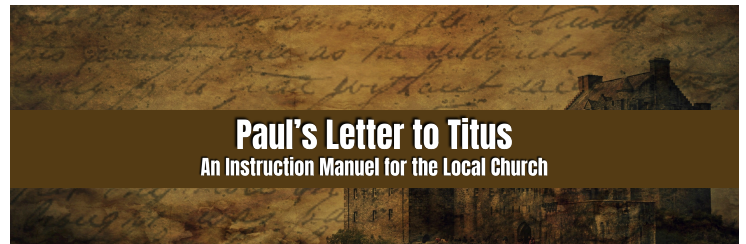


**In a Messed-Up Situation, Tough
Love Has to Keep Pointing Towards
the Truth!**

August 25, 2024 – Titus 1:10-16
Michael Stevens



Notes:

Point 1: The many ways that faulty religious teaching does harm vv. 10-11

Point 2: Calling out the self-professed mess in Crete—but not giving up vv. 12-13

Point 3: Double-headed monster of bad ideas and bad authorities v. 14

Point 4: Know the difference between pure and defiled—both thoughts and feelings v. 15

Point 5: Cautionary tale—misrepresenting the true faith is a disastrous path v. 16

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do people 'rebel' against the true teaching of the Gospel (and this is inside the church, not outside)? What did the 'circumcision group' have to gain by their arguments?
2. How are 'whole households' damaged by legalistic teachings? What does such teaching do within a household (and by extension, a whole church)?
3. Why does Paul call out (by way of the poet Epimenides) the deep flaws attributed to Cretan culture? How will this help Titus in establishing functional churches?
4. What distinction is Paul making between 'pure' and 'corrupt'? How do we seek to be characterized as 'pure' in the midst of such a chaotic culture (then and now)?
5. Why should we hear the phrase "They claim to know God, but by their actions deny him" as a sobering, cautionary phrase for us? Take a look at Matthew 25:31-46, perhaps the scariest passage in the NT—what are we to learn from Jesus teaching there?

The Word of the LORD came unto me,
saying:

O miserable cities of designing men,
O wretched generation of enlightened men,
Betrayed in the mazes of your ingenuities,
Sold by the proceeds of your proper
inventions:

I have given you hands which you turn from
worship,
I have given you speech, for endless palaver,
I have given you my Law, and you set up
commissions,
I have given you lips, to express friendly
sentiments,
I have given you hearts, for reciprocal
distrust.

I have given you power of choice, and you
only alternate

Between futile speculation and unconsidered
action.

Many are engaged in writing books and
printing them,

Many desire to see their names in print,
Many read nothing but the race reports.

Much is your reading, but not the Word of
GOD ,

Much is your building, but not the House of
GOD .

Will you build me a house of plaster, with
corrugated roofing,

To be filled with a litter of Sunday
newspapers?

August 2024			
Week 1 Starting August 5	Week 2 Starting August 12	Week 3 Starting August 19	Week 4 Starting August 26
Day 1: Exodus 32	Day 1: Exodus 37	Day 1: Leviticus 2	Day 1: Leviticus 7
Day 2: Exodus 33	Day 2: Exodus 38	Day 2: Leviticus 3	Day 2: Hebrews 1
Day 3: Exodus 34	Day 3: Exodus 39	Day 3: Leviticus 4	Day 3: Hebrews 3
Day 4: Exodus 35	Day 4: Exodus 40	Day 4: Leviticus 5	Day 4: Hebrews 4
Day 5: Exodus 36	Day 5: Leviticus 1	Day 5: Leviticus 6	Day 5: Hebrews 5
<p>¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.</p> <p>¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."</p>			
John 10:17-18 (NIV)			