

2 CORINTHIANS

A Verse-by-Verse Study



2 Corinthians 12: 5 (NIV)

I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 12: 6 (NIV)

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say,

Do people
who boast
about
themselves
tend to tell the
truth?



Top 5 lies told by boasting fishermen

- How big the fish was
- How many fish were caught
- How big the fish was that broke your line or got off the hook
- Telling their boss they were sick when they were really fishing
- The number of hours you were fishing

Why does Paul
not like to
boast?



2 Corinthians 12: 6 (NIV)

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say,

Is it common in our society today for people to be concerned that someone might think they are greater than they really are?



In the end is it
better to be
truthful about
your abilities or
to falsely elevate
them?



2 Corinthians 12: 7 (NIV)

or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

What was
Paul's thorn in
the flesh?



What was the purpose of God allowing this thorn in his flesh?



2 Corinthians 12: 7 (NIV)

or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

We are never told what Paul's thorn in the flesh was. There is probably a good reason that we don't know.

God likely wanted Paul's difficulty to be described in general terms so we could apply to any difficulty we may face.

Whether our thorn we struggle with is physical, emotional, or spiritual, we can know that God has a purpose and that His strength will shine through our weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 12: 8 (NIV)

*Three times **I pleaded** with the Lord to
take it away from me.*

What does the fact that Paul pleaded with God three times to remove the thorn tell us?



2 Corinthians 12: 9 (NIV)

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

What do
people tend to
do with their
weaknesses?



A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with the pages appearing as a series of light and dark lines. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The text reads "Turn to:" followed by "Philippians 3: 10" on the next line.

Turn to:
Philippians 3: 10

Philippians 3: 10 (NIV)

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

2 Corinthians 12: 10a (NIV)

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

Why would
Paul delight in
these
sufferings?



2 Corinthians 12: 10 (NIV)

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Who do we
tend to rely on
when we are
strong?



Who do we
tend to rely on
when we are
weak?



2 Corinthians 12: 11a (NIV)

*I have made a fool of myself, but you
drove me to it. I ought to have been
commended by you,*

Why did they
drive Paul to
boast about
what God has
done through
Him?



2 Corinthians 12: 11 (NIV)

I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing.

2 Corinthians 12: 12 (NIV)

I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.

2 Corinthians 12: 13 (NIV)

How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

2 Corinthians 12: 14a (NIV)

Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you,

Why is Paul so concerned about being a financial burden to the Corinthians?



2 Corinthians 12: 14 (NIV)

Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

2 Corinthians 12: 15 (NIV)

So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?

2 Corinthians 12: 15 (NASB)

*I will most gladly spend and be expended
for your souls. If I love you more, am I to
be loved less?*

2 Corinthians 12: 16 (NIV)

Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery!

2 Corinthians 12: 17 (NIV)

Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you?

Did Paul use
trickery or
exploit the
Corinthians?





Turn to:
1 Corinthians 2: 1-4

1 Corinthians 2: 1-4 (NIV)

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

1 Corinthians 2: 1-4 (NIV)

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

1 Corinthians 2: 1-4 (NIV)

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

2 Corinthians 12: 18 (NIV)

*I **urged** Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?*

Urged

Greek: parakaleo

- To call near
- To impart
- To stamp
- To hand-carry a message
- To be one with

2 Corinthians 12: 18 (NIV)

I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?

Greek: pleonekteo

Exploit

- To desire what you have
- To over-reach
- To use you to make a personal gain

2 Corinthians 12: 18 (NIV)

*I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not **walk** in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?*


Walk

Greek: peripateo

- To tread all around
- To walk before the public
- To walk at large
- To live openly

2 Corinthians 12: 18 (NIV)

I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?



Turn to:
Galatians 5: 16-17

Galatians 5: 16-17 (NIV)

So I say, walk by the Spirit,

How do we
know if we are
walking by the
Spirit?



Galatians 5: 16-17 (NIV)

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5: 16-17 (NIV)

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

2 Corinthians 12: 19 (NIV)

Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you?

We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.

Would your
actions or
what you say
be any
different if you
were standing
in front of
God?



If Paul is
concerned
that some may
not be walking
in the Spirit,
what is he
expecting to
find?



We do not know who the pastors of the Church in Corinth were, however at one time they must have been either sick over the sinfulness of some in the Church or they were just like the rest of the world.

2 Corinthians 12: 20a (NIV)

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be.

How does Paul
want the
Corinthians to
be?



How do some
of the
Corinthians
want Paul to
be?



I imagine that some do not want Paul coming to Corinth again confronting sin.

They want Paul to accept them as they are, affirm their lifestyles and say nice things rather than confront them and cause them to confront and address the sin in their lives.

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

*I fear that there may be **discord**, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.*

Discord

Greek: eris

- Quarreling
- Arguing
- Debating
- Creating strife
- Disagreeing

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Jealousy

Greek: zelos

- Heated envy

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Fits of Rage

Greek: thumos

- Angry temper
- Outbursts of anger
- Rage
- Wrath
- To breathe violently and create hot breath

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Selfish Ambition

Greek: eritheia

- Self seeking
- To be first
- To be on top
- To have others look up to you

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Slander

Greek: katalalia

- Seeking evil of others
- Backbiting
- To say something that defames another
- To belittle someone in front of others

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Gossip

Greek: psithurismos

- Whispering quietly to spread malicious gossip
- The murmur of a snake charmer
- A whispering cut

2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

Arrogance

Greek: phusiosis

- To self-inflate
- Pompous
- Proud
- Puffed up
- Frog-like swelling when croaking

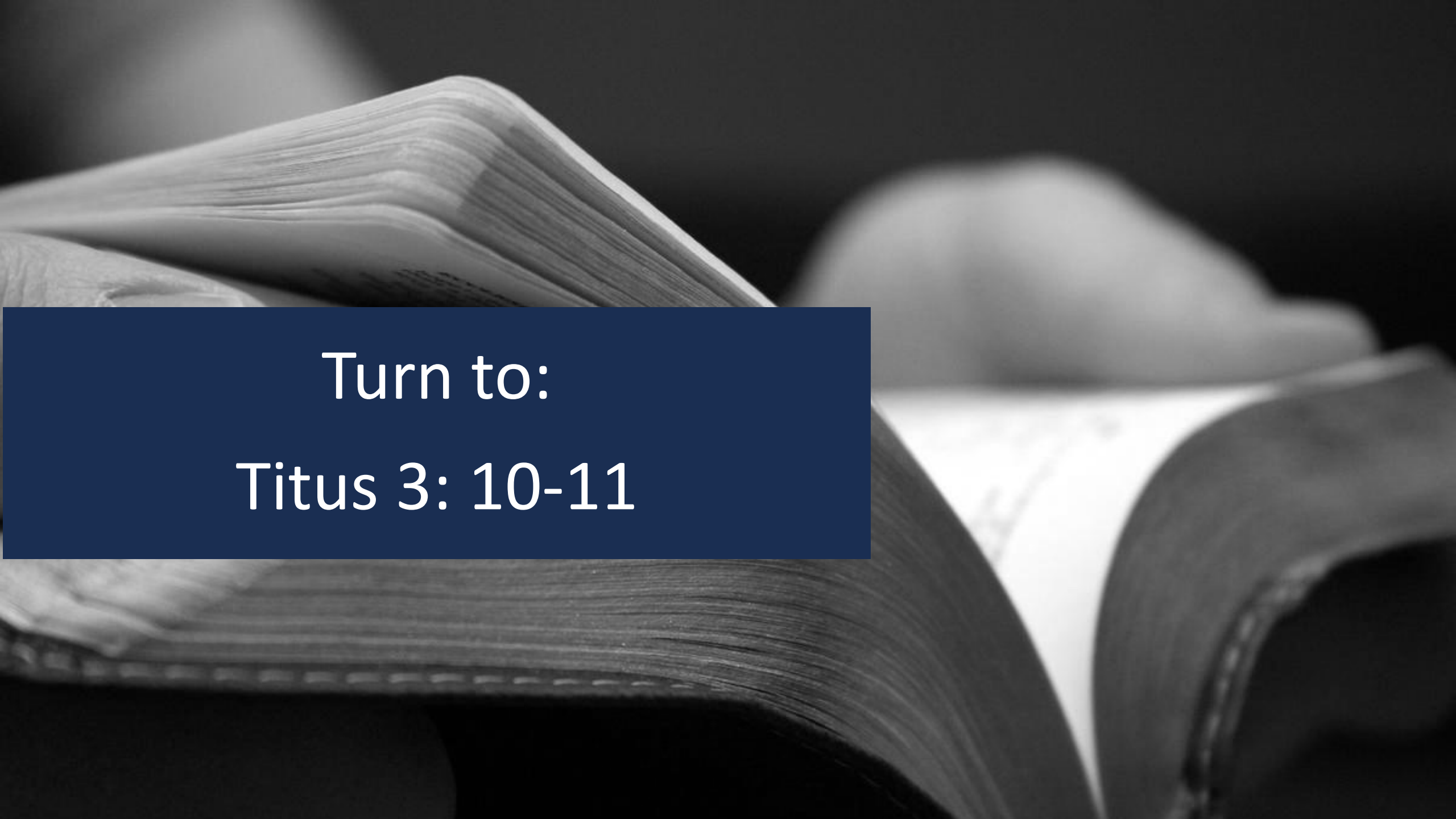
2 Corinthians 12: 20b (NIV)

*I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and **disorder**.*

Disorder

Greek: akatastasia

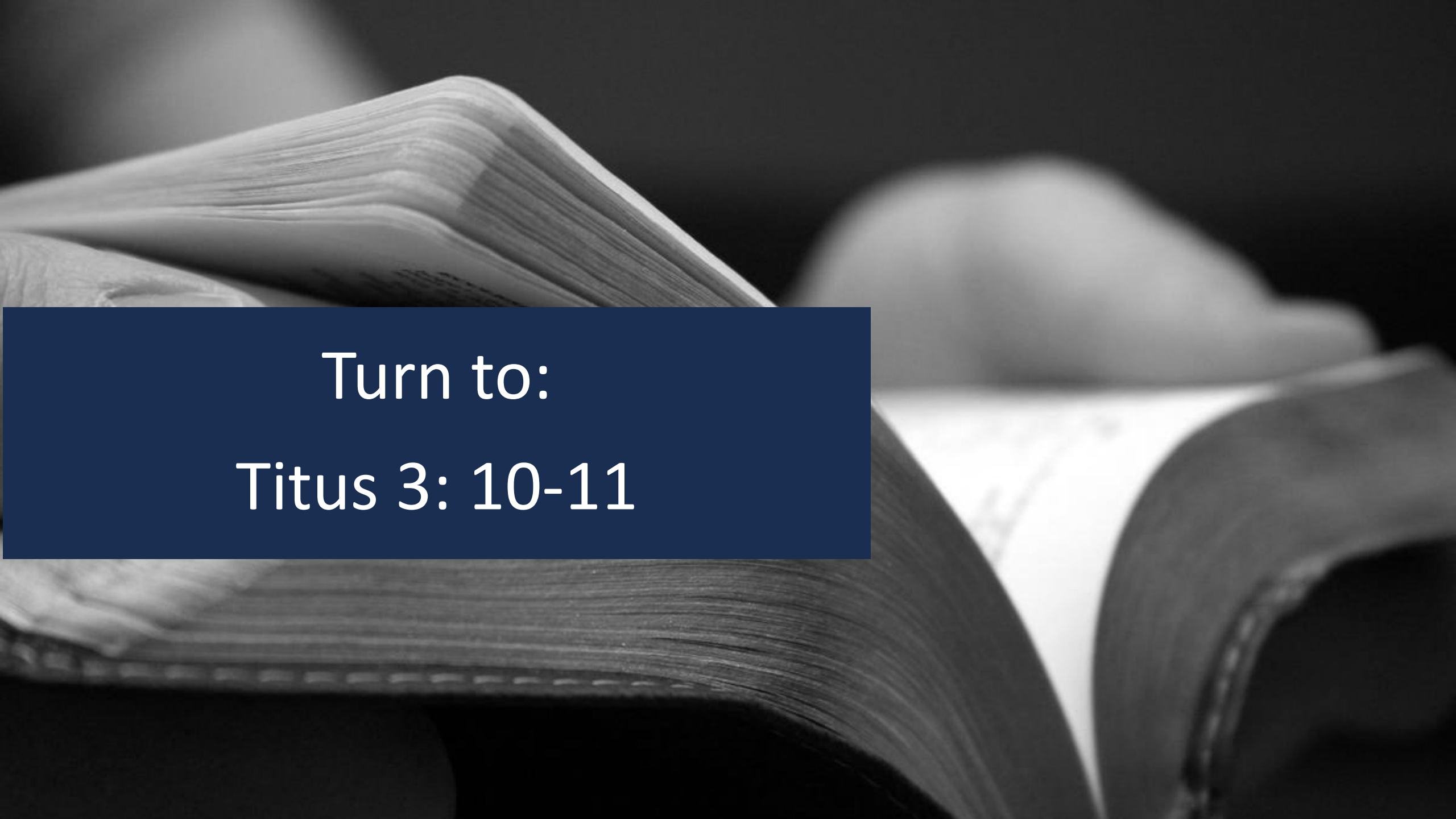
- Someone who causes instability where there should be stability
- Someone causing disorder, confusion, arguments.
- One who stirs up the water



Turn to:
Titus 3: 10-11

Titus 3: 10-11 (NIV)

*Warn **a divisive person** once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that **such people are warped and sinful;** they are self-condemned.*



Turn to:
Titus 3: 10-11

Romans 16: 17-18 (NIV)

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Romans 16: 17-18 (NIV)

For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

How do you
expect Paul
will feel if he
finds sin
running
rampant in the
Church when
he arrives in
Corinth?



2 Corinthians 12: 21a (NIV)

I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented

What does it
mean to
repent?



Repent

Greek: metanoéo

- To change one's mind or purpose
- To think differently
- To change the inner man to acceptance of the will of God
- To change course because of sorrow or pain over one's past sins

2 Corinthians 12: 21 (NIV)

*I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the **impurity**, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.*

Greek: akatharsia

Impurity

- Impure
- Physically unclean
- Morally unclean

2 Corinthians 12: 21 (NIV)

*I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, **sexual sin** and debauchery in which they have indulged.*

Sexual Sin

Greek: porneia

- Adultery
- Incest
- Homosexuality
- Pre-marital sex
- Sexual acts committed outside of marriage

2 Corinthians 12: 21 (NIV)

*I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and **debauchery** in which they have indulged.*

Debauchery

Greek: aselgeia

- Promiscuous and unprincipled in sexual matters
- Conduct shocking to public decency
- Sensuality
- A mind that is locked onto filthiness

2 Corinthians 12: 21 (NIV)

I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

Indulged

Greek: prasso

- To regularly repeat
- Routine conduct
- Habit

2 Corinthians 12: 21 (NIV)

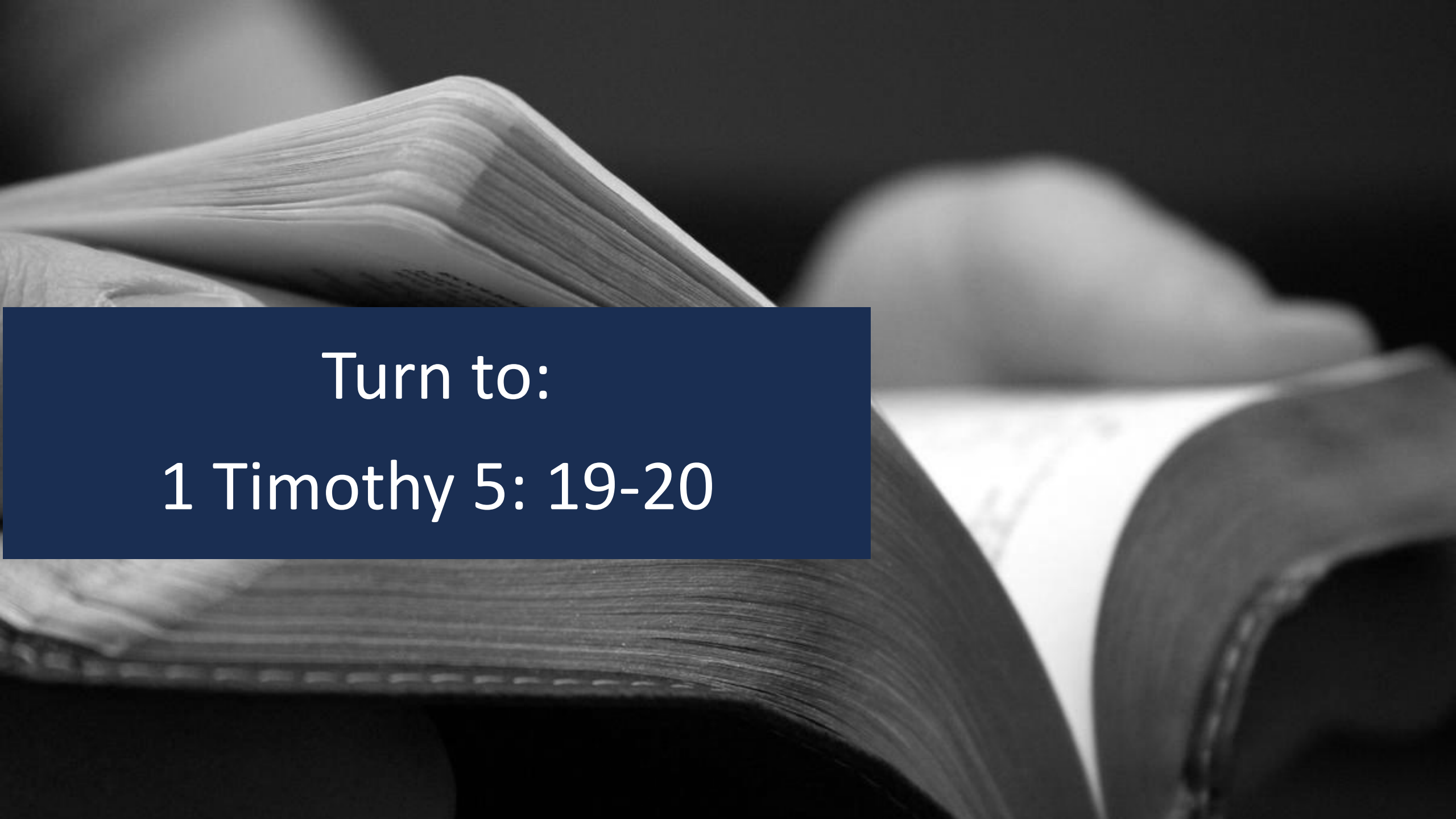
I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

2 Corinthians 13: 1 (NIV)

This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

What is Paul
referencing
here?

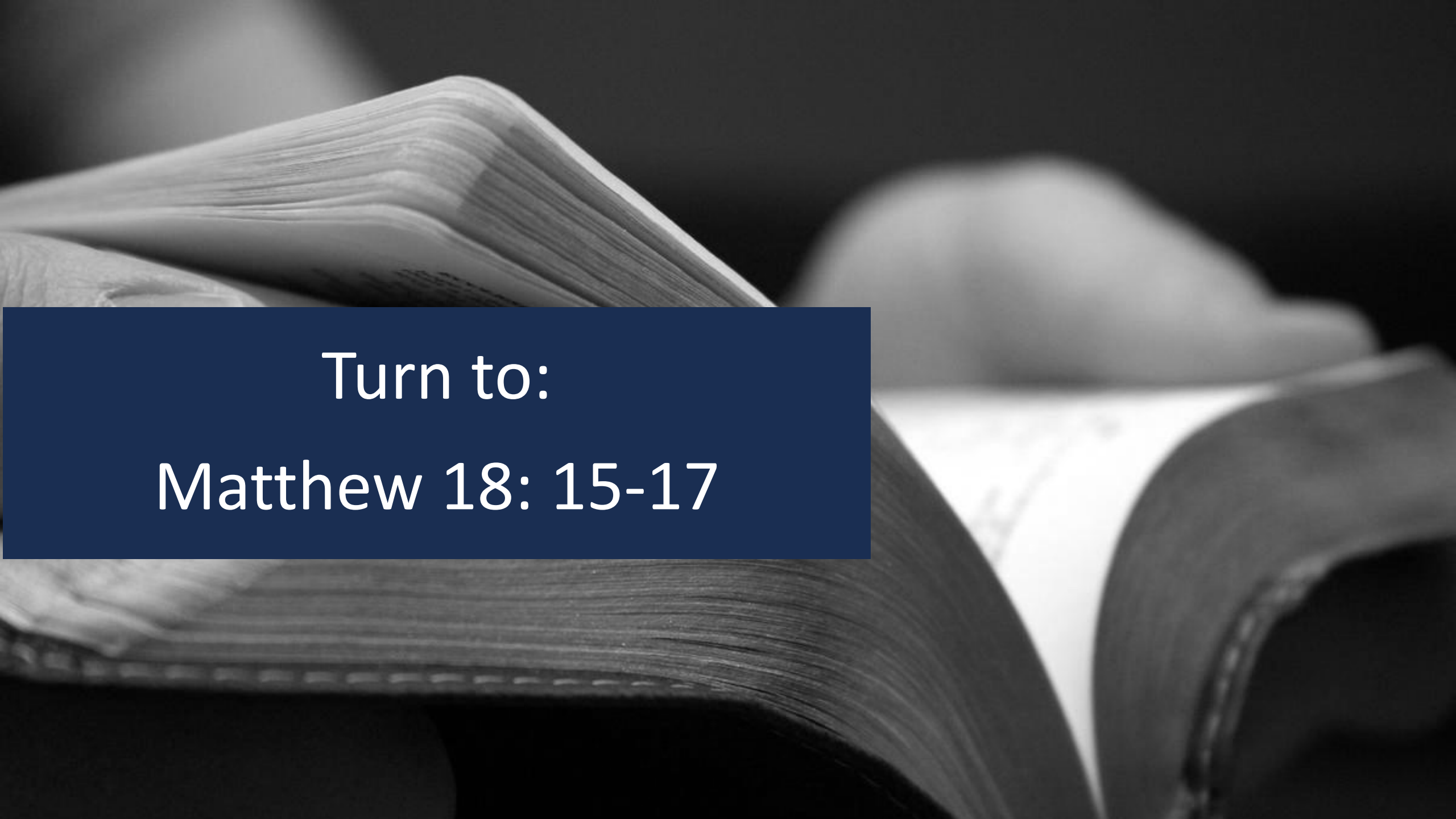




Turn to:
1 Timothy 5: 19-20

1 Timothy 5: 19-20 (NIV)

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.

A black and white photograph of an open book, showing the pages and the spine. The book is slightly out of focus, with the text overlay being the primary focus. The background is dark, making the book stand out.

Turn to:
Matthew 18: 15-17

Matthew 18: 15-17 (NIV)

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

Matthew 18: 15-17 (NIV)

But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

Matthew 18: 15-17 (NIV)

If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Why were the
people
gathering?



Matthew 18: 20 (NIV)

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”