

Lesson 9

August 10, 2023

They were disobedient

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.

Review:

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 had fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah and these people were still performing ceremonial traditions, trying to become pure by doing their own good works. But...

their mind and their conscience are defiled -

but to them that are defiled we have a contrast from the first part of verse 15. followed by the perfect passive participle of the verb $\mu\iota\alpha\acute{\iota}\nu\omega$ - "miaino"

- ① to cause something to be ritually impure, stain, defile
- ② to cause the purity of something to be violated by immoral behavior

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, they were still denying foods as unclean, they insisted on washing of hands and pushing the

need for circumcision. Their rituals were worthless, there was no need for it. 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 here with us while we may think we are here 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.

As we look at verse 15, we must do so in context.

1. The Bible must be interpreted in the time in which it was written.
2. In the time of writing of Titus sewage or excrement was collected in chamber pots and often dumped from the balcony to the street. This often resulted in clothes being

stained or polluted by others who were walking by underneath the balcony or window. This is where we get the word $\mu\iota\alpha\acute{\iota}\nu\omega$ "miaino".

3. "Miaino" means stained or polluted.

Most people of the time understood what it meant to be walking down the street and the contents of a chamber pot being thrown out a window and being dumped on them.

This stained or polluted their clothing.

The primary sense 'to stain' prepares the way for the transferred sense of causing defilement through socially or culturally unacceptable behavior. In the Greek-Roman World, it was understood that a person was to be dependent on careful observance of certain moral and ritual proprieties. Individuals were subordinate to the interests of the community and violations of standard moral and ceremonial expectations could jeopardize the delicate balance between an entire populace and its deities.

4. Mental attitude sins are the sewage or excrement of the mind, which pollute the mind and destroy the capacity to enjoy good things in life. The reason a lot of believers are not happy today is because they are full of mental attitude sins. They are trying to live morally, but in their mind, they are far away from Christ.

5. Mental attitude sin does occur at some point, but there is a continual repercussion from having a MAS.

6. Mental attitude sins lead to legalism and carnality.

R.B. Thieme , Jr.

Lesson 9

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 professed to know God, "but, by their deeds they denied 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, singing a few songs and even giving an offering makes them ok with God.

God sees more than our outside. God knows intimately what you think, what you do and how you live your life. We cannot hide from God. All those secretive things we hide from others is fully seen by God.

The world believes that morality is the way to Heaven.

God wants more from us. God wants us to know him through the biblical scriptures and trust Him as we live our lives.

Paul asserted that the people in vs. 16 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 God, while ignoring the teachings from our Lord.

worthless for any good deed - αδόκιμος, "adokimos" meaning not standing the test, unqualified

The term "worthless" translates in the Hebrew as בְּלִיעַל "Belial", which occurs 27 times in Scripture. The word means "Uselessness, wickedness...good for nothing." These are people whom God designates as "worthless" because they continually resist His will and disrupt the activities of His people.

Over time, the term **Belial** became a name used for Satan, who embodies wickedness, worthlessness and trouble, always resisting God and seeking to harm those who walk with Him.

How do we become worthless to God?

We all live our lives in this fallen world. We can choose to live according to the world or we can live in the world, seeking God.

We become worthless to God when we:

1. React to the circumstances of life from a human viewpoint. We should seek Him.
2. We reject God and His word. The world rejected God and He was perfect.

3. Fail to love others as God loves us.

4. Do not acknowledge our sin to God.

5. Live our lives absent from God. We should want to know God, our creator.

Is there hope for the worthless person to turn from his wickedness and live a life that is fruitful?

Yes, of course there is! This requires humility and a willingness to turn to God.

If the worthless person is an unbeliever, he can choose to put his faith (trust) in Jesus Christ.

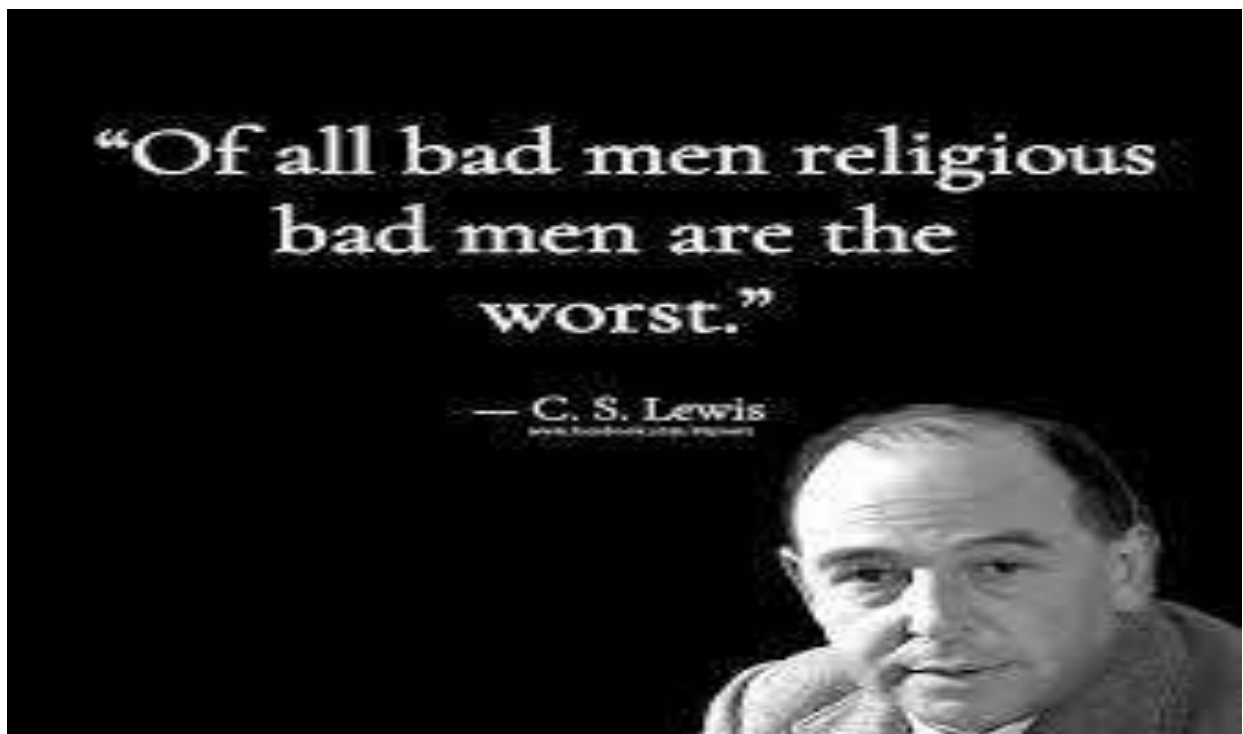
If he is a believer, he can acknowledge his sin to God and the sin is instantly forgiven, restoring fellowship with the Lord.

1 John 1:9-10 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

God generates a new heart in believers that creates a desire to walk with Him, and the once worthless person can be a worthy person who walks in a manner “worthy of the calling” of the Lord.

The worthless men in verse 16 were mostly believers and they were “unfit for any good work”.

C. S. Lewis, who once claimed to be the world’s most reluctant convert, made a noteworthy observation that many unbelievers make:



Hypocrites!! When we live according to the world, it is seen by all. We may profess to be believers, but we live our lives like unbelievers.

The more these men 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.

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** (the heart here really means the mind.) To be pure from MAS.

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, (legalism). The Pharisees wanted to impress God with their spirituality. These men even wore small bells on their priestly garments, so all would know they were present. How arrogant!

This is not what God wants from any of us.

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 honor 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 said this to the Galatian church.

Gal. 1:6-17

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!

accursed - ἀνάθεμα anathema - (someone or something intensely disliked or loathed resulting in a ban, solemnly pronounced by ecclesiastical authority and accompanied by excommunication)

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.

2 times Paul emphasized that this type of man should be accursed.

Are you trying to impress God with your own good works, absent from Christ?

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....

What type little bells do you use to try to impress God? You are only impressing men. God knows your inner self.

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

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.

Are you trusting God? Do you have a relationship with Him? Are you praying to Him and telling Him

about what is going on in your life? Yes, He knows. But wants you to come to Him.

For unbelievers - we are all 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 when we do. 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. We can have a personal relationship with the God that created everything, including us.