

Sunday, November 19, 2023

## Title: Qualities of a Sound Church and Pure Doctrine

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 11/19/23

We are glad you are here this morning. Happy Thanksgiving to everybody. Hallelujah, we are going to have a good week.

Holy Spirit was reminding me in worship this morning of a scripture about when the word from God is sent forth, it does not come back to Him void or empty. When He speaks, God's word is going to accomplish what it was sent to do. You can believe it or not, that is our choice. That is the truth. "God is not a man that He would lie." If He said it, it is truth. He was speaking that over this nation, where the whole heart of Thanksgiving is remembering. We are remembering, celebrating and feasting with our families and in Christ, that God's word was sent to the United States of America, this land and this continent. "He so loved the world that He sent His Son to save."

There was a group of people fleeing religious persecution, saying, "We want to be free to worship God." That my friends, is the heart of thanksgiving. May we continue to teach that to our children and our children's children. It is not about all those pies I have to bake, but about what God did. He sent His Word, and He put it in people. Those people were placed and planted, and they soared with Him where He put them. That is the heart behind *Thanksgiving*. We should be so grateful, so thankful, and know that God's word, in light of the nation, will not return back to Him void, amen.

Today, I named this message, "Qualities of a Sound Church and Pure Doctrine." God has been prophetically saying this to me a lot lately about "pure doctrine." The word *sound* means that it is wholesome and healthy. If you are physically sound, they would say you are "wholesome and healthy." Wholesome and healthy doctrine is simply the teachings of Christ. It is God's word, His instruction, and precepts that were established by God through Jesus. God is exhorting the Body of Christ this morning in the qualities of a sound Church. A healthy and wholesome Church, who has pure doctrine.

### Titus 2:1-15 NKJV

Beautiful Holy Spirit penned these words to the Body of Christ. As we go through this again, you will see He is talking to the family of God, from the eldest to the youngest, amen. To the older men and older women, about age fifty and above, all the way down to the younger men and women. Now, to the families and the children, the grace of God is abounding to bring a revelation knowledge of Jesus Christ. With the Spirit of Truth, He is bringing the holiness of the Lord into the family. This was written a really long time ago while they were under the Roman Empire. They understood what evil looked like.

They were called out ones. Holy ones set apart to live for God. From empire to empire, nothing has really changed under the sun. In this world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, you will overcome it with Jesus. He exhorts the Body. He exhorts the family of God. Not in legalism or legalistic ways, but to adhere to and honor the words of Christ.

### Titus 2

In verse one, Titus, the minister of God that is preaching and overseeing the flock is encouraged by Paul to speak everything that pertains to sound doctrine. Give what you have been taught by me. Adhere to, cling to the words of Christ. Adhere to the Word of God.

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Reverence the Word of God above everything else, and do not let anyone trick you. Do not let anybody kick you down or push you out of the way with it. Stand fast in pure doctrine, sound doctrine.

In verse two, he says, to older men, “be sober.” That does not mean just to not be drunk. But, be sober minded, clear, attentive, thoughtful, thinking the way of God. You understand? Be sober, and be reverent. Reverent means you are worshipping a holy God. You have the fear of the Lord. You reverence and honor your elders. You honor one another. Yes, but most of all, we are reverent. We carry the presence of God in us. We carry the Kingdom of God in us. So, wherever we go in this life, we are carrying that reverence. It is not just something that you do on Sunday mornings, or in the closet in prayer.

It is a characteristic of a godly man. “Be sober, be reverent, be temperate, be patient, sound in your faith. Do not let anyone try to move you out of faith. Amen. Have faith in God, and faith in His Word. We are not called to be doubters. We are called to be those who are full of faith. He calls them to be in love, that older men will be “sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love.” That does not mean just in love with their sweetheart wife, which we need that. But, it means in love with God. Out of that, you are going to “in love,” walk under God, on this Earth, in love and patience.

“The older women likewise, be reverent in behavior.” You see the fear of the Lord, because everything we are carrying, is the “presence of God.” We give Him glory in all things. God is honoring this. Be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.” Women of God, be teachers of good things. The elder women understand. They have experience. They know how to overcome. So, they are going to admonish, support, and encourage the younger women to “love their husbands.” This is God's order, to love your husband as you love the Lord. Submit to your husband as you would submit to Christ. The husbands were called to love the women as Christ loves the church. That is a high call. It is supposed to be for all of our members, not just the ministers or their requirements to be in ministry. It is the Body of Christ. It is the family of God.

These are qualities of a sound church and pure doctrine. They “admonished young women to love to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands,” here is your goal, “that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” Because, when they see the Body of Christ, our attitude, how we talk, how we work, how we interact with others, how we speak, how we judge, how we lead, and how we govern in all of the places that God has placed us in, the globe, our city, and our homes, that God is not going to be mocked. God is going to be honored and not be blasphemed. He will not be spoken against, because of the good behavior in Holy Ghost that we are walking in our lives. Laying down our own lives before Him in obedience to what He said. When you obey Him, the glory is there, amen. We are all growing up into this. That is the journey of love. We are all being perfected.

Verse six, he says, “exhort the young men to be sober minded in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works.” Not just doing a good work, but be a pattern of good works. Being an example of good works. You say, “yes, amen.” They are saying, “that man is walking right. He is walking right. He is doing well in his job. He has character. He has integrity.” You understand? They see your good works, and they will glorify your Father in heaven.

In an ungodly generation, you stand out like a sore thumb. You stand out like light in the world. Yes, exhort the young men. Do not give up. “Be sober minded in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works, a pattern. This is the way to God. A “pattern of good works.” When the pattern is established, the glory is going to fill it, because it is building the house.

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“In doctrine, show integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, and out of that is going to come sound speech that cannot be condemned. That one who is an opponent may be totally ashamed having nothing evil to say of you.” You are going to be so right with God, so clean with God, and so walking with God, that even if they persecute you and come against you because of your faith, or your reverence, or your honesty, or your integrity, or whatever other godly characteristic you may be walking in.” God says, “You are not maligned.” You are not going to be blasted, and you are not going to be put to shame. So, we bless our enemies, yes. We “pray for those who persecute us, and say all kinds of evil against us.” It is amazing that you would think that out of good characteristics, it would be the opposite. But, no, that is the work of the flesh that comes against the walk of Christ.

Verse nine, he says, “Exhort bondservants,” or slaves at that time, “to be obedient to their masters.” How far is Christ going here? The Kingdom, and there was no lid to it. It entered every walk of their life. Yes, He was not going to leave them out. He knows where they were at. “As bondservants, be obedient to your own masters.” This is the Kingdom. Yes, “To be well pleasing in all things,” and do not talk back. Christ is all, and in all. He did not leave anybody out.

Verse ten, “Not pilfering, do not steal a little here and there, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.” Everything is coming back to this sound doctrine. So, when they see us, the Body of Christ, from the oldest to the youngest, no matter what our position in life is, the world will see the pure doctrine. The doctrine of our God and our Savior. Because, we are living, breathing, and we are testifying. We are carrying. We are showing. We are demonstrating what God looks like, how God thinks, how God acts, how God loves, how He saves, how He redeems, how He delivers us, and how He hears our cry in a corrupt world. Yet, we stand fast in what is right, what is true, what is pure and what is holy. Yes, God is praised in this.

Verse 11, he says that we are trained by that saving grace, because this is the glory. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” This is why we can live this way. “This grace has come to us teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” My goodness, because of God's grace, we have been redeemed, saved, forgiven, healed, delivered, and made whole. We are renewing our mind to the way Christ thinks. We are talking like Him. Walking like Him. Healing like Him. Delivering like Him. Saving like Him. Having the attitude towards the Father like Him. Worshiping God like Him. Praising God like Him. Giving like He gives. He laid His whole life down to save us. He became poor, that we might be made rich. So, likewise, we are carrying that doctrine in us daily. I die daily, that He might live, that He might be exalted, and that He might be glorified. These are qualities of a sound church. Hallelujah!

Verse twelve, Teaching there is a possibility to deny ungodliness, because it is beating at your door all the time. Worldly lusts are always going after your mind, your thoughts, your will, and your emotions. He says live soberly. Do not just think soberly, but that is our lifestyle, yes, righteously. We have been made right with God through the blood of Jesus. We live now in His righteousness. Thank you God.

We live godly. You might have heard this, “She is a God-fearing woman.” How many have heard that phrase? Usually, they are saying that of someone kind of old. The sister that is eighty-five, “She is a God fearing woman!” You know what I am talking about. But, that is to be said of every one of us. That we are God-fearing, and they know that. They see that, and you are not just preaching over them. You just walk in the room, and the light of God is there. They see by your actions whom you serve. They hear by your mouth, whom you serve. They see and they feel it. They are drawn by the grace of God in us to that light.

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Verse thirteen, I love this. In the middle of this, He brings in, "Do not forget, beloved. We, through this grace, are looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." Here He is going to the hope that we know, the Lord Jesus was coming again. We know that He will come for His bride. Amen. It is a blessed hope.

We are looking for and longing for His appearing. Remember, I told you "live longing, live ready." Oil in your lamp, right? Live for Him. Look to Him. He gave Himself for us. He has "redeemed us from every lawless deed." Whatever you are going through, you need to say, "He has already redeemed me from this. He has already redeemed me from this. He died for me to be free. He is purifying me for Himself." That's the goal. "He is purifying for Himself, His own special people." We are being purified, sanctified, being made ready for Christ. For Him who is holy. Amen.

It says through the other verses I read, it was all so that they would adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. All this worship goes back to Him, that we would adore Him, in His teachings, His doctrines, His way, His manners. All that He did for us. It is all going back to be prepared for Him. He says, "By the way, these people are zealous for good works." Religion can make it where it seems like something you are going to have to do. No, no, when you are born again from above, you get the Spirit in you. You are drawn to help others. You are drawn to meet a need. You are drawn to go above and beyond the hours you were supposed to work. You are drawn to overcome evil with good. You want to do good works.

"I want to raise the dead. I want to heal the sick. I want to go and pay off that house. I want to build that house. I want to help my neighbor. I want to go take that widow in." Whatever it may be. That is Jesus in us. That is the Body of Christ. It is not just one person doing everything. It is the Body of Christ. These are qualities of a sound church and pure doctrine. He encourages him, "Speak these things. Teach everybody this. All those entrusted to you, Titus, "Exhort, encourage them, build them up, and rebuke with all authority." Rebuke with all authority means when they are not walking uprightly, rebuke them in the authority I have given you, to bring the correction. Amen. Let no one despise you. Hallelujah. Amen. Thank you Lord.

You need to know again, that Jesus Christ is pure religion. Jesus Christ is pure doctrine. All of His teachings are, yes and amen. All His demonstrations are, yes and amen. He was the Word sent to bring the Father's will. He represented the Father. He said, "If you see me, you see my Father. Yes. Everything He did, the Church is supposed to do, except for one thing. What's that one thing? "We are not supposed to die for the sins of the world." He did. But, we die daily. We take up our cross daily to live for Him. Crucifying that flesh, you get to choose every day. Everything He did, the Church is called to do. See the New Testament for further reading. Jesus Christ is pure religion. Amen. Jesus Christ is pure doctrine. Who gets excited about this? Holy Ghost does.

#### 1 Timothy 1:1-12

He is coming to Timothy, and he is encouraging him through this letter. "Charge some that they teach no other doctrine." Constantly from every side around him, someone is coming against the word of God and the doctrine of Christ. No matter what it is from. This was in the midst of pagans, heathens, and unbelievers, but also those that were of the Jewish faith and the law. They would even combat it, with saying we have got to go back to the law of Moses. He says, No, Jesus Christ is sound doctrine. Even with what was common in the nation that they lived in here, and what was common at that time, they were always arguing and bringing in all their

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false gods with all their mystics and all their genealogies. Trying to point out who they serve, what they serve, and when they serve. It just gets all in there. Just muddies the water.

When Christ is breaking something open, Jesus, who is pure doctrine and sound doctrine has to go in. When He goes in, all those things that kept them in sin, manifest against that truth. God has snatched them out of the ungodly ways. He is snatching them of their blaspheming thoughts. He is snatching them out, and changing them from what they were walking in. You understand? He is changing the way they are and think, even in the law. He says, "From which some have strayed away. They have turned aside to idle talk." In the Body of Christ that can happen. You can go astray in your heart first, and then in your mind and in your actions.

Verse eight, he says, "We know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person." What law is he talking about? He is talking about the law of Moses, the law that the Jews were born and raised with spoken of in our Bible. We know that "the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, the disobedient, the ungodly and the sinners, the unholy and profane." He goes on and on and on.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the law perfectly. He fulfilled it and He obeyed every jot and tittle. Everything in this Bible that was right, that was pure, that was holy, that God instructed, and that God commanded, He did it all perfectly. Why? Because we could not and we would not. There was no way we could do this. Someone had to come before us, to open up the heart of God to us, through His perfect walk, His sacrifice, His love, and His obedience. He did that for us. He fulfilled it. He fulfilled all the law and the prophets, every word that was spoken of Him, and all that is to come still. He is perfect in all His ways. He is sound doctrine.

That is why I say, by the grace of God, we have entered in. Because, we were all going astray as sinners. Just trying to obey one of the ten commandments was difficult. Jesus says, "Here is how you sum up all the commandments, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, will, and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.'" We wrestle with that, but that is why Christ came to show us what this is. This is what love is. That is why we have the Bible.

That is why it is important to read your word, hear your word, speak the word, teach your word to those around you and your families. You say, "Well, I didn't ever hear that. I didn't know that was in the Bible. When I got saved I didn't know that was in there." Wow. Once you put your eyes in this word, the Spirit of God comes into you and He starts changing you. We are being changed into the image and likeness of Christ daily. You hear it? It just gives God such glory, that Jesus Christ is pure religion. He is pure doctrine. He is saying, "I am charging you, do not teach any other doctrine but, Christ. Do not teach any doctrine other than what He has done for us, as he went through the list.

In verse 11, he is saying, "according to the glorious gospel," which is what I just told you, "of the blessed God which was committed to my trust." We have been committed. The gospel has been committed to us. Say, "I am a minister." You say, "I am just a person who goes to church." No, if you have been born again, and Jesus Christ lives inside of you, then according to Ephesians 4, we are to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry." That makes you a minister. We are carriers of the glorious gospel.

That means we, as a family of God, that was instructed by Titus, that here is what we are going to carry every day, sound doctrine and representing Christ in the world. Teaching our families and our fathers and our mothers and our children and on and on. This glorious gospel has been entrusted to us. How about that? Shift the way you are thinking from, "oh, I have to do this. I have to act right, today. I better act right. Do not mess this up at the board meeting."

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You have to remember you are blessed to carry what God has entrusted to us, this glorious Gospel. It is not a burden. It is not, because the Holy Ghost grace is flowing through you. You know the right thing to do. We may not be perfect. We are going to make mistakes, but you understand, there is a greater good here.

In verse 12, he says, I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful.” Know that, He has counted you faithful. He has counted you faithful in everything you have been called to do. He has counted you faithful. If you cannot receive this, you need to say, “Lord, I am sorry, I have not been able to see this, but you put me in the ministry. I am a saint of God. I am an individual carrying the gospel, the good news of Christ. Everywhere I go, I am bringing pure doctrine. I am bringing the way of the Lord. I am bringing truth, righteousness and holiness in a corrupt world. The greatest honor in life is to be counted by the Lord as a faithful vessel.”

Hear it, “the greatest honor in life. The greatest honor we could ever receive is to be counted by the Lord, as a faithful vessel, carrying the glorious gospel. Handling the word of God is the highest calling and the greatest responsibility. It is a matter of life and death to those who hear and respond to the preaching of the Word. When we demonstrate it through our actions, our character, our essence, and as we preach, teach and instruct others. It is a matter of life and death for others. It was with us before we got saved. Oh, hallelujah, for the grace of God.

I am going to close and pray over us. It is something that we must receive today, beloved. Be encouraged by what He is saying, and look to God. Know that He has already made a way for you to overcome. Let's stand up and pray.

Father, we receive your word today. We thank you for your encouragement to your Church. We thank you for making us living stones, full of life, peace and joy in Holy Spirit. We thank you that you have testified to us of the love of Jesus to all who are round about us. We thank you, Lord, that they will see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven. We thank you, Lord, that we are making a difference. We are seeds sown in a corrupt place, but we will not be discouraged. The Word of God will not be blasphemed, for the grace of God shall always overcome.

We thank you, Lord, that you have empowered us with the same Spirit, Holy Ghost, that you put inside of Jesus. We thank you that we have been baptized in fire and the Holy Ghost to do the works and the acts of God with you to the end. We ask God that you will seal these words in our heart, and that we will not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will not be ashamed of holiness, and the fear of the Lord. We will not be ashamed for walking in sound doctrine. I pray you bless each and every one that hears these words today. That they would magnify the God of Heaven. Seal it, Lord. In Jesus mighty name, amen. Amen.