

*10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. 12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. 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. 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. Titus 1:10-16*

We have been looking at Paul's instructions for Titus to appoint overseers, bishops for the new congregations of believers on the island of Crete. Paul gives some qualifications for these new church leaders. They are to be *above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion*. With these two words *dissipation and rebellion* we can do a little word study. *Dissipation* (Wantonness, profligacy (reckless extravagance or wastefulness in the use of resources), wastefulness. This is an interesting word, in Greek it is *asotias*, a compound with the negative particle *a* and a presumed derivative of *sozo*. This is the word for wantonness and dissipation, the state of being lost, and unsaved. Contrast this with the concept that a believer is a person who is saved. *Sozo* is the word used in the NT for saved (*the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost Mat 18:11*). On the positive side this word means *to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction*. The children of an overseer must not be unsaved or unruly (*in rebellion*) *disobedient, unwilling to come under Christ's Lordship; refusing to "fall in line with" (fit in with) God's plan (from Strong's Concordance)*

The early church must have seen a dynamic work of the Lord in families. Intact family units saw parents getting saved and then their children would believe after then. One of these seems to have been the family of Cornelius. Peter was directed to the house of *Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews. Act 10:22* Peter proclaimed the truth and the Spirit fell on Cornelius, his relatives and close friends. This happened to the Roman jailer in Thyatira. God open the doors of the jail and also the hearts a jailer and his household.

*27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" 29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:27-31*

The leaders Titus was to appoint were those men who had allowed God to work in their lives, men who themselves were not wasteful but *restraint, moderate, temperance and unselfish*. Men who were truly saved *righteous and God-fearing*. Living their lives under *Christ's Lordship. Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. Titus 1:9* This character was needed so that they would be able to lead people to walk in the truth, *exhort in sound doctrine* and bring conviction to those who are erroring from the truth, show them where they are at fault, *to refute those who contradict*. In order to correct those who would be cause believers to be shipwreck in their faith. To Timothy Paul wrote

that he should be, *keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 1 Tim 1:19*

*10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. 12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." Titus 1:10-12*

Men with an ability to teach were crucial to the early church. The NT wasn't written at this point so leaders had to accumulate for themselves a body of truth that was based on their knowledge of the OT but most of all the teaching of the apostles. Luke wrote in Acts of the early church, *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Act 2:42* The church had the *apostles' teaching*, what was passed on from those who had been with Jesus. At this they were also there was the teaching of grace and the inclusion of the Gentiles (salvation was not just for the circumcised).

*14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness. 2 Pet 3:14-17*

As believers, *we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.* Because of this the leaders of the early church warned we avoid *error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.* Peter writes that believers are *not to be carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.* Since heaven is the goal of all believers *be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.* We are to avoid teaching of men who distort the truth, *as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.* This type of 'teacher' was able to enter into the early church. Jude writes that they were *hidden reefs at your love feasts (spilas: a ledge of rock (over which the sea dashes), i.e. a reef)* In this letter Paul indicates that many of the *unprincipled men* were *of the circumcision.* These false teachers, having some understanding of the Law and the Prophets and some of the teaching of the early church, were able to distort the truth. Peter wrote *the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

Many of these teachers were Jewish in background. Paul wrote, *especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. Titus 1:10, 11* Later in Titus Paul writes that if these false teachers aren't teachable they need to be thrown out of the church.

*9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. 10 A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; 11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself. Titus 3: 9-11 KJV*

A man that is an heretic (factious, devisive) after the first and second admonition reject (have nothing more to do with them). These heretics caused schisms, they were factious

and taught false doctrine. The Roman church declared the Protestant reformers heretics for put the Bible (Old and New Testaments) into the language of the people (instead of dead languages like Greek and Latin). For this 'crime' the reformers were burned at the stake. They only wanted to have the Word of God in the hands of believers so they would not live the darkness of false teaching, *foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law*. Paul told Timothy to, *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* 2 Tim 2:15

The Roman Church was able to keep believers in bondage to rules and regulations. The structure kept people moral but without the power of the Spirit to change man's nature, they failed to open man to the born again experience and thus had *no value against fleshly indulgence. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline.* Col 2:23 NLT Pious people remained bound to the Law as taught by the Roman Church.

*2If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22(which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence. Col 2:20-23*

Paul wanted Titus to guard against such false teaching. Unfortunately the Church went into a dark age as the result of oppression of the Roman Church. Paul warned against false teaching and false teachers in the church.

*2For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 2 Tim 3:2-5*

May we study to show ourselves approved and let us resist the false teachers we find today in the church, teachers who are *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*. There is a saying if something sounds too good to be true it is, if anyone teaches us that we should be *lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful and unholy* they are not of God. If this is taught in a church, by a teacher we must as the reformers did with the Roman Church, come out, *Avoid such men as these.*