

This is the simple, saving gospel: Christ *alone* saves sinners - by grace through faith.

But remember: Jesus Himself said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matt 7:15)

- False Teachers are...
 1. are REAL
 2. are DANGEROUS
 3. are DECEIVED
 4. are SUBTLE (disguised)
 5. are UNHOLY (defiled)
- Meet the “False Teachers”... (by Tim Challies)
 1. heretic - outright denier of truth & teacher of brazen error
 2. charlatan – uses his teaching/platform for personal gain
 3. prophet - claims to have fresh/new revelation from God outside of Scripture
 4. abuser - uses powerful position to take advantage of others (usually sexual lust)
 5. divider - uses false doctrine to disrupt or divide a church
 6. tickler - he just gives stuff that people want (tickles the ears)
 7. speculator – loves to imagine, speculate, give novel ideas

Background:

- Titus 1:5-9 - the qualifications;
 - Verse 9- the necessary ability to know/handle the Word
 - Verses 10-16 - ***the reasons why!***
 - This section (especially verse 16) is the ***hinge*** of the Book. The rest of Titus chapters 2 & 3 will explain gospel truth & gospel living! [*True salvation in the soul will produce godly living, conduct & works.*]

THESIS — Here are the reasons *why* we must have godly, above reproach & competent leaders in the church. *I wanna give you 7 urgent & indispensable reasons...*****

Because of the...

1. abundance of the deceivers (many) (v.10)
2. danger of their teaching (upsetting whole families) (v.11)
3. motives of their heart (greedy gain) (v.11-12)
4. necessity of firm reproof (reprove them severely) (v.13)
5. preserving of the Truth (they turn men away from the truth) (v.14)
6. infecting of their impurities (nothing is pure) (v.15)
7. hypocrisy of their conduct (by their deeds they deny God) (v.16)

I. ABUNDANCE OF THE DECEIVERS (10)

“many” —

1. REBELLIOUS — unruly, disobedient, not controlled.
2. EMPTY TALKERS — one who talks empty, vain, worthless, senseless things. They’re fluent but shallow.

Titus 1:10-14 — “*How to Handle False Teachers in the Church: The Reality, the Reproof, & the Reasons. Part 1*”

3. DECEIVERS — they are “mind-deceivers”/thinking, intellect

II. DANGER OF THEIR TEACHING (11)

“must be silenced” —

“upsetting whole families/households” —

III. MOTIVES OF THEIR HEART (11b-12)

- We’re not told the *content* but their *covetousness*;
- We’re not told their *message* but their *motives*.

“teaching things *for the sake of* [purpose/ambition of] *sordid gain!* —

“So much in fact do sordid love of gain and lust for wealth prevail among the Cretans, that the Cretans are the only people in the world in whose eyes no gain is disgraceful or shameful” (Polybius, Roman Historian).

Verse 12 — a quote from one of *their own*; a ‘prophet’ [one who tells forth] from Crete:

1. always liars -- (*DECEIVERS*) // liars
2. evil beasts - (*CORRUPTERS*) // lewd
3. lazy gluttons -- (*SELF-LOVERS*) // lazy

IV. NECESSITY OF FIRM REPROOF (13)

So they are (1) present and are (2) polluting. ***So, now what’s the action? What*** must be done?

★ **Calvin was right:** A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet **would remain silent!!**

“For this reason reprove them severely” —

Verse 13: reprove *them* severely so that *they* may be sound in the faith.

Who is the “*them*” and the “*they*”?

1. The false teachers themselves? (cf. 2 Tim 2:24-26)
2. The Cretan congregation/churches who are being deceived?

V. PRESERVING OF THE TRUTH (14)

- Reproving has a purpose/goal to restore & not pay attention to myth; but guard the Truth.
- Guard! Don’t fall into error; preserve, uphold the Truth!

1. **Myths:** legends; endless genealogies; > concocted stories related to genealogies spun out from those given in the OT. Superstitions, speculations.
 - a) Examples include:
 - b) in 1st century AD, the *Book of Jubilees* was a best-seller: it gave extra information (speculative) on the biographies of patriarchs and led to superstitions and speculations.
 - c) At and of 1st century, many rabbis had mystical or numerical meaning of letters to the Hebrew alphabet and allegorized the Old Testament and had all kinds of bizarre & fanciful interpretations.
 - d) *The Gospel of Thomas*, a 3rd century document, claimed to contain 120 *secret* words of Jesus.
 - All these things distort the clarity and simplicity of the gospel.
2. **Commands of men:** man-made prescriptions/demands (Matt 15:9; Mark 7:7; Isa 29:13): they put man’s laws/commands/demands OVER and ABOVE the commands to follow God.
 - a) Examples include: Apocrypha (Catholic Bible), Talmud (Jewish rabbinical writings) and Cabbala (Jewish mysticism) are writings that promote moralities but redefine God’s truth.

Jesus said:

“Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’ Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men” (Mark 7:6-8).

Verses 15-16 are the concluding summary of these deceivers. (*next week*)

VI. INFECTING OF THEIR IMPURITIES (15)

VII. HYPOCRISY OF THEIR CONDUCT (16)

On March 10, 1522, Luther explained the mounting success of the Reformation in a sermon. With strong confidence in God’s Word, he declared:

“I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept ... the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.”

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,

to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

JESUS I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee “Abba Father”,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven’s eternal days before thee,
God’s own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.