

The Talmid



Talmid תלמיד a Hebrew word that means "a true disciple who desires to be what the Rabbi Jesus is."

Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6 (NIV)

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STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDED NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE DEEPER STUDY #3

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Due to an oversight, Deeper Studies #1-#4 were omitted from the Talmid Newsletters (May 2007). We are providing these studies as supplements to our regular issue.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused you.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS, THE SHEPHERD OF LIFE

DEEPER STUDY #3 The Contrasting False Teachers

The Contrasting False Teachers. (Titus 1:10-16)

Introduction: this is a clear picture of false teachers, a picture that every believer and church should diligently study.

- They oppose the truth (v.10-12).
- They must be rebuked (v.13-14).
- They are impure—totally (v.15).
- They make a profession of God, but their works deny God (v.16).

A. (Titus 1:10-12) False Teachers:

they oppose the truth.

There were *many false teachers* throughout the churches of Crete, and there have been many down through the centuries. The church has always had to combat false teaching. **Note:** the false teachers come from within the churches, not from without.

They were of the circumcision, that is

- they were religionists (Titus 1:10).
- they professed God (Titus 1:16).
- they were subverting whole houses (Titus 1:11).

Remember: the churches met in homes; they did not have buildings in which to meet. The point to see is that they opposed the truth.

1. They were *unruly (anupotaktoi)*: undisciplined, rebellious, disloyal, insubordinate against God and the truth. They refused to submit to God and to the truth of the gospel and of God's Word.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

"For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" ([Hebrews 2:2-3](#)).

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily [secretly] shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" ([2 Peter 2:1](#)).

2. They were *vain talkers (mataiologoi)*: empty talkers, saying and teaching things that amount to nothing and are worthless. Their teaching helped no one—not permanently and not eternally. Their teaching was not able to overcome sin and death—not able to bring true forgiveness of sin and eternal life to a person.

"Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?" ([Job 15:3](#)).

"The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness" ([Eccles. 10:13](#)).

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" ([2 Tim. 1:13](#)).

"Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" ([Titus 2:8](#)).

3. They were *deceivers (phrenapatai)*: "mind-deceivers" (A.T. Robertson. [Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol 4, p.600](#)), misleaders. They misled themselves and misled others away from the truth. They turned away from the truth and followed error; they followed a false belief.

"For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of

the simple" ([Romans 16:18](#)).

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" ([2 Cor. 11:13-15](#)).

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" ([2 Tim. 3:13](#)).

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" ([2 John 7](#)).

4. They were of the circumcision; that is, they were Jewish religionists. They professed Christ, but they refused to accept the all-sufficiency of Christ and His cross.

- They refused to accept that Christ died for their sins—actually bore the judgment and punishment for their transgressions against God.
- They refused to accept that God accepted them by faith and only by faith—that God took their faith and counted it as righteousness; that God required nothing more and nothing less than a person's total trust, the laying of the person's life into the hands of God, all the person is and has, his total being—and that is all that was needed to be saved.

Very simply, the false teachers—the religionists—**taught that man made himself acceptable**

- by doing the best he could.
- by being good and doing good.
- by being as religious as he could.
- by keeping the laws and rules of religion.
- by undergoing the basic ritual of religion (circumcision, baptism, confirmation, church membership, etc.).
- by observing and practicing the ceremonies and rules of religion.
- by being faithful in worship and stewardship.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:3).

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Galatians 3:10).

"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6).

5. They had mouths that needed to be silenced. Their false teaching needed to be stopped, but not by physical force. The word **"stopped"** (*epistomizein*) means to muzzle or bridle, but it should be by reason and argument, not by physical force. False teachers must always be stopped. Their teaching is misleading and erroneous; therefore, their teaching must be restrained, stopped dead in its tracks. Their tongues must be silenced. False teachers must not be allowed to sow the seeds of their error.

"Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:8).

"For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Peter 2:15).

6. They were subverting, that is, upsetting and disrupting whole houses. They were turning some away from the truth and tearing families apart. In other cases they were overthrowing the faith of whole families. Whole families were following the false teaching and leaving the church. This was, of course, the objective of the false teachers: to secure a following for themselves by turning people away

from the truth of Christ.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-8).

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

7. They were teaching things that they should not teach (see pt. 4 above).

8. They were seeking personal gain (filthy lucre). They had entered the church and religion and **were teaching a false doctrine.....**

- to gain a livelihood or money.
- to gain recognition.
- to gain a following.
- to gain acceptance.
- to gain the satisfaction of being in a reputable profession.

9. They had a sorry reputation. They were professing religionists, but they were living no better than the rest of society. This is clearly seen by looking at three traits of Cretian society. Note that the traits are taken from a Cretian poet. (Grecian poets were considered prophets in that day, men who were under the inspiration of the gods.) Paul does not give his name, but he was Epimenides who lived somewhere around 600 B.C. and was ranked as one of the seven wisest men of Greece (William Barclay. *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, p.277).

a. The false teachers were chronic liars. They were not living for Christ nor following after the truth. They were just like Cretian society, living false lives and following lies. And they were teaching a false, lying doctrine—teaching it right inside the church, leading believers to follow their lies.

b. The false teachers were evil beasts. That is, they were savage and malicious in standing against the truth of Christ and of salvation by grace through faith. Just like wild beasts, they savagely attacked the church and its believers, attempting to consume them in their false teaching and doctrine.

c. The false teachers were idle gluttons. This does not mean that they were inactive and never industrious nor that they were fat and lazy. Some, no doubt, were just as some are in every society—lazy, gluttonous, slothful, and too complacent to study the Word of God and to seek the truth. What it means in this context is that...

(1) they were idle in dealing with the truth. They had nothing to do with the truth. They had turned away from it. When it came to Christ and the truth, they were idle and inactive.

(2) they were gluttons, that is, greedy and seeking to fill their lust for whatever they were after: recognition, a following, money, self-image. Honoring Christ and reaching people for Christ and sharing the truth was not the focus of their lives.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness" (1 Tim. 6:3).

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

B. (Titus 1:13-14) False Teachers: they must

be rebuked.

The witness just given against society and false teachers is true. And remember: the false teachers were in the church, professing to be followers of Christ. But they were not following Christ—not fully and wholly. Therefore, they had to be sharply rebuked. The idea is that they had to be corrected with sternness and even in severity. This is understandable, for false teaching is one of the greatest sins and dangers facing believers. False teaching hurts the church and its believers as much as any sin, for it turns men away from God and Christ and destroys the church and its mission. But note a most significant point: there were two reasons why the false teachers and their followers were to be rebuked.

1. False teachers and their followers were to be rebuked so that they might become sound in the faith.

"Here precisely is the wonderful thing....Paul does not say to Timothy: 'Leave them alone. They are hopeless and all men know it.' He says: 'They are bad and all men know it. Go and convert them.' There are few passages which so demonstrate the divine optimism of the Christian missionary and evangelist, who refuses to regard any man as hopeless. The greater the evil, the greater the challenge. It is the Christian conviction that there is no sin which is too great for the grace of Jesus Christ to encounter and to conquer" (*William Barclay. The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, p.278*).

The false teachers were not sound in the faith; they were not standing with Christ nor for Christ. They were not following Christ nor teaching the Word of God in its purity and simplicity. They were in danger of being lost, and condemned from the presence of God forever. In addition they were leading others down the same false road. If the false teachers and their followers were not corrected, then more and more lives would be corrupted and destroyed. Therefore, the false teachers had to be dealt with; there was no choice. Confronting them with the truth of Christ and of the Word was their only hope. An attempt to root them in sound doctrine had to be made—both for Christ and their own eternal salvation.

2. False teachers and their followers were to be rebuked so they might cease from their fables and man-made religious rules. Note: what false teachers follow are only

fables and myths, imaginations within man's mind, and man-made rules of religion.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephes. 5:11).

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men" (1 Thes. 5:14).

"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20).

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2).

"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13).

"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Titus 2:15).

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 3:18).

"Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul" (Ezekiel 33:9).

C. (Titus 1:15) False Teachers: they are impure, totally impure.

The basic question of life is this: How does a person become pure and righteous before God? Men try to become acceptable to God by works—by doing the works of religion, by doing good and being good.

This is where so many of the laws, rules, rituals, and ceremonies of religion come from. They are merely man's desire to become acceptable to God. Man feels the way to become acceptable is to be religious and keep all the rules of religion. But note a critical fact: no religion and no man-made rule or work can save a man from sin and death. Everything that is made by man dies and decays—ends up just like he does, as nothing more than the dust of the ground. Man cannot do enough good nor do enough works to create a pure mind and conscience within himself, not a mind and conscience that has the absolute assurance of living forever.

But note another fact: there is a way to become pure and righteous before God. How? By Jesus Christ—**by believing in Jesus Christ.....**

- by trusting His purity and righteousness to cover us.
- by trusting His death and resurrection to cover us.

When we believe that Jesus Christ died for us, God accepts the death of Christ *for us*. He forgives our transgressions and never charges them against us. We are free from sin in Christ; through our faith in Christ God counts us pure and righteous.

This is what the verse means. If we are pure in Christ, then all things are pure to us. We do not have to worry about doing things to become pure. We are pure—perfectly righteous and acceptable to God because we are *in Christ*. Our faith is *in Christ* to make us pure, not in religious rules.

Therefore false teachers and their followers—in fact all unbelievers—lack the absolute assurance of forgiveness and of eternal life—of being acceptable to God. Their minds and consciences are defiled. No matter what their man-made religious rules are—rules governing food, discipline, do's and don'ts, washings, baptisms, ceremonies, rituals—they are all impure. They are only physical and material and man-made substances—all to perish after they are used.

Thought 1. "'Unto the pure all things are pure' does not mean that dope and alcoholic beverages which will dull the mind and destroy the body are pure. There is probably a direct teaching here concerning ceremonial meats and drinks among the Jews. **(In this connection, study the entire [fourteenth chap-](#)**

ter of Romans.) Some foods were regarded as clean and could be eaten, while others were considered unclean and were therefore forbidden. What Paul is saying is that those distinctions ceased when Christ died and rose again: 'Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth' (**Romans 10:4**). In this Christian era, it is not what we eat or drink that saves us or damns us; it is 'What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?' 'As many as received Him, to THEM gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born...born of God' (**John 1:12-13**).

"In Paul's day, under the Law of Moses, a Jew dare not eat pork nor drink certain drinks; but in this day, meats and drinks neither save nor damn—although a child of God, led by the Spirit of God, will not eat or drink those things that will destroy the body. God puts His law in our hearts and leads us by His Spirit (**Romans 8:14**), and if we are led by the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Truth makes free; and when we KNOW and obey the truth, we eat and drink those things that are wholesome, good, and profitable to body and soul.

"A person who is a true child of God will not use this passage to attempt to prove that all things are right and lawful for the Christian. There are those who say that if you think something is not sin, then to you it is not sin; but such reasoning is not to be found in the Word of God. The Bible clearly teaches that we are to 'have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them' (**Ephes. 5:11**). 'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him' (**1 John 2:15**). 'Abstain from all appearance of evil' (**1 Thes. 5:22**). 'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good' (**1 Thes. 5:21**). "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God' (**1 Cor. 10:31**).

"The principle here involved is a pure, truly pious mind; and if we have such a mind we will not eat or drink those things that will destroy our testimony. The believing heart does not major on the distinction of food and drink, festivals,

ceremonies, rites, holy days, holidays. These things have nothing to do with purity of heart and spirit, and the conscience of the believer is not to be burdened with nor enslaved by them. The heart of a believer is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God and by the laws of God laid down in the New Testament. We are not under the Law of Moses. We live by faith, not by sight. We live as the Holy Spirit leads us into the paths of righteousness" (*Oliver Greene, The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus, p.429f*).

Thought 2. "But unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure.' This statement is very clear: The unbeliever is lost, totally depraved, without strength, hopeless, helpless, without God and eternally damned unless he embraces Christianity by faith in the finished work of Christ. To the sinner, NOTHING is pure. **Proverbs 21:4** tells us, '...The plowing of the wicked is sin.' **James 4:17** says, '...To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin!'

"To the unbeliever, everything is made the means of increasing his depravity, his unrighteousness and his ungodliness. It makes no difference what ordinances of religion unbelievers may observe and practice; it matters not what distinctions they may make concerning meats, drinks, days, ceremonies or religious events; such observances will not change their state of depravity. Making distinctions in food, drinks, and clothing only fosters pride and produces self-righteousness. Those who do these things are attempting to justify themselves through their own goodness and labors, following the commandments of men instead of submitting to the love of God. They push aside the mercies of God and satisfy their own lusts. They are corrupt at heart, and observance of ordinances, ceremonies, abstinence from food and drink makes them no better; it simply leads to deeper depravity and greater damnation" (*Oliver Greene, The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus, p.431f*).

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

"All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:23).

"And even as they did not like to retain God in

their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" ([Romans 1:28](#)).

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" ([2 Cor. 7:1](#)).

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind" ([Ephes. 4:17](#)).

"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind" ([Col. 2:18](#)).

"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned" ([1 Tim. 1:5](#)).

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled" ([Titus 1:15](#)).

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" ([1 Peter 1:22](#)).

[D. \(Titus 1:16\) False Teachers: they make a profession that they know God, but their works deny Him.](#)

The false teachers openly professed Christ, claimed to be Christian, and to belong to the church. And note: they were preaching, teaching, and filling the pulpits and seats of instruction in the churches. But their works betrayed them. Their behavior clearly showed that they were hypocrites. They were not teaching the pure Word of God, not teaching the truth about Jesus Christ. Note the final terrible fact: by their works they were denying God and Christ. No matter what they professed and claimed, if they did not teach the pure Word of God and the pure

truth about God and His Son, Jesus Christ, then they were denying God.

- They were being *abominable*: vile, detestable, and repulsive to both God and true believers. They were corrupting the truth, and corruption always sends up a foul smell.
- They were being *disobedient*: refusing to submit to God and to follow and teach the truth of Christ and of God's Word.
- They were *reprobate*: unfit, useless, and worthless; failing to meet the test of God. In God's eyes they were of no value. They were fit only to be rejected.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" ([Matthew 7:21](#)).

"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written. This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" ([Mark 7:6](#)).

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" ([Titus 1:16](#)).

"And they remembered that God was their Rock, and the high God their Redeemer. Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues" ([Psalm 78:35-36](#)).

"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not" ([Ezekiel 33:31-32](#)).
