

# DAY 19 – TITUS 1:15

*"Listen: to those who are pure, all things are pure. But to those who are tainted, stained, and unbelieving, nothing is pure because their minds and their consciences are polluted." The Voice*

*Paul is writing to Titus, a Gentile Christian, Paul had left in Crete to finish the work they had begun together there. Titus needed to set some leaders in place and so Paul wrote to him about qualifications for those leaders. As always, he includes the conscience. The qualifications Paul lists for the Elders are the same as his list in Timothy. He also gives a list of disqualifications in verses 10-14,*

*"You see antagonists everywhere; they are rebellious, loose-lipped, and deceitful (especially those who are from the circumcised lot). Their talk must be quashed—their mouths sealed up because impure teaching is flying out of their lips and overturning entire families for the sake of their own squalid gain. I'll tell you, even their own prophet was heard saying, "Chronic liars, foul beasts, and lazy gluttons—that's who you'll meet in Crete." And he's right! This is why we have to scold them, sometimes severely, so they will be sound in the faith and be able to ignore Jewish myths as well as any commandments given by those who turn away from the truth.*

*This list is even worse than the one we looked at in Corinthians! Titus had quite the job cut out for him. He had to sort through all the people in various cities and areas in Crete and appoint leaders. How would it feel to be told that all the leaders in your church were like the ones in the list above and it's your job to get everyone straightened out? Wow.*

*He is telling Titus that there are people there whose conscience's are seared. These people may be beyond change. In verse 16, Paul tells Titus, "They claim, "I know God," but their actions are a slap to His face. They are wretched, disobedient, and useless to any worthwhile cause."*

*Not only is their conscience seared, they are useless to any worthwhile cause. None of us ever want to be found in that condition. This is why we must work diligently to protect our conscience through obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.*

*Titus 2 begins with this, "As to you, Titus: talk to them; give them a good, healthy diet of solid teaching so they will know the right way to live." and ends with this, "So, Titus, tell them all these things. Encourage and teach them with all authority—and rebuke them with the same. You are a man called to serve, so don't let anyone belittle you."*

*Paul switches to encouragement and it sounds like Titus needs it. However, so do the people who have resisted the false teachers. So Paul tells Titus to encourage the young men and then becomes Titus' cheerleader in the faith.*

*Encouragement is a wonderful thing whether you are giving or receiving it. How do we encourage ourselves in the midst of difficult circumstances or just a really bad day?*

## DAY 19 CONTINUED

*I'm not big on things that tell us to be self-absorbed. Much of what our culture sees as 'loving yourself,' is simply a path toward low self-esteem as you focus so much on yourself that your flaws are all magnified.*

*I am also not advocating building yourself up by putting others down. Jesus warned us in Luke 18 not to be like the Pharisee who puffed himself up as he compared himself to the Tax Collector who was also at the temple praying.*

*So, how can we encourage ourselves while be honest about our flaws?*

*There is no point in focusing on our flaws. We all have them and we all have a lot of them.*

*Sometimes we just need to look at our imperfect self in the mirror and offer her some encouragement.*

*\*\*\*As you think about encouraging yourself, how do you feel about doing that? Since we know our own faults, is this a hard thing to do? If so, how can you do it anyway? Is there someone you can go to for help?*

*\*\*\*As you read The Things God Gives to Me Scripture Cards, can you use those as a way to encourage yourself?*

*\*\*\*Journal about your process in encouraging yourself.*

