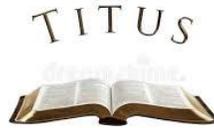




## THE WORD



***9 “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.<sup>10</sup> For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,<sup>11</sup> whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.<sup>12</sup> One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”<sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,<sup>14</sup> not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.<sup>15</sup> To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.<sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”***

**The qualifications of an elder ends with a big one!**

**We live in a world with so many choices.**

**Sodas, candybars, toothpaste, computers, phones, cars, trucks, clothing brands, coffee, and the list goes on and on. Same with religions.**

Atheism

Agnostic

Cults- Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Armstrongism, Scientology, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, etc.

The word cult refers to an unorthodox sect whose members distort the original doctrines of the religion. In a Christian context, the definition of a cult is, specifically, “a religious group that denies one or more of the fundamentals of biblical truth.” A cult is a group that teaches doctrines that, if believed, will cause a person to remain unsaved. A cult claims to be part of a religion, yet it denies essential truth(s) of that religion. Therefore, a Christian cult will deny one or more of the fundamental truths of Christianity while still claiming to be Christian.

The two most common teachings of Christian cults are that Jesus was not God and that salvation is not by faith alone.

Catholicism

**(there are approximately 200 different Christian denominations in the US)**

Baptist, Methodist, Congregational, Bible, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of God, Church of Christ, Pentecostal, Assembly of God and the list goes on.

Reformed churches, Non reformed churches, legalistic churches, Holy laughter, Tongues, Gifts all are active, some are active, Calvinistic churches, etc.

Grave sucking, gifts of knowledge, sensationalism, snake charmers...

**What did Paul have in mind when he wrote this to Titus?**

- **The Faithful Word (as you have been taught)**
- **Sound doctrine**
- **Deceivers**

**What does the Bible say?**

The priority of **the Gospel!** What must I do to be reconciled to God?

**Galatians 1:6-10**

**2 John 1:10-11**

Scripture must always interpret Scripture.

Acts 2:38 with Acts 16:31 and Romans 10:13 and 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Corinthians 1:14-18

Do I need to go to church, get baptized, speak in tongues, etc.

➤ **There is an important DOCTRINE**

***“holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.***

with a strong grip on the truly reliable message which Christian teaching gave to him (Barclay)

He must be devoted to the trustworthy message we teach (GWT),  
the steadfast word (YLT)

holding fast, yes, more than that, paying attention to the trustworthy Word in accordance with the teaching (Wuest)

He must have a strong and steadfast belief in the trustworthy message he was taught (NLT)

Ray Pritchard - *Every word is important. "Hold firmly" means "constantly holding onto and not letting go." The "trustworthy message" refers to the essential truths of the Christian faith—the fundamentals which must not be compromised. "Sound doctrine" is literally "healthy doctrine" or "wholesome teaching," referring to the well-balanced teaching of God's Word that produces healthy Christian living. To "refute" is to "correct" or "convince" those who "contradict" the truth*

The overseer is to be "conscientiously retaining, and zealously maintaining, the true Christian doctrine" (Clarke's Commentary)

The Greek writer Sophocles (Sof ah clees) uses this verb of a physical action to "hold one's hand against one's head so as to shade the eyes".

The overseer should (prove all things)"examine (dokimazo in the present imperative = command to make this your habitual practice - EVERYTHING!) everything carefully" and "hold fast (present imperative) to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

To be a first-class Bible teacher, a man does not need a degree from a seminary, but he does need to put much time and effort into studying the Bible in depth....Any movement that deemphasizes doctrine must be suspect. In a properly functioning local church, the elders place great importance on sound teaching. That was a primary characteristic of the infant church. The new believers "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). In the last days, Paul warned, people will give heed to "doctrines of devils" and "will not endure sound doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3). Therefore, we must be sure that those who are chosen to have the rule over us in the Lord are true to the Word of God and zealous in teaching it. (Explore the Bible)

"when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with (controlled by) the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God." (Acts 4:31)

"Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received (accepted deliberately and readily ~ welcomed) the word of God." (Acts 11:1)

Hebrews 13:7- **“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.”**

"It is failure in the area of holding fast the faithful word that is largely responsible for the superficial, self-elevating preaching and teaching in many evangelical churches... the weak, shallow, insipid sermonettes for Christianettes” Here is the real villain that has led so many to be converted to what they consider relevancy and therefore to preach a pampering psychology or become standup comics, storytellers, clever speechmakers or entertainers who turn churches into what John Piper in his most excellent book *The Supremacy of God in Preaching* has called “the slapstick of evangelical worship” (Baker, 1990, p 21). Preaching and teaching are the primary responsibilities of elders." MacArthur

### **Hold Fast the Faithful Word**

Hold fast the faithful Word of grace,  
No shifting winds your heart displace;  
For truth once loosed is soon undone,  
But firm it stands through ages run.

The Word that formed the earth and sea,  
Now guards the soul eternally;  
Though cultures fade and voices lie,  
God’s steadfast truth will not deny.

So grip it tight when storms arise,  
Let Scripture’s light direct your eyes;  
For faith will stand when flesh has failed,  
If anchored where God’s Word prevailed.

Hold fast, dear heart—be strong, be true,  
The faithful Word will carry you;  
Though all the world’s foundations shake,  
God’s living truth will not forsake.

Here are other NT uses of this verb hugiaino...(sound)

1 Timothy 1:10; 1 Timothy 6:3 (**wholesome**); 2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Timothy 4:3

The only sure cure for itching ears is sound doctrine taught by Spirit-filled teachers of godly character. God's truth is the best defense against the devil's lie.

**One of the tactics of the devil is to make people think there is something better. It started with Eve when made her doubt that she had the ultimate.**

**III.** Marriage, churches, walk with God

➤ **There is an imminent DANGER**

***<sup>10</sup> For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, <sup>11</sup> whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. <sup>12</sup> One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."***

Many people are getting further and further from the Bible as a result of false teaching!

✓ **PROPHETS AND APOSTLES (Do not question what I say!)**

**III.** God wants you to be a missionary to ....

✓ **I DECLARE**

It is possible you have heard people offering up prayers, and within the prayer they would begin to decree and declare. Often the prayer may go something like this, "I decree in the name of Jesus that healing is coming to my body. I declare that my finances will be multiplied tenfold in the next year."

It becomes unbiblical if used to command God, manipulate circumstances, or speak things into existence, which is often called the "prosperity gospel". **Biblical declaration is about affirming God's will, not creating one's own.**

✓ **GOD SPOKE TO ME**

✓ **I SPOKE IN TONGUES**

✓ **GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE** **media research**

✓ **DREAMS AND VISIONS** **I never want to put God in a box!**

✓ **I FELT GOD LEAD ME TO DO**

✓ **PERSONAL REVELATION** **with fasting**

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

**Scripture—not personal revelation—must remain the final authority. [Acts 17:11](#) calls us to be like the Bereans, examining the Scriptures daily.**

## **False Teachers are Convincing**

### **III. Pastor and people responded “wow!”**

Another reason why people listen to and believe false doctrine is because the pastors and teachers who spew the false doctrine are very good at what they do. Most false teachers are very gifted at speaking. They are often entertaining and have great personalities that others are drawn to. In essence, it doesn't really matter what they are saying because they are so good at communicating that people want to hear what they have to say.

Jesus warns in [Matthew 7:15](#) to “*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*” These false teachers appear to be harmless but in reality, they are detrimental to the Christian faith and the lives of their followers based on the doctrine they are teaching.

**The New Apostolic Reformation, or NAR, is an unbiblical religious movement that emphasizes experience over Scripture, mysticism over doctrine, and modern-day “apostles” over the plain text of the Bible. Of particular distinction in the New Apostolic Reformation are the role and power of spiritual leaders and miracle-workers, the reception of “new” revelations from God, an over-emphasis on spiritual warfare, and a pursuit of cultural and political control in society. The seeking of signs and wonders in the NAR is always accompanied by blatantly false doctrine.**

Paul identified three characteristics of false teachers writing that "If (Greek assumes following to be true)

(#1) anyone advocates a different doctrine and

(#2) does not agree with sound (hugiaino) words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and

(#3) with the doctrine conforming to godliness," ([1 Timothy 6:3](#))

**Leaders need to stand on the foundation of the word.**

**Bethel Church – Redding, California, known for its School of Supernatural Ministry and global worship influence.**

**Hillsong Church – Australia-based megachurch with multiple international campuses, influential in contemporary worship music.**

## **Elevation Church – Charlotte, North Carolina, with multiple campuses and a strong media presence.**

For there are many **insubordinate**: The word insubordinate indicates someone who will not submit to God’s order of authority. The ancient Greek word translated insubordinate is the negative form of the word submit — an insubordinate man will not submit.

If there were many contentious and “problem people” among God’s people in Paul’s day, so soon after the apostle himself had been among them, then we should also expect that there would be such people today. There are still many insubordinate.

**Idle talkers:** “The main idea was of a worship which produced no goodness of life. These people in Crete could talk glibly but all their talk was ineffective in bringing anyone one step nearer goodness.” (Barclay)

“They tried to persuade them that the simple story of Jesus and the Cross was not sufficient, but that, to be really wise, they needed all the subtle stories and the long genealogies and the elaborate allegories of the Rabbis. Further, they tried to teach them that grace was not enough, but that, to be really good, they needed to take upon themselves all the rules and regulations about foods and washings which were so characteristic of Judaism.” (Barclay)

### **Teaching things which they ought not:**

In 1 Timothy 1:4, Paul warned Timothy to not give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

“So notorious were the Cretans that the Greeks actually formed a verb kretizein, to cretize, which means to lie and to cheat; and they had a proverbial phrase, kretizein pros Kreta, to cretize against a Cretan, which meant to match lies with lies, as diamond cuts diamond.” (Barclay)

“Paul was refuting the false teaching of these legalists with reference to foods. They were teaching that Jewish dietary laws still applied to Christian believers.” (Wiersbe)

**Disqualified:** The ancient Greek word is adokimos (aw doe kee mose), and was used in many different ways:

- It was used to describe a counterfeit coin.
- It was used to describe a cowardly soldier who failed in battle.
- It was used of a candidate rejected for elected office.
- It was used of stone rejected by builders. If a stone had a bad enough flaw, it was marked with a capital A (for adokimos) and set aside as unfit.

**who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.**

they are ruining whole families (GWT)

They are destroying whole families (ICB)

who are of such a character as to disrupt whole families, (Wuest)

they upset the faith of whole households (Phillips)

who subvert whole houses (KJV),

who whole households do overturn (YLT),

they have already turned whole families away from the truth (NLT)

because by it whole families are turned away from the grace of God (TLB)

**Sound (hugiaino [word study] from hugies = healthy and source of English hygiene) means to be healthy or in good physical condition.**

**2 Timothy 2:18** Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow<sup>G396</sup> the faith of some.

- **Targeting Vulnerable Households:** Rather than only speaking in public, they specifically targeted private homes, causing entire households to turn away from the truth.
- **Disruption and Division:** By promoting opposing ideas, they caused discord and destroyed the unity and faith within families, which is what "subvert" or "overturn" implies.

⇒ **2 Timothy 3**

Luke 14:26; Matthew 10:34- **Is rejecting your family Biblical?**

As has been well said "When the plain sense of Scripture makes good sense, seek no other sense."

Sound doctrine or Truth requires certain behaviors that reflect and are appropriate to it. 1 Timothy 2:10; Ephesians 5:3. It is important to note that the apostle is not here focusing on the teaching and preaching of sound doctrine itself, as he does in Titus 1:9. He is rather focusing on practical instruction about the things which are fitting for, that is, based on and appropriate to, the sound doctrine that already has been taught.

1 Timothy 4:1-6

John MacArthur comments on the "nourishing" effect of sound doctrine writing that ""This quality is basic to excellence in ministry, but is sadly lacking in the church today. Much contemporary preaching is weak and produces weak churches because it reflects

a lack of biblical knowledge, and a minimal commitment to the study of Scripture. For many pastors, study is an unwelcome intrusion into their schedule. It interrupts the routine of administrative tasks and meetings with which they occupy themselves. They study only enough to make a sermon, not to feed their own hearts and think deeply and carefully on divine truth. The result is impotent sermons that fall on hard hearts and have little impact." (MacArthur, John: 1Timothy Moody Press)

## ➤ **There is an imperative DENIAL**

***13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. 15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.***

ἐλέγχω elénchō, el-eng'-kho; to confute, admonish:—convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.

***2 Timothy 4:2- Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.***

***“A preacher must be both soldier and shepherd. He must nourish, defend, and teach; he must have teeth in his mouth and be able to bite and fight.”***  
(Luther)

The goal must be: ***“holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”***

***We all must be equipped with the Word of God and make sure everything we believe in and do is in agreement with the Word of God!***