

# God's Design for the Church

Titus 1:10-16

"Silencing Deceivers"— August 21, 2022



## Introduction

Have you ever been misled before? Have you ever been given wrong directions? Have you ever thought you were going one place and ended up in a completely wrong direction? Directions are important. Instruction is important. Yet right instruction is critical.

Jesus warned of false teaching in Matthew 7. Last week we talked about the truth that Paul proclaimed of the hope we have in Jesus. Paul knew we had to protect the truth.

Elders must now silence and rebuke deceivers because their message has devastating effects on both themselves and the hearer.

## Sermon Outline

1. Silence the deceiver Vs. 10-11
2. Rebuke the deceiver Vs. 12-16

## Read & Discuss

### 1) Read vs. 10-11

There was danger from the deceivers all around, and Paul was concerned. This was not just a New Testament problem. We must be on guard in the church today as well. You must filter everything you hear by God's word and the person of Jesus. Does God's word affirm the message given? Does it look like Jesus? All those who preach should be held accountable.

Have you ever felt the guilt and shame of sin? The Gospel brings hope!! What these deceivers had to offer did not. Those of the circumcision party were touting that circumcision was in initiating work of salvation. It is NOT. You are saved by grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone.

Paul said to silence them. He put the elders on high alert. The people of God need the word of God - week after week. We must be reminded of what God's word says. Jesus wanted to give living water so that they would never be thirsty again ([John 4:10](#)). People are always teaching something. Are you filtering it by the word of God?

These deceivers were doing this for shameful gain. They were dishonest. They were out for self and not for the Lord. But Paul talked about a different kind of gain ([Phil. 3:7-9](#)). Paul's hope was found in knowing Jesus and having the righteousness of God that comes by grace through faith. Nothing else can get you back to God. What about you? Do you count Jesus as your most precious treasure? How are your priorities?

**Additional Reading:** *Matthew 7*

### 2) Read vs. 12-16

All truth is God's truth. The word "always" in vs. 12 means "continually." It was the deceivers' pattern of life. They were defined as evil, sinful, and looking to please themselves. They were hopeless. Do you see the grim state of the people of Crete if they follow the deceivers and not Christ?

Paul isn't surprised by these things, but the stakes were high. It was no small ordeal. These deceivers were to be rebuked. "Rebuke" means to correct and try and convince. Paul was telling them to plead with the false teachers. The sweetest joy would be to win them to Christ. The grace of God shows the power of the Gospel, and it is a grace that reconciles.

It is the job of all believers, not just elders, to share and teach the truth of the word. In [Matthew 28:18-20](#), Jesus gives His disciples their marching orders. Who are you disciplining? Who are you being disciplined by? Who is

there to warn you and save you from deceit? Do you have a person or people in your life to whom you are accountable?

Giving ourselves over to God makes us clean before God. To be pure is to be washed by the blood of Christ by faith. Completely new! ([2 Corinthians 5:16-20](#)) "Blessed are the pure in heart - for they shall see God ([Matthew 5:8](#)). Christian, have you been struggling with joy lately? Meditate on [1 John 3:1-3](#). Faith in Christ makes you pure. Good works will not make you pure before God. But once you trust Christ, you are freed up to love and do good works ([Galatians 5:13](#)).

If you have not trusted Christ, understand that it is impossible for a sinful person to be made right with God apart from faith in Christ. Sin corrupts the deepest facets of our being. But there is hope in trusting in Jesus ([Galatians 5:5-6](#)). In whom or in what is your hope placed?

**Additional Reading:** *Titus 3; Luke 11:37-41; Eph. 2:8-10*

**Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**\*Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Ephesians 1:1-14](#) "Blessed in Christ"