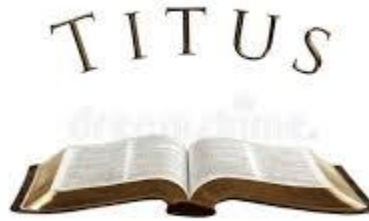




THE POWER OF PREACHING



“⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— ⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 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.”

⇒ The Reason for the Assignment

God has a plan for all of us.

“Crete of the hundred cities” **hecatopolis**

It had an extensive coastline, and many of Crete's cities were connected by sea as well as roads on land.



- To set in order the things that are lacking.

What does this look like?

“That phrase is a medical term; it was applied to the setting of a crooked limb.” (Wiersbe) There were crooked things that had to be set straight among the congregations of Crete.

A good leader can identify problems and come up with solutions.

III. Looking for deer in the woods

The churches in Crete were "crooked" due to significant structural and moral "lacks" that Titus was commissioned to straighten:

- **Lack of Leadership:** Paul instructed Titus to **appoint elders** in every city to provide stable, godly governance.
- **Doctrinal Error:** Rebellious teachers and those focused on "Jewish myths" were **disrupting whole households** for dishonest gain.
- **Cultural Immorality:** The Cretan culture was notoriously difficult, famously described by one of their own as "liars, evil brutes, [and] lazy gluttons".
- **Spiritual Inconsistency:** Many professed to know God but **denied Him by their actions**, appearing detestable and unfit for good work.

Just as a physician meticulously resets a bone so it can heal properly, Titus was to use **sound doctrine** and **godly leadership** to bring health and order back to these congregations.

Making changes is very hard to accomplish!

1 Corinthians 11:34- And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I **set in order** when I come.

- **To ordain elders in every city.**

Proper leadership is imperative for successful results. But remember, it's not caused by the leader, but God only.

Nebuchadnezzar- Daniel 4:27 + verses 36 and 37.

⇒ The Regulations of the Assignment

Acts 20

I have found that people like to talk about these lists:

1. In judgment- Ill. New Christian asking if I was going to step down

2. As only for pastors-

3. Debate- Ill.-Two totally different views

4. Distraction-

"Excuses"- By the Kingsmen Quartet

Excuses, excuses, you'll hear them every day.
And the Devil he'll supply them, if the church you stay away.
When people come to know the Lord, the Devil always loses
So to keep them folks away from church, he offers them excuses.

In the summer it's too hot. And, in the winter, it's too cold.
In the spring time when the weather's just right, you find some place else to go.
Well, it's up to the mountains or down to the beach or to visit some old friend.
Or, to just stay home and kinda relax and hope that some of the kin folks will start dropping in.

Well, the church benches are too hard. And, that choir sings way too loud.
Boy, you know how nervous you get when you're sitting in a great big crowd.
The doctor told you, "Now, you better watch them crowds. They'll set you back."
But, you go to that old ball game because you say "it helps you to relax."

Well, a headache Sunday morning and a backache Sunday night.
But by worktime Monday morning, you're feeling quite alright.
While one of the children has a cold, "Pneumonia, do you suppose?"
Why the whole family had to stay home, just to blow that poor kid's nose.

Excuses, excuses, you'll hear them every day.
And the Devil he'll supply them if the church you stay away.
When people come to know the Lord, the Devil always loses
So to keep them folks away from church, he offers them excuses.

Well, the preacher he's too young. And, maybe he's too old.
The sermons they're not hard enough. And, maybe they're too bold.
His voice is much too quiet-like. Sometimes he gets too loud.
He needs to have more dignity. Or, else he's way too proud.

Well, the sermons they're too long. And, maybe they're too short.

He ought to preach the word with dignity instead of "stomp and snort."
Well, that preacher we've got must be "the world's most stuck up man."
Well, one of the lady's told me the other day, "Well, he didn't even shake my hand."

Life Application Bible Commentary has an excellent summary statement on elder qualifications

"Notice that most of the qualifications involve character, not knowledge or skill. A person's life-style and relationships provide a window into his or her character. Consider these qualifications as you evaluate people for positions of leadership in your church. It is important to have leaders who can effectively preach God's Word; but even more importantly, they must live out God's Word and be examples for others to follow."

This is not about finding someone sinless.

☐ **Blameless**

Anegkletos ("not convicted, not found guilty") refers to character (behavior) that *stands up* when *correctly* tried, not convictable when evaluated by *sound rules of evidence*.

1 Timothy 3:10- And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.

III. Elder material

- Going to seminary doesn't make one qualified for spiritual leadership.
- Being a good talker doesn't make one qualified for spiritual leadership.
- Natural or spiritual gifts in themselves do not qualify one for spiritual leadership.
- What one gives in money or volunteer time does not qualify them for spiritual leadership.
- **What qualifies a man for spiritual leadership is godly character — and godly character established according to the clear criteria Paul will list.**

1 Timothy 3

☐ **The husband of one wife (A one woman man)**

A one woman husband doesn't just happen.

This has much more to do with character.

Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3

- ✓ **A man who loves his wife**
- ✓ **A man who compliments his wife**
- ✓ **A man who adores his wife**
- ✓ **A man who leads his wife**

Proverbs 31:10-12; 23, 26-31

☐ **Faithful children**

1 Timothy 3

Faithful children don't just happen.

- ✓ **There must be a concerted effort of both parents.**
- ✓ **There must be a godly example to follow.**
- ✓ **There must be boundaries set.**
- ✓ **There must be instructions given.**
- ✓ **There must be a plan for a relationship with Jesus.**

III. Brushing teeth

1 Peter 4:4- Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, G810 speaking evil of you:

ἀνυπότακτος anypótaktos, an-oo-pot'-ak-tos; from G1 (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of G5293; unsubdued, i.e. insubordinate (in fact or temper):—disobedient, that is not put under, unruly.

⇒ **THE RESULTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

III. Newmarket versus Epping

Things will get in order with a godly and loving person.

1 Peter 5:1-11

This will always result in bringing glory to God!