies”
每位牧师/长老的职责：堅守真道；宣講真理，制止歪理

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- **The great theologian & pastor, John Calvin in the 16th c. said:** “every pastor ought to have *two* voices: one, for gathering the sheep; and another, for warding off and driving away wolves & thieves. The Scripture supplies him with the means of doing both!
- **The Faithful Shepherd—**
 - FEEDS THE SHEEP and he
 - FIGHTS THE WOLVES [voice to gather/scatter]
- **The LOVING FATHER—**
 - Instructs his children in TRUTH and he
 - Protects his children from HARM [he disciples/defends]
- ***This is what our God & Savior, Jesus Christ did...***
 - Jesus **TAUGHT** sound doctrine as Mary was seated at his feet (Luke 10:39)
 - But consider how Jesus **rebuked** those who contradicted (Luke 11:37-52)
 - **WHY** is this so crucial? -- this two-fold role of teaching/protecting:
 1. because of OBEDIENCE TO GOD
 2. because of LOVE FOR TRUTH
 3. because of WORTH OF SOULS
 4. because of SUBTLETIES OF SATAN
 5. because of IMITATION OF JESUS
- now we come to the theological requirements/the theological dimension.
- PAUL also calls Timothy to this: 1 Timothy 4.11-16
- Paul also calls Timothy to it in 2 Tim 1.13; 2.2, 15; 4.2-5
- That means> God’s men/faithful shepherds: DON’T give yourself to...
 - ✓commandments of men
 - ✓unprofitable speech
 - ✓cultural fads/trends/movements
 - ✓worldly philosophies
 - ✓useless speculations
 - ✓gossip and slander or man-pleasing
 - ✓Rather > BUT TO THE TRUTH
- ✓Every elder/pastor must be an expert on **one thing**: the Bible

Background to Titus 1.5-9

- ✓Titus is a church-manual on church-life, Christian living, & sound doctrine.
- ✓**Titus 1** - leadership (qualifications & guarding from false teachers) & **Titus 2-3** is about godly walk/practice (ch.2 - discipleship relationships; ch.3 - good works)

We've been seeing that the elder must be ABOVE REPROACH— (1.6 & 1.7) —

1. domestic piety // in the HOME (6) [marriage/parenting/purity/leading]

2. honorable integrity/character // in his HEART (7-8) [self-control, integrity, holiness]

3. theological fidelity // in his ABILITY (9) [now his *duty*] —

the last characteristic of elders (v.9) is LAST BUT **CRUCIAL**. It's FINAL, but it's ESSENTIAL. It's mentioned LAST but it's of PRIMARY importance!

Now, Titus 1.9 says he must “hold fast the faithful word”

✓“**hold fast**” the faithful word — [ἀντεχόμενον] ‘to have a strong attachment to’; *to cling, to hold fast to, to be devoted to the Word*. It's faithful b/c its reliable, truthful, it cannot fail, deceive. HE'S TIRELESSLY PURSUING; **Like** A HUSBAND HOLDING TO HIS WIFE. **Like** A DAD HOLDING HIS SON THRU A BUSY AIRPORT. Strong attachment; holding onto!

• He's gotta HOLD IT FAST: tireless, vigilant, fingers around it *tightly*.

1. *internally* (in his heart)
2. *consistently* (every day)
3. *knowledgeably* (deep, growing knowledge)
4. *courageously* (whatever the cost)
5. *joyfully* (delighting in its Truth)

✓**Which is in accordance with the teaching [≠the doctrine]—**

- In accordance to/in agreement w/ apostolic doctrine
- **The WORD is** — **faithful** (True), **doctrinal** (theological), **Revelational** (God revealed it), **Understandable** (Believers CAN grasp it), **Unchangeable** (it'll never change) & **Transformational** (it converts / sanctifies)
- **SO>>** the elder/pastor's teaching is *biblical-- thoroughly saturated w/ Scripture (with biblical, orthodox, historical, scriptural doctrine)*
 - > he's got chapter & verse for what he says.
 - > he's got proof for what he prescribes.
 - > he's got HIS FINGER on the text in his preaching.
 - > not only for *elders* - but all *men!* - but **esp** elder/pastors!!

THESIS — every elder must HOLD fast the Word for two main purposes:

he's gotta be *ABLE* ... to do two things...

*Every elder must be a “BIBLE-MAN” — clinging/devoted to/holding fast the WORD... 2 purposes...

1. **to EXHORT in sound doctrine**
2. **to REFUTE those who contradict**

I. TO EXHORT IN SOUND DOCTRINE (9a)

A. This is the parallel to the elder requirement ‘he must be able to teach’ (1 Tim 3.2). The timeless & true & necessary duty of all faithful servants of the Lord is to **teach the Word**.

1. This text shows us **how** to teach (‘exhort’) and **what** to teach (‘sound doctrine’)

B. To “**exhort**” means: to strongly encourage, to exhort, to plead, to beg, to urge

1. Acts 2.40 - Peter kept on *exhorting them*
2. Acts 14.22 - apostles *exhorted them* to continue in the faith
3. 2 Cor 5.20 - God *makes an appeal* thru us: be reconciled to God
4. 1 Tim 6.2 - teach and *preach/exhort* these principles.
5. Titus 2.15 - these things speak and *exhort* w/ all authority
6. This is not *ear tickling* stories, emotionally driven *pep talks*, or topical & selective teachings. It is *powerful, precise, God-pleasing pleadings from a MAN of God.*
7. We need **exhorters** in our day! We need men who beg, plead, urge, exhort, summon! This is to **preach!** It’s teaching *on fire!* It’s instruction *with persuasion.* It’s **urgent!**

C. In **sound doctrine** (lit. *Healthy doctrine*): proper understanding of gospel-truth.

D. Every faithful elder/pastor **must** (1) get in, (2) grow in, (3) give out **sound truth.**

1. Bibliology - the Bible is the sufficient, true word of God’s mouth.
2. theology proper - God is infinitely holy, just, merciful, gracious & true
3. Christology - Christ Jesus alone is Savior; He is God, Man, & reconciler.
4. Pneumatology [doctrine of Spirit]- Holy Spirit regenerates, fills, empowers & abides
5. Anthropology/Hamartiology [doctrine of sin]- we are abhorrently evil; sin infects us!
6. Soteriology - God saves; it’s all of the Lord
7. Angelology/Satanology/Demonology - Angels are real; demons are real
8. Ecclesiology - the church is the body of Christ; made up of true, regenerate believers.
9. Eschatology [doctrine of end-times] - Christ is returning to judge; he will destroy evil.

II. TO REFUTE THOSE WHO CONTRADICT (9b)

A. the MINISTER MUST ALWAYS PROMOTE THE TRUTH AND WARD OFF ERROR (Homer Kent). Part of good leadership requires the *preventing from harmful half-truths.*

- Some don’t mind being exhorted; but proud ones don’t like refutation; they don’t want their sin exposed; they prefer tolerance and peace *over* Truth. But *preaching the Word* and *pointing out error* are **both** essential in the Church. This assumes the refutation of error must come *within the church, to the gathered, to the professing believers.*

B. To “**rebuke**” refers to a **STRONG** rebuttal (1 Tim 5.20); to reprove, convict, chastise; simply: “tell someone they’re wrong.” “rebuke them sharply (Titus 1.13). Titus 2.15 - these things, speak, exhort and **reprove**/rebuke w/ all authority!

C. Those who ‘**contradict**’ [the word: those who are *speaking against the truth*; they are contradicting the truth; Acts 13.45 - unbelievers were ‘*contradicting*’ the things Paul said & so he spoke out boldly, v.46]. **This requires a fear of God that swallows up the fear of man.** *The ambition to please God must squeeze out the man-pleasing temptations.*

1. He’s gotta know what to do when he faces those who desire...

1. seeker friendly ministry philosophy--we don't rebuke; we just accept/welcome all!
2. arminian (man-centered, results based evangelism techniques)
3. social justice warriors who champion for the oppressed with worldly ideologies from sociology, culture & politics.
4. the man who comes with psychology and spreads psychiatric, worldly, secular, therapeutic ideologies in the church
5. Roman Catholic friends who say they believe in Jesus
6. the post-Christian millennial who denies Truth & claims all faiths are the same
7. the person who comes and is negative, divisive, finding faults and imperfections & sharing that publicly with others.
8. the one who seeks to entertain, bring in, keep and make church comfortable for unbelievers.
9. The person advocating/permitting abortion, transgenderism, SSA, sexual deviancies.

This man of God must reprove the error with God's faithful Word!

- D. Every elder must: KNOW the Word, BELIEVE the Word, STAND on the Word (conviction), TEACH the Word, DEFEND the Word (protect)
 And this comes by prioritizing & feasting upon Scripture.
 Longing for the milk of the Word & being devoted to the Bible.

One pastor said it: The dual role of the godly preacher and teacher is to proclaim and to defend God's Word. In the eyes of the world and, tragically, in the eyes of many genuine but untaught believers, to denounce false doctrine—especially if that doctrine is given under the guise of evangelicalism—is to be unloving, judgmental, and divisive...The faithful pastor must have no part in it. He himself tolerates, and he teaches his people to tolerate, only sound doctrine.

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- An anonymous writer so fittingly charged all CHURCH LEADERS:
 - Stick with your work, O MAN OF GOD. Do not flinch because the lion roars; do not stop to stone the devil's dogs; do not fool away your time chasing the devil's rabbits. Do your work. Let liars lie, let sectarians quarrel, let critics malign, let enemies accuse, let the devil do his worst; but see to it that nothing hinders you from fulfilling with JOY the work GOD has given you...
 - God has not commanded you to be admired or esteemed. He never called you to defend your character. God has not set you at work to contradict falsehood about yourself which Satan's or God's servants may start to peddle. Don't track down every rumor that threatens your reputation. IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, you will do nothing else; you will be at work for yourself and NOT for the Lord.
 - **SO, keep at your work.** Let your aim be steady as a star. You may be assaulted, wronged, insulted, slandered, wounded and rejected, misunderstood, or assigned impure motives; you may be abused by foes, forsaken by friends, and despised and rejected of men.

- But see to it with steadfast determination, with unfaltering zeal, that you **pursue** the great purpose of your life and object of your being until at last you can say: "I have finished the work that YOU O GOD gave me to do!". Titus 1.9 is *critically important & a necessary requirement for every pastor/elder.!!