

Titus: The Practice of Grace

Titus 1:10b-13: For Filthy Lure's Sake

Titus 1:10

- Paul “specially,” chiefly, or most of all warns about the false teaching of the circumcision, or those who would teach salvation by works through following some type of performance system.
 - Acts 15:1, 24
 - Galatians 1:6-8
 - Galatians 3:1-3
 - Galatians 4:17-21
 - Galatians 5:1-4
- I Timothy 1:6-7—God through Paul says that the teachers of the law of full of empty worthless talking and don’t know what they are doing.

Titus 1:11

- These guys' mouths must be stopped or bridled according to Paul.
- Through their doctrine these false teachers are “subverting” or “overthrowing” entire households of believers.
 - II Timothy 2:18
 - I Timothy 1:19
- The motivation for those who would teach things which that ought not is filthy lucre. It is always more financially rewarding to teach error than truth.
 - I Timothy 6:5

Titus 1:11

- Romans 16:17-18—people who are causing divisions and offences that are contrary to the doctrine need to be marked so the saints can avoid them. The reason these false teachers are to be avoided is because they are capable of subverting whole houses.
 - II Timothy 1:15, 2:17-18, 4:10, 14—Paul marks and makes known those who are teaching false doctrines so that they can be avoided.

Titus 1:12

- As we approach this verse we need to ask the question; with respect to whom is Paul writing in the immediate context?
- In verses 10 and 11, Paul has been warning Titus that there are many unruly, vain talking and deceivers on the Island of Crete who getting paid to gainsay or speak against the truth. We further saw that Cretian Jews were vigorously trying to subvert the truth through teaching the law.
- Verses 12 and 13 pertain to the native people of the Island of Crete, not to Jews who had moved there. Paul quotes one of their own prophets to demonstrate to Titus the character of the people he was dealing with.

Titus 1:12

- Always— perpetually, incessantly, 2) invariably, at any and every time: when according to the circumstances something is or ought to be done again (*Strong's Concordance*). In other words, Cretian prophet is commenting on the normal life styles of the Cretians.
- Liars—first, the Cretians were continual liars which means they were constantly uttering falsehoods.
- Evil Beasts—the words here convey the meaning of bad and corrupt brutes or wild animals. Simply stated, the Cretians possessed all the brutish and fierce characteristics of evil beasts.
- Slow Bellies—the Greek word translated “slow” means free from labor or lazy. “Bellies” in this context is talking about a glutton, or a man who is all stomach. In essence, the prophet is calling the Cretians a bunch of lazy gluttons.

Titus 1:13

- Paul confirms the testimony of the Cretain prophet as being an accurate description of the Cretians.
- Wherefore or because of the nature and character of the people Titus is dealing Paul instructions Titus rebuke them sharply. The word “rebuke” means: to chide; to reprove; to reprehend for a fault; to check by reproof (*Webster’s 1828*).
 - Ephesians 5:11
 - II Timothy 4:2
 - Titus 1:9—this is exactly what Paul told Titus do using sound doctrine.

Titus 1:13

- Sharply—means severely; rigorously; roughly (*Webster's 1828*). In other words, Paul wants Titus to forcefully deal with those who are making trouble by teaching this which they ought not.
 - II Corinthians 13:10
- That—gives the purpose and intent. Why does Paul want Titus to rebuke them sharply? So that they might be sound in the faith.
- The word “sound” in this context is speaking about one who is well or healthy in the faith.
- Paul’s ultimate desire is that believers be sound in the faith or body of truth for the age in which we live.