

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- **SOME PEOPLE** today say that **conflict** is mean-spirited, uncharitable and un-spiritual & just ‘offensive’. > BUT, we must be **TRUTHFUL** — in a bold, clear way. We are not to look for the common ground, because your common ground may be on the highway to hell. -- You need to find the TRUTHFUL WAY and walk in it!
 - Our goal is to destroy falsehoods and ungodly speculation *not people*. We want to see sinners saved, the church protected, believers built up & the lost brought to Christ!
 - But inevitably, like weeds in a garden, false teachers and false teaching *will* inevitably arise *from WITHIN* the church.
 - **Acts 20.30** - *from among your own selves* men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. So be on the **alert!** (v.31!)
- **False Teachers are...**
 1. are REAL
 2. are DANGEROUS
 3. are DECEIVED [and deceiving!]
 4. are SUBTLE (disguised)
 5. are UNHOLY (defiled)
- FALSE TEACHERS **IN** THE CHURCH
 - 1 Tim 4:1-2; 1 Tim 6:3-5, 10; 2 Tim 2:16-18, 25-26; 2 Tim 3:5!
 - Summarizing plea: see Gal 1:9-10 and here in Titus 1.11, 13, 14!

Background to Titus 1:10-16

- Paul’s charge to Titus on Crete is to ‘set things in order’ and establish godly elders (1.5-9) and they must be qualified (v.9) to guard from false teachers (v.10-16).
- In these final few verses of the chapter, Paul pleads with Titus in strong, Fatherly, apostolic language to **guard and prevent these deceivers**.
 - 1. Urgent **Confrontation** of False Teachers (14) // **confront** their deception
 - 2. Undying **Condemnation** of False Teachers (15-16) // **consider** their destruction

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...*

** because of the

1. abundance of the deceivers (many) (v10)
2. danger of their teaching (upsetting whole families) (v11)
3. motives of their heart (greedy gain) (v11b-12)
4. necessity of firm reproof (reprove them severely) (v13)
5. **preserving of the Truth** (turn away from the truth) (14b)

- 6. infecting of their impurities (nothing is pure) (v15)
- 7. hypocrisy of their conduct (by their deeds they deny God) (v16)

V. PRESERVING OF THE TRUTH! (14b)

- Paul charges Titus to reprove the deceivers *and the congregation* so that the *congregation* may be sound in the faith (v.13b). We are **about the truth, preach Christ, call for you to believe the truth & build you up IN the Truth!**
- A. **The distraction:** not paying attention to two areas. Don't turn away and make little compromises in these areas. To pay attention to speaks of: giving attention to, involving yourself in, responding to, being really distracted with something.
 1. **Jewish Myths** — endless genealogies. Legends, speculations contrary to the Truth; 2 Tim 4.4. the MYTHS here are concocted ideas/fables related to the truths given in the OT.
 - ✓ *in 1st c., the Book of Jubilees was a best-seller: it gave extra info on the biographies of patriarchs and led to superstitions and speculations.*
 - ✓ *At end of 1st c., many rabbis had mystical or numerical meaning of letters to the Hebrew alphabet and allegorized the OT and had all kinds of weird interpretations.*
 - ✓ *Gospel of Thomas, 3rd c., claimed to contain 120 secret words of Jesus.*
 - (1) This is more/new/additional revelation from God. It's endless ideas, speculations, fanciful dreams, visions, new insights, fresh revelation!
 - b) Christians should not pay attention to these myths.
 2. **Commands of Men** —
 - a) only here in the NT, but the equivalent is in Matt 15:9 and Mark 7.7 (Isa 29:13).
 - b) The commands of men are put in the place of obedience to God and what he requires. They require obedience to their MANMADE LAWS (over and above obeying God's Laws). **Mark 7.8-9!**
 - c) example: 1 Tim 4.1ff — forbidding marriage and advocating abstaining from certain foods (these man-made laws *achieve *nothing**).
 - d) Apocrypha (Catholic Bible), Talmud (Jewish rabbinical writings) and Cabbala (Jewish mysticism) are writings that promote moralities but redefine God's truth. This includes Papal authority & other RC doctrines weigh heavy burdens on men.
- B. **The Danger:** these turn men away from the truth!
 1. It's about ***THE TRUTH*** — I preach the Truth! (Eph 6.14 - stand firm, girding your loins in truth).
 - a) saving truth; revealed truth; divine truth; unchanging truth; uncompromising truth; comforting truth!!
 2. ***The Gospel: the Truth (1 Tim 3.15-16!). Preserve it!***

v.15-16 – Paul is going to give **TWO evaluations** of false teachers.

1. V15 - inner life -> *corrupt!*
2. V16 - outer life -> *hypocrites!*

VI. INFECTING OF THEIR IMPURITIES! (15)

- *Why men of God in leadership? Because like terrorists, these men kill from within. These false teachers are "spiritual terrorists; they kill/destroy souls!"*

- A. v.15a- To the pure, all things are PURE** - Simple meaning: When a person is PURE in heart and mind (=saved, cleansed, washed, renewed) >> his perspective on ALL things are pure and his inner purity produces outer purity.
- B. NOTE>** this is contrasted with Jewish myths and commandments of men who believed that a person could make himself ACCEPTABLE TO GOD by meticulously observing certain ceremonies, and traditions and customs and dietary restrictions (Pharisees/Jew/Catholic/Muslim/Mormon).
1. this is the very *HEART* of every false religion = works-righteousness. (Titus 3.5 - God saved us *not by works*). **Rom 4.5** - saved by faith in Christ!
- C. V.15b - To the defiled/unbelieving - NOTHING is pure...** -
1. Meaning: to those who are DEFILED and unbelieving, NOTHING IS PURE --> ALL their perspectives, actions are infected with their inner defilement.
 - a) their heart corrupts the whole thing. The contaminated heart pollutes it all! **A bad heart affects the whole body. (the unbeliever is unholy entirely!)**
 2. the mind of the nonbelievers is controlled by sin (**Rom 1.28** - God gave them over to a depraved mind; **Eph 4:17** - unbelievers walk in futility of their mind; **1 Tim 6.5** - unbelievers have depraved mind & deprived of the truth).
- D. It's illustrated by Patrick Fairborn, the Scottish theologian in the 1800's.**
1. He wrote of those who trust in their sacramentalism or other form of works righteousness: "They have a fountain of pollution which spreads itself over and infects everything about them.
 2. Their food and drink, their possessions, their employment, their comforts, their actions — all are in the reckoning of God tainted with impurity, because they are PUTTING away from them (=rejecting) that which alone has for the soul regenerating and cleansing efficacy (=ability/power)! >> *they infect, pollute, corrupt others! -- Beware!*

VII. HYPOCRISY OF THEIR CONDUCT! (16)

- This is the "final evaluation" of these men *in* the church.
- A.** Many people hold to a form of godliness but deny its power (2 Tim 3.5)
- B.** Jesus said: you'll know them by their FRUITS/Deeds (Matt 7:16). Faith, if it has no works, is *dead* (James 2.17).
- **Let's illustrate it like this:**
 - **A MAN goes to the Doctor** for a physical, and the Dr. asks him about this daily activity level. The man smiles and replies: "Well, Dr, I spent ALL yesterday morning outside. Yes, I was wading along the edge of a lake; at one point I had to jump away from an aggressive rattlesnake. I even walked up and down some rocky hills, ran from some wild dogs, and even stood in a patch of poison ivy!"
 - WOW, the Dr Said, you must really love the outdoors and spend a lot of time there.
 - But in reality, the man said: "No, I'm just a real lousy golfer. I tried to play and I can look good with the attire on, I know the golfing language, and I've got the golfing equipment >> but that's about it.
 - he can profess to know and play the game > but he has no idea how to play.

- he can profess that he's healthy & exercising >> but in reality he's not active hardly at all!
- many false teachers are like this >> they can TALK THE TALK , but their walk and conduct is what exposes their hypocrisy and deception.. **V.16 are "these kind of guys!"**

C. V.16a - they profess to know God...

1. Oh they profess, the word is "**confess**" -- they openly claim; they publicly declare; they outright PROFESS to know God (to have personal relationship with God)..
2. I have studied *Joseph Alleine*, I know him .. But I really don't *KNOW* him. Many *read about God*, but don't really **know** God.

D. V.16b -but by their deeds they deny Him...

1. This is the person who PROFESSES LOUDLY with his lips but also who PROFANES LOUDLY with his life
 - a) He preaches one thing with his mouth and preaches another thing with his life.
 - b) His LIFE is a walking sermon that contradicts what he says in the PULPIT.
2. Matt 7.21-23 - MANY will say on that day... Depart from me you doers/workers... (if this is YOU --> repent, settle your soul in Christ, no more hypocrisy, come to Calvary!)

E. V.16c - being detestable, disobedient, worthless.

1. Detestable - hateful/abominable/detestable/disgusting; nauseous
2. Disobedient - unpersuaded; not obeying God's Word
3. Worthless/unfit - disapproved, failed the test. useless for any good.

F. So then>> these false teachers do not give God's people the SLIGHTEST benefit at all (Jer 23:32). Don't tolerate them. Expose them. Rebuke them. Reject them!

WE MUST have men who will guard and protect and teach the truth and love the flock. We need men who really believe TRUTH. We don't add to the gospel. We won't compromise it. We must defend and bravely unmask those who twist it. (**Titus 1.9!**)

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- We conclude with a woman named Margaret. Margaret Polley -- she lived in the 1500s in England. She was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ -- by faith alone. But her faith was not alone, she had godly works, lived for Christ, and spoke out against false religions.
 - Someone spoke against her to the Catholic authorities of England.
 - She was hurriedly brought before the bishop, trialed & her doctrines were contrary to Catholic ones. She refused to recant. She went to prison for 1 month.
 - John Foxe in his *Book of Martyrs* wrote: "She was in the prime of life, pious, charitable, humane, learned in the Scriptures & beloved by all who knew her."
 - She was frequently called upon to recant but she could not reject the Truth!
- Finally, in July 1555, she was brought for her public execution to be burnt & she publicly testified of the Truth she believed in! Salvation in Christ alone by faith apart from works!
 - ***O may we CLING to the Truth, expose error & defend the PURE gospel!***