

Titus

Sunday 8/14/2005

We invite you to turn to the book of Titus. As you know, we have been coming through the Word of God book by book. Our church has been in existence for just a little over two years. We started by laying out solid concepts that everybody needs to know and understand to be useful as a minister for Christ. We then moved into trying to put the whole Bible together as we started coming through book by book. Many of you throughout the week are working on putting all that material together. We have it on tape so that at any point in time somebody can get it and start going through it.

As I have said, almost every week we meet together, and almost every time, I will spend an hour a week with anybody helping you put the Word of God together, showing you how to do it, or whatever situations or problems you may have in your life. That is what I am here for. We saw as we started to come through, then we took a Thursday night and had a special session where we really started focusing on how to make up your own study Bible. All this has a purpose.

Within the last couple of weeks, as we have had our meetings and talked about some of the things that God has given us, and we have laid them out like Thursday night and last Sunday morning and our meeting we had with the guys, and even on Saturday morning when we laid some things out, you are beginning to see now where we are going and what we are going to try to accomplish.

You remember right after the first of the year we had a planning session. That planning session was twofold for me. If you remember back then, I told you that we had two goals. One, it was a strategy for growth, how to reach people and to influence them for Christ. The second aspect was a strategy to build leadership. God has given us a host of young men and young ladies, and it is my responsibility to help you and train you. I hope you are beginning to see how it is all beginning to come together and where we are going to go from here.

The Lord just kind of opened it up. I felt like it was time last Sunday morning to lay out some things, and then again Thursday night, and then again Saturday morning for those that are in the discipleship aspect of it. What we are looking at here, and it is all in God's timing, we got into the pastoral epistles. That is what 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus and Philemon are commonly called. Maybe not so much Philemon, but I put it in there because of what you have there.

It is great material, as I told you, for the men who someday have a desire to be a pastor. The Bible says, "He that desires to be a bishop desires a good thing." I am always on the lookout for the qualities in a young man that he has the ability to pastor, and they are few and far between today, but God will give us our share of it, I am sure. Even that, it is great material just for all Christians because many of you, if not most of you, will never pastor a church, but you have to understand these concepts to understand how to be a leader within our church.

The Bible talks about a governmental structure of deacons and elders. The Bible calls the elders overseers, men and women who help oversee the work of the ministry, and that is where we are at right now. As I talked to you the last couple of times, laying out the strategy for that, showing

you how we are going to accomplish that, you have a clear understanding now of exactly where we are going and what we are going to do.

I had an interesting call this week from a missionary in Brazil. I do not remember him, but he obviously remembered me when I was either in Brazil or at some point. I did not get the connection. I do know his boy, who is in the States, has been calling me, and I have been helping him work through some things in the Bible, so I am not sure of the connection. I just want to throw this out to you: here was the offer he made me, and I turned down the offer, but here is the offer he made me.

He asked me if I could come down with ten men, and he said, "I promise you we can have a citywide crusade. We will put two guys in each church across this city, and this whole city will turn out, and we can have a revival like this city has never seen." He says, "You have the kind of people that we need. I know where you are at. I know what you believe." He made me the offer of bringing down ten guys, with me being twelve, or twelve total, and we would put you in teams of two into these churches. You would be on your own, and you would be responsible basically for running a week-long ministry of preaching into these churches and working as the New Testament sends them out two by two.

Now, I obviously declined the offer because I learned through the years of ministry that a lot of things look good, but one of the things that you do not want to do is get to the right place at the wrong time. But give us another year or so, and I believe that God allows those things to come into your life: one, to see if you jump for it, to see where your own patience level is; and two, to show you what is coming down the line if you just stay on the track you are already on. I am telling you that that is where we are headed.

We have talked about that throughout the week, and Thursday, and yesterday, and last Sunday. That is why, as we are in the pastoral epistles here, we really begin to see and understand some of these things come to light. These are things that you have to learn if you are on the path to leadership in this church. Moving out as God expands our ministries, as we have talked about how He is going to do that, is an incredible thing, but it takes the responsibility and accountability of understanding the principle. It does not do you or me or anybody else any good to get into a biblical situation if you do not order yourself by the principles involved. That is how young men get in trouble all the time, and that is exactly what you find. That is why the principles are so vital that you and I learn them now.

As we have come through First and Second Timothy, we saw that Paul charges young Timothy with a number of biblical responsibilities. In First Timothy, we saw twelve where he laid on him certain charges and responsibilities that a pastor or somebody who is in leadership in an elder-deacon situation has to have. In Second Timothy last week, we saw more charges built around one theme, and that theme was to remember and never forget what God has done for you. What a great book that is.

Now we come to Titus. Titus is another young man who is a pastor. He is also a young man that Paul won to Christ someplace in his journeys, because in verse four, Paul calls him "my own

son." This epistle is written around the same time as First and Second Timothy, and Paul is again still in jail. Somewhere around 62 AD, he writes these instructions to Timothy.

Remember, I told you when we started these pastoral epistles that in the New Testament there are some books that are written to churches, and in the New Testament there are some books that are written to individuals. The books that are written to churches will contain direct material given to the churches that is going to help them understand how they should function and deal with issues. The books that Paul writes to individuals are for personal accountability and personal things that you and I need to learn and understand. That is the great key here today as we come through a strategy for training leaders and a strategy for reaching the community where you are at.

So, do your work well, because if we stay faithful, God is going to take this little church and is going to build some incredible young men and young ladies with the men and young ladies we already have. God is going to take that thing, and you watch what God does with it. Our job is to do what is right by the numbers, by the book. We do our job, God does His job. It is as simple as that.

In this great little book here, he again goes beneath the surface. Remember, I told you the story about the iceberg, how that when the Titanic hit the iceberg, they actually found that same iceberg a couple of weeks later; it had paint all over it where it scratched up along the side. The truth about an iceberg is that what you see above water is only one-tenth; nine-tenths of it lies beneath. So, you see a little iceberg out there, and you say, "I can run right through that." No, no, no, you cannot, because you are only seeing part of it sticking up; nine-tenths of it is still underwater.

That is what the ministry is. That is what pastoring is. That is what leadership is. I told you how people look at being a pastor and standing up in front of people and preaching and getting opportunities and dealing with people in the Bible, and that is a very small part of pastoring or being a leader. The real work gets done when nobody sees it, under the surface. The real work of the ministry are the principles and the accountability and the guidelines you have to first learn and submit yourself to, and then you can have the ministry that goes on from there. That is the great concept that is taught here in these pastoral epistles. It shows another area in the book of Titus that a pastor needs to understand and be accountable to.

With that in mind, let us ask God's blessing today as we move into His Word. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. I love You. I thank You, Father, for all that You do. I ask You, Lord, to bless in a mighty way all that You have for us. Help us to understand and to give us the truth, and help us, Father, to take men and women and these young couples that You have given us and to work in their lives individually, work in their marriages, and then prepare them for whatever You have for this church. May everybody, everybody, Lord, that has got any kind of time under their belt with the Bible, see and get on board and understand the importance of what we have to do. Lord, we just pray that those that You have given us, that we would be faithful to, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The Concept of Stewardship

In the book of Titus, we enter into another concept that you have to get down as a pastor, leader, elder, whatever, and that is the concept of stewardship. Before we try to put all this together in a perspective for you and for me in our church, let us first, as we always do, get a biblical definition of what stewardship is.

There are many pictures of it in the Bible. You are going to find back there in 2 Chronicles chapter 28 that David, who is a king, he has a steward, and that steward performs things for him. In Genesis chapter 44, you are going to find Joseph, who has made the second position in the kingdom, he has a steward, and that steward does things for him. In Acts chapter 8, the familiar story of the Ethiopian eunuch, he is a steward. The Bible does not call him a steward in particular, but we know he is because the Bible does tell us that he has charge of all of the Queen of Ethiopia's treasure. He is a steward.

But the greatest detailed account of stewardship and being a steward for us to really grasp it is found in Genesis chapter 15 and again in Genesis chapter 24. Do not turn to it; just follow me through with this. We do not have to turn to it to see these things because this is not where we are really going here. What you have is this: when you come down through here, you find that in that story you have Abraham. Abraham is a type of God the Father in this story. Abraham has a son, just like God has a Son, and that Son is Isaac. So, Isaac represents for us Christ.

Then you have another man in this story whose name is Eleazar. Eleazar is the steward of Abraham. In other words, Eleazar has charge of all that Abraham has, and he has quite a bit. Ben Cartwright and the Ponderosa could not hold a candle to Abraham and what he had. He has a steward, and that steward is faithful in all that he has.

In the story there in Genesis chapter 24, and we have talked about this before, the whole chapter, verse 1 through verse 67, we see Eleazar as a type of the Holy Spirit of God. But when you put it into a practical sense and look at it, Eleazar was doing a job. That job was he was finding a bride for Abraham's son, Isaac, in an absence. Eleazar is a picture of you and I because the Holy Spirit of God is living inside you and it is living inside me. Very frankly today, we as individual Christians, we have one really goal, and that is to find brides, the body of Christ, for our Father God.

You and I, every time we win people to Christ, when you got saved Thursday night, what happened was the great thing got fulfilled. You became part of God's family. You became a child of God, and now you are the bride of Christ. It happened because somebody went looking for you, and that somebody was the Holy Spirit of God that was in somebody in this church. That is how the process works.

So, we see that first of all, putting it all together as a child of God, saved, Holy Spirit of God living inside us, you and I have been made stewards of all that our Father has. You and I as a child of God, the day you got saved, the Bible says God made you a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. Beyond that, God made you His steward, and He made you a steward of all that He has.

Someday we are going to give an account of our stewardship, and we know that is going to take place at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Proverbs 15:6

In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

You and I as a steward, having all that God has and being in charge of that, God has sent you and I to do a job, and that job, just like Eleazar, is to find a bride for His Son. Once we are in that family, the Holy Spirit of God works through us to accomplish that purpose.

Stewardship is nothing more than this: it is you and I recognizing that when God saved us, God saved us for a purpose, and God gave us everything that He had because He is not here, He is up there, but He wants to work through us. So, He gave us everything, and we have to be stewards of that.

I say this all the time: I give you the first five years that you have been saved; I do not even count it because you are just figuring out what is going on. Some of you have been saved a long time, but nobody has ever taken the time within the Bible, so I do not hold you accountable. I put you in that category too. I am talking about people who have found the Word of God and have gotten into it and are in churches or somebody has worked with them in their life where they really, really have the ability to do something with it.

Simply this, putting the people in the first category out of the equation: if you have been saved five years or more, you are today exactly the investment that you have made with what God has given you. It is so simple and so easy to understand. Today, if you have been saved five years or more and you are accountable to the Word of God, and you know what I am talking about by that, your marriage is exactly what it is based on the investment of making good investments or bad investments. Your family is the same way. Your own personal relationship with God, your own personal walk with God, is nothing more than what you have done by taking what God has given you and the investments you have made, rightly or wrongly. When I say rightly or wrongly, I mean by the Bible principles or by your own idea of the way things should run.

You see, the standard teaching today is that stewardship is about money, and that is simply not true. Stewardship obviously contains that aspect, but you are going to find that when you come through the Bible, there are a number of things detailed out as stewardship that you and I are to be stewards over. Money is not one of them.

I have grown up all my life in Baptist churches, and all my life I have been taught that stewardship is all about money. I heard that one side down the other. I have been to more stewardship banquets where they bring you in and sit you down and feed you a meal and then slip a card underneath the deal and then beat you over the head for forty-five minutes because you need to be a good steward to make a commitment so some preacher can fulfill his spiritual fantasies of being the guru of the world. Christians fall into that trap because that is what preachers today for the most part are all about, and when there is no accountability, you wind up and I wind up paying for their foolishness.

Nowhere in the Bible is stewardship ever directly applied to your giving, and I am going to tell you why, and there is a reason for that, and we will see it in a minute. In the Bible, you need to see these things. In Titus, before we get into Titus, there are, as I said, a number of things that you and I are told to be stewards of that are directly mentioned, but money is not one of them.

II. Areas of Stewardship

First of all, sometime when you have some time, go over to Luke chapter 16. You do not have to turn to it now. You do not have to turn to any of these now. I would rather have you listen to me and then get the tape and then go back and go through it. If you do not have the money for the tape, just tell him you do not have the money, and Jason will pay it anyway.

In Luke 16:1-12, you have a story. That story is about Israel's failed stewardship. I know we make spiritual applications to it now, fine. You have to be careful. I have told you that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the first thing you have to remember is that it is dealing with a nation of Israel directly. But you are going to find that in this great story in Luke 16:1-12, you are going to find the failed stewardship of Israel. You will find the rich man in this story will be God. The steward will be Israel. The stewardship of this steward is the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom that is coming to Israel.

In verse 2, when Christ comes, He asks for them to give an account of their stewardship, that they may no longer be steward. They lost it. They lost it. Israel was God's steward of everything in the kingdom of heaven. We know the kingdom of heaven is the literal, visible kingdom that comes to the nation of Israel. We know that Israel was God's steward of that from a number of places in the Bible, and we know that they failed in that stewardship, and God took that stewardship back from them.

I get sick of hearing myself say it, probably not as sick as you get hearing me saying it, but I am going to keep on saying it because I liken some aspects to make you sick. The bottom line is this: the parallels between Israel's failure and our failure as the church cannot go unnoticed in the Bible. Just as Israel was given a mission, and that mission was for them to be stewards of everything that God had given them and to be faithful in that stewardship, they failed.

The church has been given a mission. Our mission is the kingdom of God. Our mission is to win men and women to Christ. Our mission is defined for you in the book of 1 Thessalonians. We talked about it when we came through it; we do not need to go through it again. That mission is for you and I to be faithful in understanding everything that God has given us and recognize the fact that you and I are stewards, and at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you and I are going to give an account of our stewardship, and our millennial reward and inheritance is based on us being faithful. That is the key word.

1 Corinthians 4:2

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

When you come through the Bible, you will find that there are a number of them that are detailed out, and we are going to look at them today, even before you get into Titus, because Titus has

only got three chapters, so it will go fairly quick, but you have to understand this before you get there.

- Stewardship of Our Ministry
- Stewardship of Your Heart
- Stewardship of the Talents (True Riches)
- Stewards of the Mysteries of God
- Stewards of the Manifold Grace of God

III. Stewardship in Titus - Chapter 1

Titus 1:7-9

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

A gainsayer is somebody who opposes truth. What he is saying here is the fact that a minister, a bishop, a pastor needs to be blameless as the steward of God. With that one verse right there in particular, "holding fast the faithful word," but in that verse right there, he just wiped out 99.999 percent of the pastors in the world today. He said in verse 9 that their job is to be faithful stewards of holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught.

That is why it is so important, as Timothy said and Paul said to Timothy, that what you have, you commit to faithful men. That is why I am committed to train you for ministry the way I want to train you. I know what works and I know what... I did not start this job yesterday. I know how to do it. I know what will work and I know what will not. I know the best flight simulator to put you in. Remember that story about my buddy that flew F-111? I know the best flight simulator, and I will throw every snowstorm, ice storm, tornado issue I can. You know why? I want to see how you react. I want to see if you have got the stuff to make it. I want people on your team who are unsaved. I want people in your life when you do other ministries, and the one we talked about last Thursday and when we talked about yesterday morning, I want those areas that you begin to fill in and begin to not always get it going the way that it is supposed to go. Christianity does not go the way it is supposed to go. You have to learn to be able to adapt. You have to learn to be able to overcome. You have to be able to do those things.

Titus 1:10-11

For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

He says in verse 10 and 11, stop bad doctrine. Chapter 1 shows over and over again that the number one problem we have in the church is bad teaching, and we as a church must guard against bad doctrine.

Titus 1:14

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

That is our job. Our job is to hold fast the Word of God.

IV. Stewardship in Titus - Chapter 2

Titus 2:1-10

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

He says this again, familiar, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they may in behavior be become of holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands and to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. In all things showing ourselves a pattern of good works, in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, and sincerity."

You know what that means? That means you live what the Bible says. Your life is a pattern of doctrine. You live what it says, showing uncorruptness, gravity, and sincerity. Again, we see the Bible problem here: sound doctrine. Here we begin to see that the aged men and the aged women, you remember that before we started the books of the Bible, we came through a number of concepts, and one of those concepts was the concept of spiritual growth. I showed you how that there are seven stages of spiritual growth, and the last stage was the aged.

When you get to that point in the church that you have men and women who have been around for a long time, who are overseers, people that you can absolutely 100% trust with the ministry, you know that when they do it, they are going to do it exactly like you. There is no coming back and saying, "Well, you did not tell me that," or "Well, I did not know that." No, no, you have been around long enough now; you understand. You have proven yourself. You are good to go. When you get men and women like that, you have men and women now that you can take, and they train and they bring along the other people. The women set the example for the younger women in their marriage and their family. You can be raising your child up right now, and you can maybe have some problem with your kid in discipline or have some problem in this, and there is an older lady in the church whose kids are grown up, they are doing much right. You can go to say, "Hey, help me. Can you show me?" That is what it is about. The aged men helping the pastor train other men for the ministry, realizing that we are all in this together, doing whatever you have got to do, and in all things showing a pattern.

There is a process of teaching you the Bible, and I have laid it out over and over again. Let me say it again another way. Hopefully, in enough time, you will grasp it, and you are all doing well. I mean, I am absolutely... I meet with most of you all week long, and off and on, and always willing to meet with anybody, and I must say that I am more than impressed with the training where you are at on the training schedule here.

Here is how it works:

Isaiah 28:9-13

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; line upon line; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

It says, "Whom shall we teach knowledge? And to whom shall we make to understand doctrine?" That is a question. "Whom shall we teach knowledge and whom shall we make to understand

doctrine?" That is the bottom line. Doctrine is absolutely important. You are going to see how important it is in just a second. But here is how you do it. He says there, as you come down through there, he says, "Precept upon precept, line upon line." The indication back in Isaiah, and I know it is dealing with Israel directly, but the same things apply to us.

When you got saved, the Bible said the day you got saved, 1 Corinthians chapter 3, you laid a foundation in your life. That foundation of Jesus Christ. The rest of your life, you build on that foundation. I have showed you this on Thursday night. I showed you how that we have taken every Bible subject one at a time like a little block. I gave you the definitive verse on it in learning how to put your Bible study Bible together. I gave you the definitive verse, and I gave you every other verse you needed. When you were done every Thursday night, you got two or three more building blocks. What you do is you lay those blocks on that foundation. Those blocks represent precepts and doctrines.

When you build a wall, and I am no mason, but I do know this: when you build a wall, you do not put the blocks all on top of each other. You tie them in. Why? I do not know, but I like that kind of talk. You tie it in. You tie them in so the wall is stronger. You interlock them, and when the cement dries, your wall is stronger. That is what you do with Bible doctrine. Every doctrine we build on your foundation will interlock with another one, and as we build it one block at a time, every time you come to church, every time you come to Thursday night, you build on that foundation more blocks that in the course of a couple of years or whatever, and what we get in the process between ourselves or what else we are doing, we begin to tie in the blocks and put it all together. That is the way that it works.

Titus 2:15

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

That is so vitally important because he says in verse 15 of Titus 2, "These things speak and exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." That is a great verse. Let me show you something. Just listen to this because I do not want you to lose it. Flip back and forth sometime. Go back to Matthew 7:28-29. I have told you this before, but here it is impacting you.

Matthew 7:28-29

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

It says in verse 28, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine." This was the number one issue that everybody had, the scribes and Pharisees had with Christ. Let me show you why. Next verse: "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." You see that? That is why the people gravitated to Him. He said something that made sense. He said something that helped them in their daily life. He was telling them something authoritative, and it was doctrine.

I told you the word doctrine means to teach. In 2 Timothy 3:16, we saw it last week:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

It says that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, verse 17, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Doctrine perfects you.

Here is the thing, and this is why the devil took your doctrine from you, and this is why people do not teach doctrine anymore. They do not know doctrine anymore because it tells you in Matthew 7:28-29 that Christ's doctrine was His authority. You do not have doctrine, you do not have any authority. No doctrine, no authority. You know why? Because doctrine shows you what is right versus what is wrong. It shows you how to rightly divide the word of truth. When the devil took your Bible, he took the doctrine, and when you lose the doctrine, you have no authority because you do not know what is right and what is wrong. Verse 29 says, "Not as the scribes." There was your problem. You see, the scribes then and the scribes today do not want you to have a book that is your absolute final authority. You know why? Because they want to be your authority, just like Jesus. Nothing has changed. Doctrine will always be connected with your authority, and when he says, "Speak and exhort and rebuke with all authority," he is talking about the sound doctrine of Titus 2:1.

V. Stewardship in Titus - Chapter 3

Chapter 3, almost done, is a great chapter on how to deal with heretics. All through this little book, you find that the real heretics have been calling the true Bible believers heretic, and that is the way it always works. We talked about that. Basically, in this chapter, you find how to deal with it. Right now, a lot of you have people that are giving you a tough time, and it is good right now because it sharpens your skills. It gives you ability. It is like going to the batting cages; you get a little practice. In time, you will learn some things that he is teaching here.

Here is the problem. Basically, in this chapter, he says in verse 9, "Do not get caught up in the debate and all the foolishness because you have a job to do." One of the things that you can fall into the trap is that you actually begin to enjoy dealing with stupid people about heresies, and you do not get anything else done. What the devil does is he uses them to stop you from getting done what you need to be done because you are spending all your time dealing with people who do not really want the truth, and you are wasting your time. Your attitude of heart is good; you want to win him to Christ, but let me tell you something, there are some people that you are going to deal with that you are not going to get saved in any way, shape, or form because they have already bought the ticket, and they are just waiting for the train to show up to take them to hell. I hate to say that, I am sorry, but that is just the way life is, and you have to realize that.

Titus 3:9-11

But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

He says in dealing with a heretic, you give it to him two times, and if he does not take it, then you go on someplace else. Do what you are doing. Do not get hung up with him. God will deal with him and his sin because he is subverted and he is deceived himself.

Hardly a week goes by I do not get a phone call from somewhere around the country. Last week, we were going somewhere on Saturday. We were getting a car. My mobile phone goes off, and he is just a guy down in someplace, and he says, "Brother Bob," he says, "I listened to all your tapes, and he says, 'I really have helped me learn the Bible.'" He says, "But I have a problem. I am talking to this guy at work, and he has a Bible education, and he told me that there are mistakes in my Bible, and he showed me back there in 2 Chronicles 36 and 2 Samuel 24 that one place says Jehoiakim reigned eight years, the other place says he reigned eighteen years, and he said that is a mistake." He said, "Brother Bob, I do not believe it is a mistake, but I do not know how to explain it to him. Can you tell me so I can go whack him?" I said, "Yeah, sure I will." So, from here to St. Joe, where we were going, I showed him how to whack him. You know why? Happens all the time because there are people out there that want to destroy your faith in the Word of God. It is as simple as that.

Now, heresies are important because 1 Corinthians 11:19, I do not know if you remember I gave this or not:

1 Corinthians 11:19

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

It says, "For there must be heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." You know what heresies do? Heresies show you who is real and who is not. Heresies in a church will always reveal who the truth is. It is kind of tough when you are the only one to believe something, and nobody in the history of the world did. We either have a real problem here: either you are the only one right and everybody else is wrong, or you are wrong and everybody else is right. What it does, anybody who has got any sense, you see that this guy is off the wall.

I have a guy right now, I have not talked to him for a while. He does not go to church anywhere. He is busy right now as we speak writing great epistles, understanding that in the tribulation period when the rapture is going, that the Jews, he has been told by God that the Jews are going to find his book, and they are going to find the truth of everything that God wants from him for what God told him to write. Now, how do you argue with a guy like that? My thing is, as long as he stays home on the right, he does not infect anybody else, so let him go to it.

But now, if a guy like that came in here and sat down in here, and we had a little testimony time, and we said, "Anybody got a testimony?" And some of you said, "Well, I thank God for saving me, and I love my Bible, and thank God for teaching me this, and thank God for the church that taught me this." And he stands up and says, "I just want to thank God that God gave me the calling to write the books and the epistles that the Jews are going to find in the tribulation period, and I am living here in Independence, and they are going to come down and find those books, and they are going to find out the truth, and God called me to do that. I just want to have you all to pray for me." When he sat down, it would not be an empty room that would not say, "You know what you are dealing with." I do not want to tell you. You know why? Because the Bible says there have to be heresies among you that they which are approved may be manifest, that the error shows the truth.

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Then in verse 5, it says this great verse, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he hath saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." You are going to find the word regeneration only two times in your Bible. You need to know why. The first time is here. The second time is Matthew 19:28.

Matthew 19:28

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Because here it is talking about you and I, the day we got saved, we got regenerated. The other place in Matthew, it is talking about the nation of Israel that gets regenerated as a nation at the second coming of Christ. You have got to know that. Only two places you find it in the Bible.

VI. Sermon Outlines from Titus

I cannot close this book out without giving you some outlines that will help you if you are always looking for good stuff to study. Let me bring you through here and just give you a few quick outlines. We are still ahead of schedule here; we will be out of here. What you have to do and what I have to do is understand that God gave us everything to be in charge of for Him, and we have to be faithful stewards.

I love some of you that I know intimately. I love everybody whether I know you on a level in the Word of God or not, but the bottom line is this: there is no friendship in the world that will take the place of what the Bible says to do, right or wrong, where it has to be, because I have to be more faithful to that than I have to you. Because if I am not faithful to that, I will never be faithful to you. So, you have to realize that when we train you up to be a man or a woman that is going to take responsibility in this ministry, I am going to tell you right now, do not, and hear this

because I do not want you coming back to me later and saying, "I did not know." Hear me, every one of you hear me, because we are going places, and we know where we are going.

I am telling you right now, if you are going to do it, do it just like I would do it. If you cannot do it that way and you are not ready yet, then do not do it. But do not take it, do it wrong, and then say, "I did not understand this. I did not understand that." If you do not understand it, sit down till you do. Sit down till you do.

I had a guy preach one time years ago, and I had him preach at one of my Bible conferences, and he did not do a bad job, but he had some problems. I was trying to help him through them. Afterwards, he came up, and he said to me, he says, "I said, 'You did good.' I said, 'That was good.'" He said, "No," he says, "I did not do very well. I did not do very good at all. I really just... I do not know what it is. I just could not get my thoughts together. I just did not do a very good job." Now, at that point, he wants me to put my arm around him and say, "Oh no, you really did a good job." No, no, that is not what you need. What I said was, "Hey, okay, do me a favor. The next time I give you an opportunity to preach, and you are rusty or you are not ready or you cannot do it, would you tell me ahead of time? A lot of people went to a lot of expense to put this together for somebody to give it straight, hot, and true. If you are not up to the task, please tell me so I can put somebody on the spot that is."

Is that hard to understand? A lot of people go to a lot of effort to get you into a place to do something. You better learn to do it right. I do not know what else to tell you. I will help you any way that I can, but you have to be a faithful steward in it, and you have to understand that there is a way to get it done.

Let me give you some good sermon outlines, and maybe you can use this in your own personal studies.

- Titus 1:1-3: The Faith of God's Elect
- Titus 1:5: The Ordained Elder
- Titus 1:10-11: People Whose Mouths Must Be Stopped
- Titus 1:15: The Pure Mind
- Titus 1:16: The Defiled Mind
- Titus 2:1: The Things That Bring About Sound Doctrine
- Titus 2:11: What God Teaches to Man
- Titus 3:3: The Dim Dark Past
- Titus 3:10: Avoiding the Heretics
- Good Works for Necessary Uses

Outlines throughout that book, and all these outlines are within that great book that shows you and I as the ministers of God, we must be stewards, more than stewards, faithful stewards. Every head bowed and every eye closed.