Spiritual Subversion
Titus 1:9-14

Introduction:
A. Subversion concerns nations, companies, organizations and even the church.
   1. Aimed at upsetting or overthrowing its object from within.
      a. Latin “sub” (up from under) “vertere” (turn) – hence to upset.
      b. Greek “Ana” (up) “trepo” (turn), hence overthrow (cf. John 2:15; 2 Tim. 2:18).
   2. Text explains why elders must be faithful to the word, stop mouth’s of subverters.
B. Subversion of the Lord’s Cause takes on many faces

Discussion:
I. Deception (v. 10)
   A. Sound doctrine is the only antidote for deception (cf. v. 9)
      1. Soundness means “holding fast the faithful word…”
      2. Soundness means not “giving heed to ... fables and commandments of men” (v. 14)
      3. Soundness means more than “professing to know God (v. 16)
   B. Teachers of unsound doctrine must be firmly dealt with (vv. 11, 13; cf. Rom. 16:17-18)

II. Insubordination (v. 10 -NKJ)
   A. One who despises government (cf. 2 Pet. 2:10) – refused to be subordinate to anyone or anything.
      1. Will not submit to God and His word.
      2. Will not submit to elders (Heb. 13:17)
   B. One who usually will not even submit to self-discipline.

III. Vain Talk (v. 10)
   A. Subverts with the quantity of words (Prov. 10:19)
   B. Subverts with the quality of words.
      1. Lying/deceptive words (vv. 10, 12; cf Rom. 16:18).
      2. Unneeded and unwanted words (cf. Lev. 19:16)
      3. Misdirected words (cf. Matt. 18:15-18) – At least give opportunity to correct before publishing.

IV. Covetousness (v. 11)
   A. The best teachers that money can buy.
   B. Uses religion for personal gain.
      1. Material gain – “good for business.”
      2. Social gain
      3. Political gain

V. Laziness (v. 12 NKJ)
   A. Laziness often begets other sins (2 Thess. 3:11)
   B. Laziness hinders the church.
      1. A bad influence.
      2. Burdens others with one’s share of the work (cf. Eph. 4:16 NKJ, NIV)
   C. Laziness is without justification, but still justifies itself (Prov. 26;13; Matt. 25:25-26)

Conclusion:
A. Let each of us take stock – Do we subvert or build up the Lord’s Cause.
B. Let each avoid anything that might tend to undermine the Lord’s work here.

Another Sermon by Edward O Bragwell