

## Titus 1:5-16

### *“The Dirty Work”*

#### I. **V.5 – Titus’ calling (purpose)**

A. *“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should (1) set in order the things that are lacking and (2) appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.”*

1) Set in order (Gr.) = to straighten out (medical term used in setting a crooked limb).

a) *If a limb is crooked, that means it’s broken! If something needs to be set in order that means it’s out of order!*

2) Things that are lacking (Gr.) = absent (there’s something that isn’t there that needs to be).

a) *Sometimes God calls us to difficult circumstances to set in order the things that are lacking...*

#### B. **Jeremiah 1:4-10:**

1) **Root out & pull down** – to dig out & tear down

a) *If you have to dig something out that means it’s deeply rooted, which also means it’s been there awhile & will take serious effort to remove.*

b) *If you have to tear something down that means someone else has taken the time to build it & won’t be thrilled you’re tearing it apart.*

2) **Destroy & throw down** – to bring to non-existence; to completely remove. To pull down or break into pieces.

a) *If you have to annihilate something, that means there’s no room or tolerance for its existence. I.E. things in people’s lives they deem as necessary or acceptable.*

b) *If you have to break something into pieces, the purpose is so that it can never be salvaged for future use.*

3) **Build & to plant** – to construct or rebuild. To establish for the future.

a) *If you are called to rebuild, it means whatever was there prior was inadequate, so ensure to build properly.*

b) *If you're going to plant for the future, you have to commit to tending to the crop.*

## II. **What was lacking & needed to be set in order?**

A. V.5b – proper leadership: “...appoint elders in every city...”

1) *Leadership positions are not designed to mature people; they're designed for the spiritually mature.*

B. V.10 – Many:

1) **Insubordinate** = unruly; rebellious – v.15-16.

2) **Idle talkers** = empty; senseless – v.14, 16.

3) **Deceivers** = mind deluders; seducers; misleading – v.14.

4) **Especially those of the circumcision = legalism**: Jews who taught salvation obtained through strict adherence to the law – Acts 15:1-35; Rom. 2:26-29; 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Gal. 6:15; Col. 2:10-11; Deut. 10:12-17; Jer. 4:4; Eph. 2:8-9.

a) *So according to Paul, there were a lot of unruly, rebellious, empty, senseless talking, mind deluding, seducing, misleading legalists...**in the church!!!***

b) How would you like that to be your job description????!! But...

c) ***Why would Paul leave Titus there? B/c he had confidence in Titus that he was the one for the job!***

d) *Wherever you find yourself today, God has you there for a reason: he's given you your children for a reason; he's given you your neighbor for a reason; he's given you your boss/co-workers for a reason; he's given you your classmates for a reason; he led you from the south to Ct. for a reason!*

### III. V. 9-14 – The solution

A. V.9 – *“Hold fast the faithful word...to exhort and convict those who contradict.”*

1) Hold fast (Gr. = to cling tightly to) the faithful word b/c it's the word of God who cannot lie – v.2.

a) *One reason many struggle with difficult assignments is we cling tightly to everything but the word of God: our flesh/natural tendencies; the world's logic/worldviews.*

2) Exhort = to call near; invoke

3) Convict = to rebuke with truth

4) Those who contradict (oppose) = we rebuke with truth those who oppose the truth – v.14; John 8:45; Gal. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:15-16, 23-26; 1 John 4:1-6.

B. V.11 – *“Whose mouths must be stopped”* = to put something over the mouth; i.e. to muzzle, ***because:***

1) *“Who subvert (upset; overturn; overthrow) whole households, teaching things they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.”*  
–1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:6; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 John 2:26.

a) *False teaching produces a profit when there are people who are willing to “buy” it, both literally & figuratively –* 2  
Cor.11:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:2-5.

i) V.15-16 – When you reject the Gospel, nothing is valid (agnosticism). Your mind & conscience are corrupted along with your ability to discern right & wrong. ***If your***

*mind is corrupt, it can't properly inform the conscience  
& in turn the conscience can't warn the individual.*

C. V.13 – **“Therefore, rebuke them sharply”** = convict them severely;  
to cut abruptly.

1) Convicting or cutting someone severely & abruptly is going to be painful; all discipline & correction always is – Heb. 12:11.

a) *A main reason things of this nature are allowed to exist in a church & the lives of believers is b/c the Biblical solution is deemed too harsh, painful or strict!*

b) How would Timothy (or any pastor or Christian) go about severely convicting others about inappropriate & sinful conduct? V.9 – *“...holding fast the faithful word...by sound doctrine”* – Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 15:4

2) For what purpose?

a) *“that they may be sound (healthy) in the faith.”* = the goal is to correct them; call them back to truth – 2 Cor. 2:4; 7:8-16; Gal. 6:1.

b) V.14 – *“not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.”* = so they don't get led astray with lies, slander & deception...both for the Cretans as well as mature Christians.