***Proclamation, Pastors & Preservation***

**Titus 1 - July 14, 2019**

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

**Titus 1:1-4**

1) The Church Needs To Be Aware Of Truth & Godliness, While Aligning Itself With Proper Proclamation

Truth and godliness go hand-in-hand; you can't emphasize truth over godliness nor godliness over truth as they are integral to one another.

Truth and godliness are fundamentally connected, as truth leads to holy living and true holy living, is to lead to a desire for its foundation of truth.

"Proclamation" (preaching/teaching) is fundamental to understanding God's Word (truth).

It involves the Spirit of God for both - the one proclaiming, and the one listening.

It requires prayer, as well as understanding, discernment and conviction.

It is the Spirit of God working with the Word of God, that brings change as one proclaims. We're never to fear man, but God.

Just as an ambassador is entrusted not with his own message but with his superior's message, so the pastor is entrusted with the Word of God.

Many pastors, teachers and communicators focus on, ourselves.

*If you call attention to yourself and your own competence, you can't effectively call attention to Jesus and His glorious sufficiency."* - J.I. Packer

**Titus 1:5-9**

2) The Church Needs To Be Aware That Pastors Are To Set Churches In Order, While First Meeting The Biblical Requirements For The Office

There is a high standard for such an important office; and the central theme, is that of character.

When it comes to setting things in order in the local church, we need to consider, what are those things?

There are relational issues, leadership issues, issues of vision and purpose, stewardship issues (money and property), staff issues, structural issues (organizationally), etc. There are doctrinal issues.

Pastors are to set things in order with heart matters and vision issues, especially as it relates to loving Jesus and one another, as well as fulfilling the Great Commission.

**Titus 1:9** plays an important role in this; pastors are to encourage and refute.

Oftentimes people want to settle or go their own way, or just not deal with issues.

*"Many merely plod-on, expecting nothing and receiving nothing. But the Lord doesn't send us out into His work in order that nothing may happen; His word is intended to have an impact, being sent out to accomplish something. We ought never to settle for a non-expectant, defeated attitude but rather, we should be asking and expecting great things from God."* - J.I. Packer

**Titus 1:10-16**

3) 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.

To be the kind of church that brings honor and glory to our great God and King, may He help us to properly proclaim, pastor and preserve, as He would have us to.