

Lesson 8

June 22, 2023

Further instructions to Titus

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.

Q? Who are the pure in this verse?

Verse 15 — “to the pure” -is a dative plural of the noun, Which acts as the indirect object.

καθαροῖς “katharois” - a word that can refer to a literally pure person or a naive person, but it is more frequently used in a technical sense for ceremonial purification, and even more technical in the concept of a believer in fellowship. (The word pertains to being free from moral guilt)

(Read 1 Cor. 10:23-31, 6:12-13)

"all things" refers to various activities in life toward which you could have mental attitude sin, in fact about almost anything. Then we have a repetition of the word "pure" but this time we find it as an adjective in the nominative plural instead of the dative plural. Therefore, we must re-adjust these words into the English language. This should read literally, "All things are pure to those who are pure." As it stands this could read as almost anything if you approached the scripture with a little bit of cynicism. The word "pure" can mean someone who is simply naïve, but in this context it refers to someone that is not performing ceremonial purification.

As we begin this verse, it says in effect that we can enjoy the details of life. The details of life are not sinful unless the Bible specifically declares them to be sinful. Therefore, the details of life are to be enjoyed. It is mental attitude sin that take things that are pure and make them impure (dancing drinking and eating are some examples).

2. The principle, then, from this phrase: Mental attitude sins destroy things in life that are not harmful or offensive; they destroy the capacity for love, they destroy the capacity to enjoy things in life. The pure are those who are free from mental attitude sins and therefore have the capacity to love and have the capacity to enjoy the things of this life.

3. The only way to have the capacity for love or to enjoy the details of life without becoming involved in mental attitude sins (this leads to legalism) is by learning bible doctrine and applying it to our lives.

4. Mental attitude sins are the corruptors of good things. If you want to destroy or neutralize something that is not sinful and is fun, mental attitude sins will definitely do it.

By R.B. Theime, Jr.

1 John 3:2-3 - Beloved (Believer), now we are children of God, and it has not appeared, yet what we will be. We know that when He (Christ) appears, we will be like Him,

because we will see Him just as He is. 3) and everyone who has this hope fixed on Him (Christ) purifies himself, just as He (Christ) is pure.

When we put our trust in God, and apply God's word, we learn about who He is and how to respond to our situations.

The believers who are in fellowship with Christ; trusting Christ for everything and applying bible doctrine, are being obedient in their sanctification process and happen to be the "pure" that is being mentioned in [Titus 1:15](#).

Pure believers in vs. 15 relied on Christ and did not hang on to previous traditions. These people were alive when these things had been required, before Pentecost. Christ had come and become the ultimate sacrifice for their sin, and they were under a new covenant with God. This covenant did away with the traditions they had before that pointed to the messiah's coming. Christ has fulfilled the prophecies of the messiah and these people were still performing ceremonial traditions, trying to become pure in

God's eyes. When Paul writes that "to the pure all things are pure", he does not mean that a sinful thing becomes right to a pure-minded person. It is not a license to sin!

The pure believer is not interested in an external purity gained by following man-made rules, but by an inward purity that comes from knowing and loving God.

Got Questions Ministries, Got Questions?

Q? Who are the defiled and unbelieving?

defiled and unbelieving, Paul is referring to believers that have completely ignored and even been very rebellious against the word of God.

These believers are trying to bring in Judaism and Gnosticism to mix in with Christianity, with some of them outright defying Christianity completely.

They are committing mental attitude sins, leading to other sins, such as legalism, pride, conceit, etc.

Q What do you suppose this will lead to?

Carnality, Divine discipline, Reversionism, even to the sin unto death.

They had convictions about whether they were circumcised or whether they were eating the wrong foods, or about the non-washing of hands before eating and about how self-righteous they were before others.

Q? Was this something they should be worried about?
Would this make them pure?

This was all a result of ceremonial purification that was not relevant and detestable to God. In modern day churches are concerned whether the church has a Choir, whether they have programs, whether they perform an altar call at the end of the service or other religious ceremonies. Some churches make their own church bylaws such as (no dancing, no drinking or what foods

they could not eat). It is not a sin to drink, dance or eat any food. Moderation is the key.

Psalms 150:4 - Praise Him with timbrel (a drum) and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and lyre (flute).

Ecclesiastes 3:4 - A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance.

We are not to be found in drunkenness, adultery or gluttony; these become sinful in excess.

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore no one is to act as your judge regarding food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. 17) things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Christ and his new order are the perfect reality to which these earlier commandments looked. The reality (Jesus Christ) has already come, and the things of the shadow (mosaic law) have no binding force; they are no longer a norm for judgment. Any demand today to abstain from

certain foods or to keep religious festivals as a requirement for growing as a Christian brings down upon it the same severe criticism.

Paul set the matter straight by reminding his readers of the Lord's teaching that purification is largely a matter of the internal rather than the external. (Luke 11:39-40, Mark 7:15; 18-23). Sanctification of a believer

Luke 11:39-40 - But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. 40) "You, foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?

Mark 7:15 - there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him (foods); but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.

The disciples questioned Jesus, "what does defile men"?

Mark 7:18-23 And Jesus said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, 19) because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus, He declared all foods clean.)

20) And Jesus was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21) "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22) deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23) "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

Lesson 9

July 1, 2023

They were disobedient

their mind and their conscience are defiled -

The problem with the false teachers was that on the inside, in their minds and consciences, they were impure.

Their mental attitude sins were keeping them out of fellowship with God and preventing their spiritual growth. These men chose to continue with tradition. They tried to act holier than others. These men were self-righteous.

This outward presentation before man may have impressed other men, but God was not impressed. God operates inwardly toward men. He knows our thoughts and our secrets that no-one else does. We are not fooling Him.

We might think God is way out in the cosmos, distracted from all that we are doing. We may think He is too busy to pay attention to the details of our life. The truth is, when

we first believe in Him, He indwells us. He is right there with us when we think we are alone. When we pray, He is already in our midst. Every action we take in our life is on display to God. He knows our every thought.

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.

They profess to know God -

These false teachers were very religious, just as the Pharisees who confronted Jesus were very religious.

They profess to know God, "but, by their deeds they deny him." This judgment, spoken against these false teachers, is the same that God spoke through his prophet Isaiah in verse 29.

Isa 29:13 - Therefore the LORD said:

“These people draw near with their mouths, and honor Me with their lips, but their “hearts are far from Me”, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.

by their deeds they deny Him - These men thought that the observance of religious ceremonies and the following of Jewish traditions would make them pure.

We see the same today when people feel that by showing up to church, going through the service, singing a few songs and even giving an offering makes them ok with God. But God wants more from the believer. God wants us to know him through the biblical scriptures and trust Him as they live their lives. God desires our full trust of Him.

Paul asserted that they were “detestable.” They tried to look holy and sound holy, but they were far from God.

They had no personal relationship with our Creator.

detestable - βδελυκτός, “bdeluktos” a person or thing that stirs up feelings of repugnance.

disobedient - απειθής, "apeithes"

To God they were exactly opposite of what they tried to be by their own good works. They were "disobedient" both to the truth of the gospel and to the apostolic authority. They looked for the approval of other men, while ignoring the teachings from our Lord.

worthless for any good deed - αδόκιμος, "adokimos"

They were "unfit for any good work".

C. S. Lewis made a noteworthy observation: "Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worse."

There is an obvious irony here.

The more they looked to impress God, the more they became unfit to please God. They were not humble nor obedient. They put their own good on display for men.

Those who trust in their own good "works" are unfit for the "good works" which God desires. The false teachers were trying to be spiritually clean by holding to

ceremonial traditions. The real condition God sought was the purity of their heart.

When Paul proclaimed God's grace in the person and work of Jesus Christ, he was consistently confronted by those who perverted the true gospel by requiring a works righteousness. The damaging influence and results of such false teachers were all too apparent to him. Jesus said this to the Pharisees in **Mark 7:6-9**.

Mark 7:6-9 - And Jesus said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

"THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS,
BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

7) BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,

TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN."

8) "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

9) He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

Paul talks about himself before his conversion.

(Gal. 1:6-12)

6) I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7) which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9) As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

10) For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

11) For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

12) For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

13) For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

14) and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

15) But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16) to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia and returned once more to Damascus.

Are you trying to impress God with your good works?

Are you seeking God's approval by going to church, or by doing religious things?

Are you attempting to impress God with your religious affiliations? I'm a.....(Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran, Reformer, Calvinist, Armenian, Jew, etc...

Prov. 30:12 - There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes yet is not washed from his filthiness.

Jeremiah 5:2 - "And although they say, 'As the Lord+ lives, surely they swear falsely.'"

Jeremiah 12:2 - You have planted them, they have also taken root, they grow, they have even produced fruit. You are near to their lips, but far from their mind.

For unbelievers - we are unworthy of God's Grace, but Jesus Christ gives us His Free gift of salvation! He applies His GRACE to us when we put our faith alone in

Him, and we receive **Eternal life** with Him. You can do that today!

For believers - We are to not become legalistic.

It is not the outwardly things we do that make us holy, the internal things of faith, trust in Christ and the understanding of who God is, through his holy scripture is what matters. The more we learn about God, the more like Him that we can become.