



Pine View
Baptist Church
Augusta, GA

Wednesday Night Service

May 5, 2021 ~

“Study on the Book of Titus – Zealous for Good Works – Session 3”

Introduction: In last week’s session, we focused on the preaching of God’s word. It is preaching the Word that stirs up good works. While it is true that preaching is the primary way that God stirs up zeal for good works in His people, the next most important thing for a church is in regard to it’s leadership. Leaders and leadership will be the focus of this study.

(Key) The main point of this study is that good leadership leads to zeal for good works. This is the main gist of Titus 1:5-16. In this study, we will focus on 3 main points regarding elders or godly leaders:

- 1.) The church needs elders or godly leaders. (vs. 5)
- 2.) The church needs godly leaders with character, and conviction. (vs. 6-9)
- 3.) Godly leaders protect the church from ungodly influences. (vs. 10-16)

THE CHURCH NEEDS GOODLY LEADERS (VS. 5)

In this passage, the Apostle Paul says “the church is to appoint elders in every city as I have commanded you.” In the first part of verse 5, Paul speaks about Titus. Paul says he left Titus in Crete. Paul did not abandon Titus in Crete, but he strategically placed him there for gospel purposes. Titus was to bring order to the ministry in Crete.

Paul’s commission to Titus was for him to organize the church for effective gospel outreach by appointing good and godly elders or leaders. Doing this was critical to the ministry in Crete and it is critical to the ministry in the church today as well.

Appointing elders or godly leaders was a common practice of Paul. Wherever he planted churches, he appointed elders or godly leaders. Eldership was the consistent pattern for the local church. We need godly leaders in the church.

(Read: Acts 15:2) Regarding the church in Jerusalem

(Read: Acts 20:17) Regarding the church in Ephesus

THE CHURCH NEEDS ELDERS OR GODLY LEADERS WITH CHARACTER AND CONVICTION (VS. 6-9)

This passage tells us that character and conviction are critical qualifications for godly leaders. This passage says an elder or godly leader must be a “man of blameless or irreproachable character.” Which means he must be a man free from accusation. He must have a good reputation. There are two ways he must be blameless or above reproach:

- 1.) Be above reproach in his home life. To be the husband of one wife. Also, his children are to be believers. (Key) If a leader aspires to lead in the church, he must not neglect his home life. The home is the training ground for his work in the church.
- 2.) He must be above reproach in his overall pattern of life. In vs. 7-8, Paul speaks about several characteristics of the godly leader:
 - a. Not self-willed. He is not arrogant.
 - b. Not quick tempered. He must show self-control.
 - c. Not given to wine. He must not be a drunkard.
 - d. Not violent. Must be disciplined and not be ruled by anger.
 - e. Not greedy for money. Must not let money or the love of money rule his life.
 - f. Be hospitable. Be welcoming and loving towards people.
 - g. Be a lover of what is good. Desires to do what is good, not a lover of evil.
 - h. Be just and holy. Be set-apart to do ministry.
 - i. Hold fast to the word. Be a leader of biblical conviction. They must hold fast to the Word of God by living it out in their life. It is being “doers” of the word and not just “hearers” of the word.

GODLY ELDERS OR LEADERS PROTECT THE CHURCH FROM UNGODLY INFLUENCES (VS. 10-16)

So how does godly leaders do that?

- 1.) They are to lead by governing and directing the affairs of the church.
- 2.) They are to feed the church by teaching the word of God.
- 3.) They are to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the church.
- 4.) They are to shepherd the church by protecting the church from harm.

Why protect? Paul said there were “empty talkers” and “deceivers” in Crete. Some of these used deception as tools of influence within the life of the church. There were also false teachers around Crete creating quite an uproar. False teachers focus on only what is important to them and not on the gospel. They would profess to know God but deny Him by the way they live their life. Many times these folks seek to stir up trouble in church. Godly leaders help in dealing with these types of individuals. They help keep order in the church.