

week 2

Scripture to Read

Sermon text: Titus 1:5-16

Summary of Titus 1:5-16

Paul begins the body of the letter with a reminder to Titus of the directions for ministry that he had left with him. Setting things straight in the church requires godly leaders who embody the gospel. The description of the false teachers contrasts directly (and probably intentionally) with the descriptions of what the elders should be (v. 5–9). Whereas the elders are to live out and teach the truth, these false teachers belie their profession of faith by their conduct (v.16). Christian standards for leadership must be established and maintained.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order.... [Titus 1:5]

Questions for Personal Study and/or group discussion

- What is the purpose for establishing elders?
- What are the qualifications for an elder as outlined in this passage? List them.
- Which of the items listed as qualifications for a pastor surprised you? Why?
- How are these qualifications different than the expectation of any Christian?
- What has God given you to steward?
- In what areas of your life do you need to grow to be a good steward of those things?
- How is the life of a qualified elder a testimony to the Gospel?
- How is your life a testimony to the Gospel?
- Are you currently preaching a false Gospel or a true Gospel with your life and actions? What needs to be “put in order” in your life?
- What experiences have you had in seeing godly elders live up to these criteria? What experiences have you had in seeing sinful elders fail to live up to these criteria?
- What do you think the best and worst part of being an elder is?
- How can you be praying for the elders at FPC?

Thoughts worth thinking

You Cretan! J.N.D. Kelly speaks of the “shocking reputation for mendacity which the Cretans had in the ancient world. So prevalent was this that the verb ‘to Cretize’ (Greek: *kretizein*) was a slang word for lying or cheating.” [A Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles, p.235]

The apostolic method: “Paul’s pattern of ministry was to lead men and women to Christ, nurture them in the faith, give them the endurance of eternal hope, and provide them with loving spiritual leaders. That pattern is clearly seen in the book of Acts. After Paul and Barnabas ‘had preached the gospel to [Derbe] and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed’ (Acts 14:21-23).” [John MacArthur, Jr. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Titus* (Chicago: Moody, 1996), 21]

For Parents with Young Children

Monday: Read Titus 1:5-9. Explain to your children that God puts leaders called pastors/elders in the church to make sure everyone is learning about Jesus and obeying the Bible. These pastors are supposed to be godly men who love Jesus and who live for him. Spend some time praying for elders at FPC by name.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that the church is like a big family, and that the pastors are like the daddies who love everyone, teach them, and make sure that the family is doing well. Ask your children to explain to you what they think it means that Christians are like a big family. Then explain to them that they are blessed to have two families, their family at home, and their family at church.

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Explain to your children that someday they will likely get married and have families of their own. Tell them that they want to have a good family so that they can teach other people and open their homes to invite other people to be friends with them and Jesus. Also, explain that when your family has people over that you are doing ministry, and that they are part of that ministry.

Friday: Spend some good time singing hymns and/or worship songs with your children tonight. If you would like a CD with good music for family worship, ask a pastor or an elder for some recommendations.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children. Pray that Phillip will have boldness in preaching the Word of God tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their Sunday School teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.