***Preservation, Precepts & Pursuits***

**Titus 1+2 - 7/21/19**

*What does the local church need to be aware of and aligning itself toward?*

**Titus 1:10-16**

1) The Church Needs To Be Aware Of Talkers & Deceivers, While Aligning Itself With Being Sound In The Faith

'Preservation': *To maintain something in its original or existing state*

Paul came to these areas to evangelize and plant churches; and now "*empty talkers and deceivers*" had infiltrated to corrupt.

This apparently happens when there's a void of spiritual leadership.

Another part of setting things in order, deals with ideas that sound good, spiritual or even true but when compared with Scripture, they aren't. We need the Bible; it exposes empty talk (deception).

We should always read the Bible with the intent of reevaluating our attitudes, actions and beliefs - to make sure they're in-line with the truth of God’s Word.

You wonder if the problem is that some don't believe The Bible to literally be God's Word.

*“I would recommend you either believe God to the hilt or else, not to believe at all! Believe this Book of God - every letter of it or else, reject it... As there is no logical standing place between the two."* - Charles Spurgeon

We should also want to realign ourselves to be "*sound in the faith*". **Vs.'s 12*b*, 13+14**

There is an element of character (Christ-likeness), combined with teaching and truth. This idea of being "sound in the faith", is about being sound in both.

Our doctrine matters as does our character, as both bring preservation - for the church, ourselves and our witness.

**Titus 2:1-10**

2) The Local Church Needs To Be Aware Of Character Precepts, While Aligning Itself For Greater Discipleship & Doctrinal Purposes For Ourselves & Our Witness

Developing in what the Bible teaches about character is important - for ourselves, the church, and our witness.

We have developed some in these ways as a church (through our discipleship efforts!).

Many of you are taking these (character precepts) into your homes, your businesses and your communities... That's to be celebrated!

We want to know and grow in these character precepts, while understanding their purpose and function as it relates to discipleship and doctrine. We are to "practice what we preach".

Although a degree of hypocrisy is something we ALL struggle with, we are to struggle well - looking to Jesus in faith to help us. Besides, people want you to be real today.

**Titus 2:11-15**

3) The Local Church Needs To Be Aware Of Our Blessed Hope, While Aligning Itself To Be Understood As A People Of His Own Possession

**\*Vs.13, Vs.12, Vs.14**

It's knowing what's coming that helps us with our shunning, as we don't want to engage in ungodly and worldly desires.

**1 Peter 2:9**

We need to align ourselves in this way because we forget who we are. Oftentimes the problem is that we have so many other identities that we tend to forget what our truest identity is.

We weren't created to feed-off of "chicken scratch", living in cages or dirt. Nor are we to merely lay low + not achieve our full potential as God's own possession - which He created us for, in Christ.

Will you recognize, believe and develop into who God has created you to be in Christ?... As His child, His heir, and His friend.

**\*Vs.15**

Someone who "disregards" a pastor(s), is a person who disregards (dishonors) themselves to their own detriment.

It's one thing to disagree or not like a pastor's personality or preaching style, or his leadership (or lack thereof), but when Scripture says to "let no one disregard you" - It is a serious matter.

If there is moral failure or if there are issues at home, or if they are consistently not lining-up with the scriptural qualifications, then yes, there will be disappointment, frustration or a lack of respect, perhaps; and depending on the situation, they may need to be asked to step down.

To go against what God says here, will lead to one's own loss or, depending on the involvement, a church may experience loss.

As a pastor "speaks, exhorts and reproves (corrects)", with "all authority (command)", let's pursue God's will in such things.