

Episode #345 Titus 1 Part 6: Sharp Rebuke

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. Paul is writing to Titus as a leader, and particularly instructing him how to choose leaders in Crete, where Paul had left him. We saw him give the qualifications of leaders, the kinds of behaviors they should and should not indulge in. Now, he speaks of those who are not this way.

III. Titus 1:10-16. Those not this way, whom Titus must oppose.

A. Titus 1:10. Those not like the ones Titus is to choose.

1. Many are rebellious, senseless talkers, and mind deceivers!
2. At that time, this was particularly the circumcision. Colossians 2:11 did away with this rite. Philippians 3:2-3 gives us God's new attitude towards it.
3. Paul had long been contending with these men. Acts 15:1-

B. Titus 1:11. More about these wicked men.

1. These men need to shut up!
2. Whole households were being subverted (turned to error).
3. They teach these things to gain money!
4. What rites do we have today that men try to add to grace for salvation? We must remember, we are complete in Him! (Colossians 2:10)

C. Titus 1:12. The character of the Cretans.

1. A prophet of the Cretans', not God's prophet. Perhaps this was the philosopher Epimenides. He proclaimed the character of men in Crete.
2. Their character: liars, troublesome beasts, and lazy from the womb.
3. This is the Cretan "*politeuma*." Philippians 3:20.

D. Titus 1:13. The Cretan prophet spoke correctly. They needed the facts made known to them (*elegcho*) curtly. We should ask ourselves: Is our *politeuma* any better?

E. Titus 1:14. Made-up stories and commandments of men turn people from the truth! In this case, it was Jewish fables doing this.

F. Titus 1:15. All food is pure to those who believe. I Timothy 4:4-5. Unbelief makes no food clean! This can also be applied to many different situations in our day.

G. Titus 1:16. More about the false teachers.

1. Many of these false teachers probably did know God. They were abominable, disobedient, and unapproved regarding every good work.
2. Their adding of rituals to salvation disqualified them from doing ANY good work in God's sight. Let us never be guilty of such an error!

IV. Titus 1:10-16. Further thoughts.

A. What Paul says here seems harsh, even carried away. But the Holy Spirit does not get carried away! Paul is following his own advice to Titus in verse 13, and rebuking them curtly.

B. We must remember: these people knew Paul was an apostle. To choose not to listen to an apostle was to choose not to listen to God. If you would not hear Him, how then could God be pleased with anything you did?

C. We are not in the same situation today. Though these things are still true, yet many are honestly deceived into doing the works they do. In this case, II Timothy 2:24-26 is better advice to follow. We cannot apply Paul's curt facts directly to them.

V. Conclusion: The first chapter of Titus reveals to us that Titus was left in Crete to appoint leaders to help the people. Also, he was to train the Cretans in righteousness and oppose the false teachers, especially those of the circumcision. We need to realize that keeping the law, including keeping clean and unclean food laws, is not appropriate behavior for believers today. If we will not hear God regarding this, we may be disqualified from doing any good works in God's sight. We can learn much from these things, and realize the truth of our standing in grace.