

## Lesson 6

May 11, 2023

### False Teachers

**Titus 1:10** For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

(Jewish and Gnosticists) The opponents who are numerous ("many") are opposed to God's authority and to that of his leaders ("rebellious"), their talk is empty and leads others astray ("mere talkers and deceivers"), and they are primarily Jewish Christians ("especially those of the circumcision group,"

**Titus 1:11** who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

The demand that "they must be silenced" is necessitated by the fact that they are "ruining whole

households," causing them to fall away from the Christian faith and godliness by teaching outright error ("things they ought not to teach") and doing so simply to make money off their adherents.

**Titus 1:12** One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

Paul refers to one that they (but not he) regarded as a "prophet," and then cites the poem of Epimenides of Crete (ca. 600 B.C.). He had lived before Christ and some Cretans had believed he was a prophet because of some predictions he had made. Epimenides' statement says that Cretans are known for untruthfulness, maliciousness, and uncontrolled greed. This was common knowledge during the Hellenistic period that Cretans were always lying and scamming people for a profit! Paul was referring to this man's own statement from a poem that he had written.

**Titus 1:13** This testimony is true. For this reason, reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,

(Paul is referring to the known character of the Cretans.)

**Titus 1:14** not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Jews still hanging on to tradition and Gnostic believers that were teaching that they had direct knowledge from the many gods or some other higher beings, although contradicting everything taught in Christianity about the one true God.

**Titus 1:15** To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Paul is in effect repeating our Lord's teaching that it is what comes out of a man that defiles him, not ceremonial impurity. The real seat of purity is the conscience, and if defilement has entered there, mind and action are alike affected.

**Titus 1:16** They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

Paul realizes that false teachers are subtle in that they give every appearance of being religious (they claim to know God), but their actions say otherwise.

The importance of a right understanding of Christian doctrine could not be more strongly stated.

Donald Guthrie, "Titus," in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed.

Today, just as in the early church, there are many false teachers. We can be easily lured into listening to and being persuaded by well-speaking, seemingly confident teachers. Without the proper context, dispensation, Greek or Hebrew interpretation on scripture or a teacher who can discern these things, we can buy into a lie, perpetuated by Satan.

False teachers misunderstood and erroneously teach the following:

1. Baptism
2. Grace

3. Deaths

4. Penance and Repentance

5. Salvation and Sanctification

6. Tithing was mandatory for OT believers and functioned like an income tax. However, Giving is voluntary; believers are not under compulsion to give.

**2 Cor 9:6-7 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7) Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

7. Spiritual gifts, healing, speaking in tongues, etc.

God gives every believer at least one spiritual gift.

In 1 Cor. 13:8-10, **Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with. 9) For we know in part and we prophesy**

in part; 10) but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

These were used during the pre-canon period.

8. Good deeds and works

A pastor needs to be knowledgeable in All of these areas.

A few false teachers:

Benny Hinn

Kenneth Copeland

Todd White

Joel and Victoria Osteen

Joyce Meyer

Beth Moore

Creflo Dollar

The Popes

This is but a small sample. There are some that are mostly solid, but some key theology issues cause major misunderstandings to the hearers of their teaching.

We are not to pay attention to the ear ticklers, the prosperity pimps, the self-proclaimed healers and the ones claiming to be prophets or to have extra insight from Angels or higher beings.

Also, those who add books to the original canon of scripture include:

**Mormonism and Joseph Smith.** Mormons have 4 books:

The book of Mormon, The Bible, The Pearl of Great Price and Doctrines and Covenants.

1. According to the LDS church, Adam and Eve lived in Daviess County, Missouri after being driven from the Garden of Eden.
2. Followers don't recognize the Christian concept of the trinity (God existing in three persons). Instead, they believe the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are three separate gods.
3. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints considers Joseph Smith, who founded Mormonism, a prophet.
4. They say that the original church has been restored in modern times.

The book of Urantia - said to have been given to man by Angelic beings.

Some differences with Christianity include: here's some of their differences in belief from Christianity:

1. Jesus' crucifixion is not considered an atonement for the sins of humanity.
2. The crucifixion is taught to be an outcome of the fears of religious leaders of the day, who regarded his teachings as a threat to their positions of authority.
3. Jesus is considered the human incarnation of "Michael of Nebadon," one of more than 700,000 "Paradise Sons" of God, or "Creator Sons."
4. Jesus is not considered the second person of the Trinity as he is in Christianity.
5. The book refers to the Eternal Son as the second person of the Trinity.
6. Jesus was born on Earth through natural means of conception instead of a virgin birth.
7. Jesus did not walk on water or perform some of the miracles that are attributed to him in the Bible.

## The church of Scientology.

1. Scientology is a belief that each human has a reactive mind that responds to life's traumas, clouding the analytic mind and keeping us from experiencing reality.
2. Their belief is based on Science.
3. Do not have a deity.

In other words, they believe they are basically good, seeking to survive and have inalienable rights to think for themselves and not be governed by other religions.

## The Catholic Church

There are seven books in the Catholic Bible - Baruch, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Sirach, Tobit and Wisdom - that are not included in the Protestant version of the Old Testament. These books are referred to as the deuterocanonical books. Deuterocanonical is a term coined in 1566 by the theologian Sixtus of Siena, who had converted to Catholicism from Judaism, to describe scriptural texts considered canonical by the Catholic Church, but which recognition was considered "secondary".

Rev. 22:19 says "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

God's inspired word is complete with everything we need to understand this life and have a relationship with our Creator. He gives us salvation as a free gift, when we have faith alone in Him. When we put our trust in Him and the atonement that He made for us on the cross, He gives us the gift of Eternal Life.

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is irrevocable, you cannot lose it. He also teaches us in his word how to be sanctified, (set apart) so that we can grow into mature believers.

He gives us his own righteousness, as a gift.

Rom. 5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

We don't gain anything with God based on our own works. We don't have to be good to go to Heaven; we have to be perfect! Only Christ is perfect; It's all about what HE did for us, not what we do for Him.

**\*\*Pay attention to where you get your truths\*\***

**Your Eternal Life is on the line!**