

Series: Order in the Church

Title: Chocolate Christians

Text: Titus 1:9-16

I. Titus the Troubleshooter (Vs 1-4)

The Leading Evangelist

Paul's Liaison

II. Titus' Commission (Vs 5)

III. Raising the Bar (Vs 6-8)

IV. Chocolate Christians: (Vs 9-16)

Illus: The Story of M&M's

Many amazing discoveries & inventions are from war efforts
Did you know the hugely popular M&M candies are 1 too?

After clashing with his father—the creator of the Milky Way bar—for a few years at Mars Inc., Forrest Mars Sr. moved to England, where in 1932 he began manufacturing the Mars bar for troops in the United Kingdom.

It was during the Spanish Civil War that Mars purportedly encountered soldiers eating small chocolate beads encased in a hard sugar shell as part of their rations.

In an age when sales of chocolate typically dropped off during summer months due to the lack of air conditioning, Forrest was thrilled by the prospect of developing a product that would be able to resist melting in high temperatures.

He returned to the United States and, shortly thereafter, approached Bruce Murrie, the son of Hershey executive William Murrie, to join him in his new business venture.

Anticipating a shortage of chocolate and sugar as World War II raged on in Europe, Mars sought a partnership that would ensure a steady supply of resources to produce his new candy. In return, Murrie was given a 20 percent stake in the M&M product, which was named to represent 'Mars' and 'Murrie.'

In March of 1941, Mars was granted a patent for his manufacturing process and production began in Newark, NJ.

Originally sold in cardboard tubes, M&M's were covered with a brown, red, orange, yellow, green or violet coating.

After the United States entered the war, the candies were exclusively sold to the military, enabling the heat-resistant and easy-to-transport chocolate to be included in American soldiers' rations.

By the time the war was over and GIs returned home, they were hooked.

Heat resistant makes many things usable, in hostile conditions, that otherwise would melt, deform, or fail.

Chocolate Christians are Christians who melt under opposition

CT Studd said...

A Chocolate Christian dissolves in water and melts at the smell of fire. Living their lives in a glass dish or in a cardboard box, each clad in his soft clothing, a little frilled white paper to preserve his dear little constitution. God never was a chocolate manufacturer and never will be.

God wants Christians who will not melt or dissolve in the face of peer pressure, opposition, or suffering.

Similar to the challenge Paul gave Timothy:
(2 Tim 2:3) *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

Many Christians do not answer the call today out of fear of sacrifice.

Titus was given the same commission every pastor since then has been given.

Win and disciple men and women who will not melt in the heat of battle. From these, pick men to be elders.

Many will look the part, but when the slightest pressure is exerted, they won't be willing or able to perform the task.

Guard and feed

Encourage and challenge

Discipline and Love

Lead the flock by example

Are you a Chocolate Christian?

Paul Gave Titus direction on the kind of Resume' qualifications he was to look for.

This list has stood the test for 20 centuries.

He began with a the man's relationship to his wife & family.

Named 5 vices not to be habitually pursued.

Listed 7 virtues that men should exemplify as a pattern of life.

Last time we spoke of the first 4 virtues,

But a lover of hospitality,

A lover of good men,

Sober,

Just,

These 3 virtues are to be the passionate pursuit of every believer.

Holy,

Temperate;

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught

We can not allow ourselves to be made out of chocolate.

We are all fighting a battle, and to make things more difficult,

(Eph 6:12) *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

FRAUDS NEED NOT APPLY

Paul instructs Titus to pry into the private lives of these candidates.

He was to confirm that they had a private disciplines of godliness.

Personal Strength of Holiness:

Holy: ~ *hosios* = Reverence for God, or Piety.

(1 Tim 2:8) *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

Holy: hands that are genuinely clean & holy, before God, not just publicly to men.

The idea that what we do in private has no bearing on our public life is nonsense and dangerous.

Holy - (*Not Flawless Perfection*) - but Fully Devoted to the Glory of God

What are you fully Dedicated to?

Your Marriage: then there is no room for anyone else.

Your Children: Character development, not talent.

Your Walk with God: World has less alluring.

Devoted In our Personal walk with God: Daily Devotions
(Ps 5:3) *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, & will look up*

(Ps 55:16-17) *As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*

Not done out of Guilt, but love and God's Glory.

Devoted In our Public walk with other Christians: Church

(Ps 122:1) *I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*

7 sins of Unfaithfulness:

1. Fail to Bring God Glory in His Church - (Eph 3:21)
2. Fail to Give God Praise - (Heb 2:12)(Ps 135:1-3)
3. Fail to Bring God His Tithes, which is robbery - (Mal 3:10)
4. Fail to Worship God by Obeying the command to Assemble (He 10:25)
5. Fail to Encourage, exhort others to love and good works (Heb 10:24)
6. Fail to raise our children in the nurture & admonition - (2 Chron 27:2)(Eph 6:4)
7. Disobedience Grieve the Holy Spirit - (Eph 4:30)

Not done out of Guilt, but love and for God's Glory.

Devoted In our Professing walk with the Lost: Witness
Recognizing our Divinely given Responsibility to Evangelize.

2 Reasons People don't witness:

#1 reason given, when asked is **Fear:**

(Prov 29:25) *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

The **TRUE #1** reason is **Pride:** (1 Jn 2:16) "*Pride of Life*"
We are afraid they wont like us, or they'll think we are weird.
(Prov 29:23) *A man's pride shall bring him low:...*

If We are not dedicated to the glory of God in private, where their is no pressure, We will not be dedicated to it publicly when the heat is on.

The chocolate center is revealed in the heat of pressure.

Personal Strength of Character: Temperate

Self Control on one's emotions, desires, actions.

Illus: I always dreaded the Report cards when I was young.
Split in 2. Grades for my School Work.

Grades for my Conduct.

I would always come home on the A-B Honor roll, but my parents would chide me over the conduct.

There always was a note, John needs to work on his self control.

Children like to Run, Jump, Talk out loud, when the huge comes.

Learning to sit still, ignore the urge to squirm.

Illus: Wiggle Worm

Your child wants to eat, you tell him to wait till dinner.
He wants desert, you tell him to wait till after vegetables.

Maturing means to growing to control our Urges.
Growing to say NO to the WRONG Things all the time
Saying NO to the Right things at the WRONG times.

Illus: Acting appropriately, only when others are looking is only and ACT, not a statement of being.

The Pharisees had it down to a Science. (Matt 23:5, 23)

Illus: So often, when we think of Self Control, we think of a High wire walker, or a Gymnast.

Real Self Control is Submission to the Holy Spirit

Fruits of the Spirit: (Gal 5:23) is us Submitting our selves to the Holy Spirit, thus the fruits are borne out in our lives.

Self Control, along with every other virtue is a daily submission to the Holy Spirit.

Elders in the church are not Flawless, but to show a pattern of being under the Holy Spirit's Influence.

Personal Strength of Dedication: - Holding Fast (Vs 9)
holding to the faithful word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Holding Fast: - *Sticking Firmly*

All the virtues that till now are private exercise to Public exposition.

From what an Elder IS, to What and Elder DOES!

Sound Doctrine - **What The Bible Teaches**

He will not stray from the Word.

He will read it.

Study it.

Revere it.

Memorize it.

Obey it.

Believe it.

Teach it.

He will literally Love it, be faithful to it, Die for it.

“as he hath been taught” (2 Tim 2:2) You need a pastor!

You need a pastor

I have a pastor - Dr. Bob Stewart

He will set an example of....

Being constantly nourished by it. (1 Tim 4:6) *If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*

Longing for it's Truth:

(1 Pet 2:2) *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

Full Persuasion of it' Power:

To Redeem: (1 Pet 1:23) *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

To Give Wisdom: (Prov 2:6) *For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

To Give Faith: (Rom 10:17) *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

To Avoid Sin: (Ps 119:9,11) *9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to THY WORD.*

Set an Example of it's Authority in His Life:

(2 Tim 3:16-17)

Inspired - Every Word

Inerrant - Teaches Truth

Preserved - (Ps 12:6-7)

You have to develop some convictions that you will take a bullet for, or you are a worthless, Chocolate Christian.

You need to develop convictions about what version you read from. They are not the same.

Exhort - *To urge by strong argument holding to the faithful word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to **exhort** and to convince the gainsayers*

It is more than the impartation of information from the pulpit to the notetakers in the pew.

Exhortation is Verdict Oriented:

To seek, by God's Spirit, to influence the heart and conscience of the listener.

Bible Exposition in Bible Exhortation.

"So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading "
(Nehemiah 8:8)

Joining the Truth of the Word of God with the Spirit of God to bring about the Transformation of the child of God.

Sound Doctrine: = Healthy

It needs to make a difference in you before you try and impart it to someone else.

Teachers! Don't wait to study till the day of your class. let the message of the bible touch you through out the week, and then deliver the goods to your class, having it made a difference in you 1st.

If you haven't let the Word make a difference in you, it won't make a difference in those you try to impart it to either.

Convince the Gainsayers - *Those that contradict - A Critic holding to the faithful word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to **convince the gainsayers***

John Calvin said that a Shepherd needs two voices, 1 to gather sheep, the other to drive away wolves.

To show them the truth and lead them to repentance.

Deliver truth and expose error.

Some believe this to be unkind, divisive, and judgmental.

Illus: *Is it unkind to call Cyanide Poison?*

Is it judgmental to tell your kid that the neighbor's dog bites? Telling them that they are unsaved, and following a false religion is not unloving, but the greatest form of love.

If you don't let the bible make a difference in you, you won't know to stand for the truth.

If you don't stand for the Truth, you will not confront false teaching.

Confronting false doctrine will cause you to feel the heat from the friction with society.

Illus: *Explain how Rubber tires are made without external heat, but through friction.*

Going against society and especially liberal theology involves friction.

Will you withstand the friction of standing for Truth?
Will you melt from the heat of it?

Are you a Chocolate Christian?

You will take heat for it, but not from God.
He will stand for you when you cross heaven's portals to say well done!

All of need to know why believe, what we believe.

We need to be

Receiving it daily.

Imparting it weekly.

Living it eternally.

Will you stand for Truth?

Do you know what it is?

Can you convince those that are deceived?