

## **ELDERS MUST BE BIBLE TEACHERS**

not just students of the Word

A study of the Titus 1.9-16

James 3.1 *Don't become a teacher if you're not ready  
to allow everybody examine you, because (Bible) teachers are judged more harshly by other people.*  
pjm paraphrase

My brethren, be not many masters,  
knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. James 3.1, KJV

Paul's charge to Timothy and Titus was set forth with more than a dozen character traits necessary for a man to develop before he became an elder, *I Timothy 3.1-7*, & *Titus 1.8*. Paul's letter to Timothy is brief on the elders' ministry of teaching.

I Tim 3.3  
"apt to teach."

Among his list to Timothy was the three-word injunction "apt to teach." However the lesser familiar concomitant manifesto to Titus expounds upon that beautiful concise description of the teaching ministry by including a detailed explanation of many of the doctrines (*teachings*) which every church faces. Let's look at them. Reread the below paragraph and note the 23 words or phrases in blue.

Tit 1:9-16

"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. 10 For there are many **unruly** and **vain talkers** and **deceivers**, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose **mouths must be stopped**, who **subvert** whole houses, teaching things which they **ought not**, for **filthy lucre's** sake. 12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always **liars**, **evil** beasts, **slow bellies**. 13 This witness is true. Wherefore **rebuke** them **sharply**, that they may be **sound in the faith**; 14 Not giving heed to Jewish **fables**, and **commandments** of men, that turn from the **truth**. 15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are **defiled** and **unbelieving** is nothing pure; but even their mind and **conscience is defiled**. 16 They profess that they know God; but in works they **deny Him**, being **abominable**, and **disobedient**, and unto every good work **reprobate**."

### Comments & Observations

Titus 1.9      Must exhort and encourage the congregation  
                  Must refute unbelievers and stop them  
Titus 1.11     Must discipline disobedient believers  
                  Must silence any antagonists, adversaries, and false teachers  
Titus 1.13-16   Must reprove bad teaching so that they become sound in doctrine

- Every elder must be sound in the faith himself and able to explain the Word of God to the people.
- This implies that the teaching arm of the church is to be full of elders.
- This does not imply that all elders must have the gift of teaching nor does it imply that most of their "teaching" must take place in a classroom.
- Teaching was certainly exhibited by Peter, Stephen, and Philip although the latter two were deacons. Barnabas was a church planter (elder) in Antioch. Paul was a Bible teacher, so were Timothy and Titus.
- Aquila and Priscilla were also Bible teachers but are not actually included in this paper.

See also my blog [Elder, Please Step Down, Now.](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)  
[\*\*www.PhilMyersBlog.com\*\*](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)

I happen to attend a church where all of the elders are classroom teachers.

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