

Lesson 7

June 01, 2023

Pride

Titus 1:12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

a prophet of their own - Paul cites from a known poet and Cretan named Epimenides. He had lived several hundred years before their time in 6 BC and the locals were very familiar with his writings. Some referred to him as a prophet for the Cretans.

Cretans are always liars - Epimenides' said in the poem that Cretans are known for untruthfulness, maliciousness, and uncontrolled greed. This was common knowledge during the Hellenistic period and Cretans were known for lying and scamming people for a profit!

evil beasts - κακός θηρίον, (kakos therion)

κακός pertains to being harmful to others, evil, injurious (violent), dangerous, pernicious (destructive), of things or conditions.

θηρίον - wicked person, someone with a 'bestial' nature, a beast, a monster.

lazy gluttons - αργός γαστήρ (argos gaster)

αργός - being unwilling to work, idle, lazy

γαστήρ - Literally means "bellies". Where the word gastro-intestinal comes from. Lazy through pampering their bellies.

Titus 1:13 This testimony is true. For this reason, reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,

This testimony is true - Paul is referring to the known character of the Cretans. This is not him making this up about them, it is a known fact.

reprove them severely - ἐλέγχω ἀποτόμως.

(elegchio apotomos)

① to scrutinize or examine carefully, bring to light, expose

② to bring a person to the point of recognizing wrongdoing, convict, convince someone of something

③ to express strong disapproval of someone's action, reprove, correct

④ to penalize for wrongdoing, punish, discipline

1 Tim 5:20 - Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.

2 Tim 4:2-4 - preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4) and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

Tit 2:15 - These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you (firmly).

Q? What is the Greek definition of Exhort?

Gr: παρακαλέω "Parakaleo"

Urges, encourages, implores, or earnestly advises.

Q? What is the Greek definition of Reprove?

Gr: ἐλέγχω "Elencho"

to call to account, show one his fault, demand an explanation, to be convicted.

Q? What is the Greek definition of Rebuke?

Gr: ἐπιτιμάω "epitimaō"

to expose, reprove or convict.

Q? How do we help others to be sound in the faith?

We are to patiently but firmly, point out wrongdoing by sharing the word of God with others and letting the Holy Spirit convict them, so they can be sound in the faith.

May be sound - ὑγιαίνω (Hugiaino)

This is a present active subjunctive, meaning, They have the possibility to be sound in their faith.

in the faith - ἐν τῷ πίστις (en ta pistis)

state of believing and trusting based on, the reliability of the one trusted, Jesus Christ.

Unbelievers can put their faith alone in Jesus Christ and his work on the cross to have eternal life.

Believers can trust Christ because of His worthiness.

When believers trust Christ, they can have a personal relationship with Him now, and grow in spiritual maturity, not worrying about their assurance of Heaven.

Titus 1:14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Jewish myths and commandments of men -

1 Tim. 1:4 ...nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.

These false teachers were probably forerunners of second-century Gnostics. In this letter Paul characterizes these false teachers as: (1) teachers of Jewish myths and fictitious stories based on genealogies that were undiscovered or they were uncertain about; (2) conceited; (3) argumentative; (4) desiring to teach Old Testament law, yet they knew not what they teach; (5) full of meaningless talk; (6) teaching false practices of severe discipline for religious reasons; and (7) using their positions of religious leadership for personal financial gain.

turn away from the truth - Jesus Christ had fulfilled their prophecies as messiah. He had become the ultimate sacrifice for mankind's sin and made a way for

anyone who would put their faith in Him to have everlasting life. They rejected the truth of Christ and adopted their own myths as truth. Many today do the exact same thing! They believe in things like "the big bang theory", "aliens" or "other gods" and cling to them as truths. Mankind puts his trust in "science" and claims, in his own arrogance (Pride), that he, Not God, controls the outcome of the world and future events.

Mankind looks to "climate change" and talks of saving the world from it's climate demise. But truly, mankind's arrogance (Pride) is one of his biggest downfalls.

Mankind is prideful and has made God out to be a liar because he has not believed in the testimony of Christ.

1 John 5:10-11 - The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

11) And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. "Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in themselves." When a person becomes a child of God (by believing that Jesus is the Son of God), he or she knows it without any doubt, because the Holy Spirit who regenerated them gives them an inner witness to that reality.

Q? Who was the first to turn away from the truth?

Luke 10:18 And Jesus said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."

In referencing Satan's fall from heaven, Jesus most likely had in mind Isaiah 14:12, "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!" The fall of Satan that Jesus saw

happened after Lucifer's sin, before Adam and Eve's temptation in the Garden of Eden. In his pride, Lucifer had lifted himself up, but God had cast him down out of his original place in heaven.

Lucifer in eternity past, was beautiful, he was intelligent and he had authority in Heaven. He became Proud (arrogant) and looked at himself as something special. He began thinking he could become like God and ultimately take over in Heaven. God threw him and his followers 1/3 of the angelic beings, out of heaven as fast as lightning!

PRIDE came before the fall!

Satan (Lucifer) still uses the sin of Pride today, to turn people's attention away from God.

The LGBT mob screams PRIDE; If they only knew they had been deceived.... Today, is the start of "pride" month. We are seeing this everywhere.

Large corporations get behind this perversion and claim it is legitimate, when it's an abomination to God.

Bud light's promotion of the Transgender lifestyle has fortunately, not been well accepted, but it does not stop other corporations from continuing down this path.

This week, Target promoted an LGBT person to make clothing showing the Pride distortion we see everywhere. That person claimed that Satan loves the LGBT, supports their pronouns and everyone should support Satan and his love for all.

Surprising? It shouldn't be!



Satan even hijacked God's promise to mankind, The rainbow. It was God's promise to mankind to never destroy the world again with a flood.



The homosexual agenda, however, is not being led by man alone. Then who is leading it?

This is a spiritual war! The fallen angel, Lucifer (Satan) is actively involved in this sinful behavior.

Just as in the Hellenistic period in the early church,

These things continue to this day. The need for qualified Pastor-Teachers in the early churches in Crete were a preview of things to come. These qualifications for elders couldn't be of more importance.

Pride was the beginning of many sins.

There are two parts to a negative Pride:

1. Self conceit - It includes Narcissism, egotism, arrogance, over-bearing behavior.
2. Vain glory - It includes boasting, bragging, condescending, conceited and cocky.

This is also twofold.

When we ascribe what we Do not have or when we transfer to ourselves the pride of what we Do have.

In the case of Satan, the one thing he did not have was That he was Not God! He thought he should be.

On the other part of this pride, he was beautiful, intelligent and had authority in Heaven. These were

from God! Instead of being grateful for the things God gave him, he became arrogant.

3 areas a proud person operates:

1. thoughts - A proud person fills their thoughts with self-admiring thoughts and the self-sustaining honor of the men around him; looking for their admiration and praise.

2. Words - When men dote on themselves, they forget all bounds of modesty and are trumpeters of their own praise.

Prov. 27:2 Let another man praise thee and not thy own mouth, someone else and not your own lips.

3. Deeds - When you do things to feed your own pride instead of acknowledging the grace given by God.

Mankind loves themselves and promotes themselves.

Self is the great idol of the world!

Rather than not be proud, some would rather be proud of their sin! They glory in their shame.

Phil. 3:19 Their destiny (spiritual life) is destruction, their God is their stomach (emotions, desires and thoughts) and their glory is in their shame (the sin they should be ashamed of).

Their mind is on earthly things.

This prideful person can have two extremes:

1. Many, look modest outside, as in the way they dress and are seen by others, but become self-righteous and pompous in their behavior. They look down on others that they teach and show their pride in their scorn for others.

2. Others proudly show their achievements outwardly, but, their soul is not humble. They wear the best clothes; show off their earthly treasures and seek the approval of all men who see them.

We should purge ourselves of pride. It cannot be removed all at once, but is a continuing exercise of self-checking ourselves. The best way to tamp down our pride is to acknowledge it to God.

We can consider often, what we are (sinner), what we have been (forgiven) and what we truly deserve (death).

Never reflect on your praises, but remember your imperfections, for the world doesn't see your sins; (God does) and the need for reproofs (correction) instead of praise.

Matt.11:29 Jesus says, "Learn of me, I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls".

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Matthew 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Proverbs 16:5 The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18-19 Pride goes before destruction,

And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

19) It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 14:9 Fools mock at sin, But, among the upright there is good will (favor of God).

Our work in Christ is to glorify Him, not ourselves, to reflect His glory!