**Grace Women Fellowship – October 2024**

**Titus 1:5-9(ESV):**

**5) This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders to every town as I directed you-6) If anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7) For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent, or greedy for gain, 8) but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9) He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.**

**Titus 1:5-9(KJ):**

**5) For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee; 6) If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused or riot or unruly. 7) for a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8) but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9) 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.**

**Titus 1:5-9(Amplified):**

**5) For this reason I left you (behind) in Crete, that you might set right what was defective and finish what was left undone, and that you might appoint elders and set them over the churches (assemblies) in every city as I directed you. 6) (These elders should be) men who are of unquestionable integrity and are irreproachable, the husband of (but) one wife, whose children are (well-trained and are) believers, not open to the accusation of being loose in morals and conduct or unruly and disorderly.**

 **7) For the bishop as an overseer and God’s steward must be blameless; not self-willed or arrogant or presumptuous; he must not be quick-tempered or given to drink or pugnacious (brawling, violent); he must not be grasping and greedy for filthy lucre (financial gain); 8) But he must be hospitable – loving and a friend to believers, especially to the strangers and foreigners. (He must be) a lover of goodness—of good people and good things; sober-minded (sensible, discreet); upright and fair-minded, a devout man and religiously right, temperate and keeping himself in hand. 9) He must hold fast to the sure and trustworthy Word of God as he was taught it, so that he may be able both to give stimulating instruction and encouragement in sound (wholesome) doctrine, and to refute and convict those who contradict and oppose it- showing the wayward their error.**

**Meditation Verse for October:**

***Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.***

***Hymn –Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me***

**Activities and Discussion:**

1. **Read Titus 1:5-9 daily in all three versions, and any others you may have.**

**Define:**

**Steward:**

**Debauchery:**

**Holy:**

**Questions:**

1. **Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete?**
2. **What do the terms overseer and elder represent?**
3. **What characteristics should an overseer have? What should he not have?**

1. **What characteristics should his family have?**
2. **What is the trustworthy word?**
3. **What does the overseer/elder need to be able to do with the trustworthy word?**

1. **Why did Paul make such a detailed description of an elder/overseer? What is their purpose?**
2. **Why are overseers and elders important to the church? How do you pray for and support your overseers?**