

A More Compelling Vision

Titus 1.10-16

Main Idea

The Apostle Paul lists the various issues at hand in relation to false teaching there on the island of Crete. This list exposes Titus to the Evil of false teaching in the area so that he can be attuned to pushing back the darkness in order to more properly teach and image forth the greater reality of the way God made the world.

Overview

To follow false teachers is to follow distorted truths:

- In Crete there are “many” who are:
 - Insubordinate: Not obeying authority
 - Empty Talkers: Vain talking, idle babblers, no weight to what they are talking about
 - Deceivers: Twisting the truth for other purposes
 - Teachers teaching for shameful gain
 - They are upsetting whole families
 - Liars
 - Evil Beasts
 - Lazy gluttons
 - People devoting themselves to Jewish myths
 - People devoting themselves to the commands of people who turn away from the truth
 - They profess to know God but deny him by their works
 - Detestable
 - Disobedient
 - Unfit for any good work
- To follow these false teachers and have these realities come to fruition is to follow truths that have been distorted:
 - They take something good and distort it and turn it into something bad
- False teaching, then, is not just wrong, its distorting something that was originally made “Very good” (Genesis 1.31)

To follow distorted truths is to follow destruction:

- Distorted truths leads to destruction
- Paul isn’t warning Titus to appoint elders that rebuke false teachings because “he’s right and their wrong”:
 - He knows that following these distortions will lead people to everlasting destruction
 - Therefore, he commands them to rebuke sharply (v 11) and silenced (v 13)

To follow the Redeemer is to follow the way of Restoration:

- Paul says in vs. 11 that these false teachers “must” be silenced and that they are teaching what they “ought” not to teach:
 - To use these words is to expose his understanding of the way the world is supposed to be
 - That’s why Paul says that families are “upset” where the false teachers are say they are not...it is competing worldviews
 - These has to be grounded in certain convictions:
 - Those convictions come from the “trustworthy word as taught” (vs. 9)
- Elders are put in place to teach the word in order that they would illustrate the way the world is supposed to be:
 - This is what is behind teaching what’s true and rebuking what’s false:

- Not simply saying “this is right and that’s wrong” but Truth is the vessel that leads us into the way the world was supposed to be and one day will be upon the return of Christ...He will make all things new (Rev. 21.5)
- We see that in the resurrection of Christ
- This is what the church is set up to be...a Light of the World, a City set on a Hill for all to see...mankind out in front of time:
 - The word of God faithfully taught, sound (healthy) doctrine is leading God’s people in to God’s Ways for God’s glory and our good

Questions

Discussion Starter: *How would you or those around you relate the teachings of the Bible? Is it primarily a list of do’s and don’ts?*

1. Read Titus 1. With specific attention to vv. 10-16, describe the environment in Crete. How is this similar to our spiritual and cultural context? What challenges does this present for our church?
2. Where does Paul get off saying that these false teachers “must” be silenced and that these teachers “ought” not teach this way? Why is Paul so concerned about false teaches?
3. Notice Paul says the false teachers should be “rebuked sharply that they [the Cretans] may be sound in the faith.” What does it tell us about the goal of rebuking? Why is being sound in the faith good for us?
4. Use a few religious myths and “commands of man” (vs. 14) we might hear from false teaches and “rebuke it” with sound doctrine. Discuss the inherent goodness of what is sound and the distortion/destruction of what is not.
5. According to verse 16, what is the connection between profession and practice? Why is it important to understand this?
6. Read the church covenant and talk about how we are actively doing what Titus 1.10-16 is advocating.
7. In what way did Christ obey this passage?

Accountability Question: *What are some false teachings that you are inclined to struggle and believe? How could the consistent hope of the Restoration of all things help you to not believe those lies and live in the Truth?*