

Questions, Quotes and Notes

August 28, 2022

Titus 1:5-16: Men of Conviction

Pre-Sermon:

Here are some questions to think about to get you ready to listen to the sermon on Sunday.

1. What are some qualities that first come to mind when you think about what it means to be a godly person?
2. One of the marks of a godly person is what he believes. Why is belief so important when it comes to being godly?
3. We need leaders who hold firm to what the Scripture teaches. In other words they are people of conviction. What do you think it means to be a person of conviction?

Mid-Sermon:

We are looking at Titus 1:5-16 together and seeing: 1.) The kind of elders we need and 2.) Why we need them. But instead of having you simply focus on listening for an outline, I want to give you some important ideas to listen for. So, as you come to the service, bring a piece of paper and a pen, and see if you can answer these questions as I preach.

1. How do we know from Titus that leadership is important to the health of the local church?
2. Which is more important for leadership to Paul, talent or character?
3. What are the three areas in which an elder must be above reproach?
4. What does it mean to hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught?
5. What is the difference between being stubborn and being a person of conviction?
6. Why does Paul say we need men who hold firm to the trustworthy word? What are they supposed to do?
7. Why do we need elders who will stand up against error and even rebuke those who are trying to distort the truth?

- Important Quotes:

1. "Convictions are not just beliefs; that is, they are not those beliefs that are merely held by us. Instead, convictions hold us in their grip...Put simply, a conviction is a belief of which we are thoroughly convinced. I don't mean that we merely believe that a given set of statements is true but that we are convinced that these truths are essential and life

changing. We live out of these truths and are willing to die for these truths." Al Mohler

2. "Mark what I say. If you want to do good in these times, you must throw aside indecision, and take up a distinct, sharply-cut, doctrinal religion. . . . The victories of Christianity, wherever they have been won, have been won by distinct doctrinal theology; by telling men roundly of Christ's vicarious death and sacrifice; by showing them Christ's substitution on the cross, and His precious blood; by teaching them justification by faith, and bidding them believe on a crucified Saviour; by preaching ruin by sin, redemption by Christ, regeneration by the Spirit; by lifting up Jesus and telling men to look and live—to believe, repent, and be converted. . . . Christianity without distinct doctrine is a powerless thing. . . . No dogma, no fruits!" J.C. Ryle
3. "Official Christianity, of late years, has been having what is known as a bad press. We are constantly assured that the churches are empty because preachers insist too much upon doctrine—dull dogma as people call it. The fact is the precise opposite. It is the neglect of dogma that makes for dullness. The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever staggered the imagination of man—and the dogma is the drama. Now, we may call [Christian] doctrine exhilarating, or we may call it devastating; we may call it revelation, or we may call it rubbish; but if we call it dull, the words have no meaning at all. That God should play the tyranny over man is a dismal story of unrelieved oppression; that man should play the tyrant over man is the usual dreary record of human futility; but that man should play the tyrant over God and find Him a better Man than himself is an astonishing drama indeed. Any journalist, hearing of it for the first time, would recognize it as news; those who did hear it for the first time actually called it news, and good news at that; though we are likely to forget that the word Gospel ever meant anything so sensational. . . . for the cry today is: "Away with the tedious complexities of dogma—let us have the simple spirit of worship; just worship, no matter of what!" The only drawback to this demand for a generalized and undirected worship is the practical difficulty of arousing any sort of enthusiasm for the worship of nothing in particular. It would not perhaps be altogether surprising if, in this nominally Christian country [Britain], where the creeds are daily recited, that there were a number of people who knew all about Christian doctrine and disliked it. It is more startling to discover how many people there are who heartily dislike and despise Christianity without having the faintest notion of what it is. If you tell them, they cannot believe you. I do not mean that they cannot believe the doctrine; that would be understandable enough since it takes some believing. I mean that they simply cannot believe that anything so interesting, so exciting, and so dramatic can be the orthodox creed of the Church. Surely it is not the business of the Church to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ. It is the dogma that is the drama—not

beautiful phrases, nor comforting sentiments, nor vague aspirations to loving-kindness and uplift, nor the promise of something nice after death—but the terrifying assertion that the same God who made the world, lived in the world and passed through the grave and gate of death. Show that to the heathen, and they may not believe it; but at least they may realize that here is something that man might be glad to believe.”
Dorothy Sayers

Notes:

Post Sermon:

- Application:

We don't want to be hearers of the word only, but doers. Being a doer usually takes thinking, however. Spend some time thinking about how you can apply what you learned today.

1. What do you need to believe as a result of this sermon?
2. How should you be praying for Cornerstone Bible Church because of what you heard?
3. How might you relate differently to the local church after hearing this message?
4. Are the qualifications you have for a good elder/pastor the same as the qualifications we find here in Titus? Is there anything you emphasize more or less than God? How should you change your perspective?

- How Well Was I Listening Questions:

Here are some questions you can ask your children after listening to the message.

1. What passage did we talk about today?
2. What did Pastor Josh say about it?
3. What part did you think was important?
4. Why do we need elders who are convinced that the Bible is true and who stand up against people who distort the truth?

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