

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- **Imagine a man who loves** gardening, you plant good plants, good seed goes down, but it seems that inevitably weeds will grow. And they're not an isolated, individual weed; usually there are many that may pop up among the good.
 - >> the churches on Crete and the church at large are no different.
 - **The sower** sows the good seed of the Word, the faithful gospel of God whereby He has mercifully perfected the work in saving sinners, thru Christ and His substitutionary work on the cross - by faith alone in Christ alone -- apart from any work/merit. When God changes the sinner's heart, the true conversion from God results in repentance & faith - hating/forsaking/shunning sin & a perseverance in & a pressing after Christ, holiness, Truth & His Word.
 - ❖ ***This is the simple gospel: Christ alone saves sinners - by grace thru faith.***
- Jesus Himself said it: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (Matt 7:15)
- False Teachers are many that have gone out (1 John 4.1):
 1. are REAL
 2. are DANGEROUS [like poison; deadly venom]
 3. are DECEIVED [blinded; corrupted]
 4. are SUBTLE (disguised); Trojan horse (from within)
 5. are UNHOLY (defiled; sensual, self-loving)
- FALSE TEACHERS (by Tim Challies)
 1. heretic - outright denier of truth & teacher of brazen error
 2. charlatan — uses his teaching/platform for personal gain
 3. prophet - claims to have fresh/new revelation from God outside of Scripture
 4. abuser - uses powerful position to take advantage of others (usually sexual lust)
 5. divider - uses false doctrine to disrupt or divide a church
 6. tickler - he just gives stuff that people want (tickles the ears)
 7. speculator — loves to imagine, speculate, give novel ideas

➡ **What** do you need to know? **How** to discern? What do you **do**?

Background to Titus 1

- V.5-9 - the qualifications; V.9- the necessary ability to know/handle the Word
 - V.10-16 - **the reasons why!** Urgent! Important! This section (v.16) is the **hinge** of the Book. The rest of Titus chs 2 & 3 will explain gospel truth & gospel living!
- gotta know the Truth well & defend the Truth courageously.

THESIS — Here are the reasons *why* we must have godly, above reproach & competent leaders in the church. *I wanna give you 7 urgent & indispensable reasons...*

I. ABUNDANCE OF THE DECEIVERS (10)

- A. *Like the many weeds* in a garden; like the *cancer* that can spread quickly to many parts of the body. So here, great harm comes from these deceivers --> **They. Are. Many.**
- B. There are “*many*” - MANY opposed Paul at Corinth (1 Cor 16.9); MANY live as enemies of the cross (Phil 3.18); **Or:** 1 John 4.1-2 - many have gone out into the world ; 2 John 7 - MANY deceiver have gone out into the world. 2 Pet 2.1-2 - many people will follow the sensuality of many false prophets; Matt 7.22 - ‘many’ will say on that day, LORD LORD. Matt 24.5 - many will come in my name and will mislead many. Matt 24.11 - many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
- C. The descriptions:
 - 1. REBELLIOUS — unruly, disobedient, not controlled.
 - 2. EMPTY TALKERS — one who talks empty, vain, worthless, senseless things. They’re *fluent but shallow*. [much to say about nothing.]
 - 3. DECEIVERS — they are “mind-deceivers”/thinking, intellect
- D. Circumcision: Jewish false teachers. *Maybe:* the gospel isn’t sufficient for faith & salvation; they are teaching grace isn’t the standard for life [your works are]; they are teaching Jesus isn’t *enough*; you must keep your rules if you’re gonna get to heaven.

II. DANGER OF THEIR TEACHING (11)

- A. What is Paul’s clear statement? **Don’t** put a facebook post *about* them; **don’t** sit and chat with them; **don’t** partner with them at a conference. **What do you do?** SILENCE them!
- B. They must be silenced --
 - 1. to be bridled; to stop the mouth; to reduce someone to silence.
 - 2. Philo used the word frequently for BRIDLING a horse - so there’s *NO* sound at all from them! > Don’t let them talk; don’t give them an inch. No platform. Quiet them!
- C. Upsetting whole families
 - 1. the word to upset means: to overthrow, to throw down, overturn, to destroy families
 - 2. Satan wants your church & he wants to get into *your HOME*.
 - 3. false teaching is never satisfied > it always hungers to infect, infiltrate, poison and corrupt more. it’s never satiated or satisfied but it’s greedy for more.

III. MOTIVES OF THEIR HEART (11b-12)

- A. We’re not told the *content* but their *covetousness*; not their *message* but their *motives*.
- B. Teaching things they shouldn’t teach for [purpose of] **sordid gain** (benefit/greed)
 - 1. they do it for the sake of money/shameful gain. Disgraceful way to make \$\$.
 - 2. the gain here is the basic motivation for teaching. They just want money // it is shameful. (God’s men must be free from the love of money, 1 Tim 3.3).
 - a) Cretans had a reputation for loving money.

- b) Polybius (historian) says: “So much in fact do sordid love of gain and lust for wealth prevail among the Cretans, that the Cretans are the only people in the world in whose eyes no gain is disgraceful or shameful” > **get \$\$ any way you can!**
- C. V.12 - a quote from one of their own: proving their own fallenness/sin - he is bolstering his own argument >> even your own Cretans, your own reputation, verifies this...
1. always liars -- (DECEIVERS) // liars; to play the Cretan; to lie;
 2. evil beasts - (CORRUPTERS) // lewd/immoral; bad, evil, vicious > they were men of bestial, wild animal-like ravaging character. (had wild behavior; inter-city wars, robbery, and homosexuality; it was a place of rough/dangerous behavior!).
 3. lazy gluttons -- (SELF-LOVERS) // lazy; useless, worthless, good for nothing
- D. V.13a - this testimony is TRUE (Paul Agrees w/ their own testimony!)

IV. NECESSITY OF FIRM REPROOF (13)

- A. So they are (1) present and are (2) polluting; *now what's the action?*
- ★ Calvin was right: A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent!!
- B. For this reason, **reprove them severely**.
1. They must be reproved: to censure, to correct, to chastise, to rebuke.
 2. Severely -- sharply, firmly, sharp, severely. > 2 Cor 13.10 - Paul doesn't want to come and reprove the church with “severity” (with severe/sharp language)
- C. v.13b-Who is the **THEM** so **THEY** may be sound? (1) the false teachers or the (2) congregation who is being deceived? Perhaps both -- but prob more the congregation *so THEY may be sound*. (v.14 to not pay attention to teachers turning away from the truth).
1. To be sound in the faith; this implies the content of the Christian belief. They must have the right doctrine/faith/theology.
 - a) SOUND - to be healthy; one whose faith/beliefs are UNMIXED with error.
 - b) Titus 1.9 - teach SOUND doctrine (cf. 2:1)
 2. So, WHAT you believe is just as important as THAT you believe. False or unhealthy teaching does not edify or uplift or save but it destroys

V. PRESERVING OF THE TRUTH (14)

- A. Reproving has a purpose/goal to restore & not pay attention to myth; but guard the Truth.
- B. Guard! Don't fall into error; preserve, uphold the Truth!
1. **Myths**: legends; endless genealogies; > concocted stories related to genealogies spun out from those given in the OT. Superstitions, speculations;
 2. **Commands of men**: man-made commands/demands --> Matt 15.9; Mark 7.7; Isa 29:13 >> they put man's laws/commands/demands OVER and ABOVE the commands to follow God.
 - a) Apocrypha (Catholic Bible), Talmud (Jewish rabbinical writings) and Cabbala (Jewish mysticism) are writings that promote moralities but redefine God's truth.
 - b) such evil commands include forbidding marriage and advocating abstaining from certain foods (1 Tim 4.1ff); Col 2.20-23 warns of this!!
- C. Who turn away from the truth
1. Bad doctrine always veers from the truth. We must preserve the Truth!

VV.15-16 are the concluding summary of these deceivers. (*next time*)

VI. INFECTING OF THEIR IMPURITIES (15)

VII. HYPOCRISY OF THEIR CONDUCT (16)

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- As important as it is to *expose error* and *confront deceivers*, we must present truth, proclaim Christ & teach the gospel! Jesus preached the salvation of eternal life in *Him* and he warned of and exposed the *false teachers* who lead astray! ***Cling to Him!***
- And at this point, in closing, Luther serves as a fitting example. The German Reformer sought to purify the church by preaching the Truth (which he did) and he had to expose error -- and he doggedly went after the error of Papal authority (the headship/power of the Pope).
 - He was excommunicated from the Catholic church & had to go in hiding (where he would translate the Bible into the common German language for the people).
- On March 10, 1522, Luther explained the mounting success of the Reformation in a sermon. With strong confidence in God's Word, Luther declared: "*I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept ... the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.*"
 - No wonder he is rightly called by many: **A Fortress for Truth!** >> Dear believers -- be a FORTRESS for Truth.