

Theme: False shepherds teach destructive heresies out of false motives, and these lead people away from true knowledge of God.

I. Intro – Trojan Horse

- A. “Gift” from Greeks to Troy
- B. Troy took it in – thinking it meant peace
- C. Actually contained Greeks, who opened gates
- D. This “gift of peace” led to fall of Troy!
- E. Elders have to protect from Trojan horses!

II. The False Shepherds

- A. Their presence (v10, 16; 3:9-11; 2 Pet 2:1)
 - 1. In Crete (v 10, 16; 3:9-10)
 - 2. Expected everywhere (2 Pet 2:1-2)
- B. Their identity in Crete – Jewish speculators (v10; 3:9; 1 Tim 1:4-7)
 - 1. Jewish – v10
 - 2. Speculative – 3:9; 1 Tim 1:4-7 (same terms)
- C. Their character & motives – rebellion, talk, greed (v10,11)
 - 1. Rebellious (v10; opposite of elders kids v6)
 - 2. Mere talkers (v10; no profit from teaching; opp of v9)
 - 3. Greedy (v11; Micah 3:5,11; opposite of elder in v7)

III. The Receptive Cretans

- A. Whole households being ruined (v11)
- B. Their reputation – quote – lying beasts (v12-13)
 - 1. Quote from Epimenides – v12 –
 - a. Known as prophet by Cretans, Aristotle, Plato
 - b. Added weight because he was a Cretan!
 - 2. General reputation – lying beasts (Cicero; Cretize; beasts)
 - a. Cicero quote; To Cretize – slang for lying
 - b. No beasts on island; people were beasts!
 - 3. Paul – you are proving it is true! (v13)
 - a. Teachers certainly lying beasts
 - b. People are following them – true of them too?

IV. The False Teaching

- A. Speculative, mythical teaching (v14)
 - 1. Myth – speculative – v14; 3:9
 - 2. Unprofitable, useless, controversy – 3:9; 1 Tim 1:4-5
- B. False asceticism (v15; 1 Tim 4:3-5)
 - 1. Asceticism – must reject creation – v15; 1 Tim 4:3-5
 - 2. Must deny God’s good gifts to know Him??!!

- C. Human commands – not God’s (v14 - NASB)
 - 1. Human, not divine – v14; Mark 7:6-7 (Is 29:13)
 - 2. This undermines God’s Word – Mark 7:8

V. The Outcome of False Teaching

- A. Unhealthy faith (v13; 2 Tim 1:16-17; 15 corrupt)
 - 1. Avoid=healthy faith (v13)
 - 2. False teaching like gangrene (2 Tim 2:17-18)
 - 3. Corrupt mind and conscience (v15)
- B. Unproductive false faith – v16 – actions deny God
 - 1. Ascetic practices deny God’s goodness
 - 2. Evil deeds deny God’s character
 - 3. Lack of good deeds deny God’s Gospel

VI. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do we recognize there are false teachers today?
 - 1. False teachers say what we want to hear - greed
 - 2. False teachers speculate – but not challenge
 - 3. Do we reject them – or receive them?
- B. Are we truly Biblically based – or commanded by men?

- 1. Do we really look to Scripture – or our own thoughts?
- 2. Do you know God’s Word well enough to tell?
- 3. Are you soaking in the Word – a lot – every day?

C. Is our faith healthy and productive?

- 1. Are you growing or stagnant in your walk?
- 2. Can others see your faith by your deeds?
- 3. What would the poet say about you?

The False Shepherds and Their Destructive Teachings

Titus 1:10-16
May 21, 2006
???

Numbers 6

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, **just as there will be false teachers among you**. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Peter 2:1

4 nor to devote themselves to **myths** and endless **genealogies**. These promote **controversies** rather than God's work-- which is by faith... 6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to **meaningless talk**. 7 They want to be teachers of the **law**, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 1 Timothy 1:4-7

5 This is what the LORD says: "As for the prophets who lead my people astray, if one feeds them, they proclaim 'peace'; if he does not, they prepare to wage war against him... 11 Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Micah 3:5, 11

Cretans... consider piracy and brigandage honorable. Cicero

4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. **These promote controversies rather than God's work**-- which is by faith. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:4-5

3 **They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods**, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:3-5

14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and **commandments of men** who turn away from the truth. Titus 1:14 (NASB)

6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; **their teachings are but rules taught by men.**" Mark 7:6-7

8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men. Mark 7:8

17 **Their teaching will spread like gangrene**. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they **destroy the faith of some**. 2 Timothy 2:17-18