

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a pond with lily pads, surrounded by trees with vibrant orange, red, and yellow foliage. The scene is captured from a low angle, with some reeds in the foreground.

*Welcome To
Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“Qualifications for an Elder-Pastor-Overseer”

Part VII

Titus 1:9-16

November 8, 2015

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- 10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,
- 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.
- 12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
- 13 This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,
- 14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.
- 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.
- 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

1 Cor 5:6-7

6 Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened.



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Acts 20:28-30

28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.



2 Tim 3:5-6

5 . . . Avoid such men as these.

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

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The prophet Epimenides:

- 600 BC
- Poet, Writer, Teacher
- Born in the city of Knossos on the island of Crete.
- Ranked as one of the seven wise men on Crete.

Cretins are:

1. “Always liars” – lying was a way of life. i.e. you could also always tell when a Cretan was lying – his lips move. No regard for the truth.
2. “Evil beasts” – savage, vicious, brutal.
3. “Lazy gluttons” – self-pleasing, hedonistic.

“So much in fact do sordid love of gain and lust for wealth prevail among them that the Cretans are the only people in the world in whose eyes no gain is disgraceful”.

- Polybius

(a Greek Historian who lived from 200 – 118 BC)

“Moral principles are so divergent that the Cretans ... consider highway robbery honorable.”

Cicero

(a Roman philosopher who lived from 106 BC to 43 BC)

So they love shameful gain, they have a lust for wealth, they believe no gain is disgraceful and that highway robbery honorable. What a great place to live!

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Col 2:8

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Col 2:20-23

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

1 Timothy 1:3-4

3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

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.

Titus 3:9

9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Rom 2:17-29

- 17 But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God,
- 18 and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law,
- 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,
- 20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,
- 21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?
- 22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?
- 23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

25 For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

26 So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?

27 And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law?

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

LAW

- no man can keep the Law, the Law doesn't save anyone, it only condemns us.

CIRCUMCISION

- outward physical sign to the Jew that spiritual circumcision of the heart must take place.

BAPTISM

- outward physical sign to the world that the inward circumcision of the heart HAS taken place.

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Mark 7:18-23

18 And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him,

19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.)

20 And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.

21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.

23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

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Summary on Elders

1. You cannot overstate the importance of Elders in the life of the local church. Whether a church is God honoring, God glorifying, and God exalting will depend on the spiritual depth and leadership of its Elders.
2. Qualifications for Elders starts with their character followed by their ability to teach.
3. Elders get one shot at being “above reproach”.
4. An Elder’s life is all about the Word – his passion for it, his knowledge of it, his ability to teach it, and his resolve to confront those who contradict it.
5. If we fail to uphold the qualifications for Elders, we will suffer the consequences of a weak church that is torn asunder by “wolves” who will not spare the flock.

Qualified or Disqualified?

- An Elder is seen at a local restaurant having a glass of wine.
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder has an affair with another woman?
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder does not believe his spiritual gift is teaching.
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder has a child who is not a believer.
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder never talks to his flock about false teaching of which they need to be warned.
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder, for the sake of unity, refuses to confront someone teaching Open Theism in a small group?
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder sees his position in the church as that of a CEO, authoritatively running a business.
Is he disqualified?
- An Elder has had a past of rebellion, getting drunk, partying, and losing his temper.
Is he disqualified?