

Lesson 12 | February 20, 2022

Reject Deceivers and Demonic Doctrines

Study Text: 1 Timothy 4:1–5; 2 Peter 2:1–22; Jude 1:3–25

Central Truth: Christians are to contend for the faith through God’s Word in the power of Jesus Christ.

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 4:1

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 (KJV).

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students should comprehend the danger of false teaching.
- Students should identify characteristics of false teachers to watch for as they live out their faith.
- Students should be challenged to examine their attitudes toward false teachings and commit to increasing their understanding of spiritual truth in Scripture.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: In a world where we hear many conflicting messages, all claiming to be true, it is important that we know how to distinguish truth from falsehood. Our walk with Jesus Christ depends on knowing and believing the truth about God and His plan of salvation. Satan will try to deceive us, so we must be able to recognize his attempts at deception.

Some people are easily talked out of believing the Gospel because they have never been talked into believing the Gospel.

<https://crossexamined.org> “I Don’t have enough faith to be an atheist.” Dr. Frank Turek

Don’t eat and swim. Chances for cramps increase. (A full stomach makes you short of breath. Alcohol is the biggest risk factor.)

Adding salt makes water boil quicker. (It actually could take longer for the water to boil.)

Dogs sweat by panting. (Actually they regulate temperature by panting. They sweat through their footpads.)

Birds have a limited sense of smell so they won’t abandon a baby bird because they have human smell on them by being touched.

Opening Activity—Is It True?

Have each student come up with a fact about themselves that might be true or might be untrue. (You may want to tell them about this before class so they can think of something.) Have each of them share their fact, then discuss or vote on whether they think that fact is true.

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Say: Sometimes the truth can be difficult to discern, even when we know the person or situation that is under examination. This is often true in the Christian realm, as false teachers—with charismatic personalities and appealing teachings that defy biblical truth—threaten the spiritual well-being of believers. Today's lesson will examine that reality. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

What is truth? **Some people can look right at truth and miss it.** Pilate asked Jesus this question just before the Lord was crucified (John 18:38). Earlier, Jesus had declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6). Pilate failed to recognize truth even while looking Him in the eyes. Still today, people are searching for truth yet clinging to lies. As Christians, we must not be deceived. In a world of falsehoods, it is our duty to recognize, defend, and preach the true message of Jesus Christ.

Jesus taught in parables. Only those who listened carefully caught truth. What can cause us not to listen carefully?

Part 1—Destructive Doctrines

Resist Deception

1 Timothy 4:1–5

[1Ti 4:1-5 KJV] 1 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; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Say: Many of the early false teachers that Paul warned against were not trying to keep people from believing in Jesus. Instead, they were trying to add their own regulations that were not in line with the Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Early Church faced its share of challenges. Throughout the Roman world, Christians were persecuted for their faith. Yet opposition from the outside was not the biggest peril facing the Church. Paul's greatest concern was a looming evil that threatened to slip in among believers and wreak havoc from the inside (1 Timothy 4:1–2). Leaders who had been followers of Christ would depart from the faith. They would be seduced by evil spirits and become entangled in the snares of doctrinal error. They would abandon the gospel to teach lies and perversions that would lead others astray with them.

This should be a sobering prospect for every believer. When we cease to be led by the truths of God, we open ourselves to Satan's lies. Staying close to God through obedience, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers is crucial for avoiding spiritual deception.

Paul went on to describe how false teachers distorted the gospel by making rules not prescribed by Jesus or the apostles. Among other things, they forbade Christians from marrying or eating certain foods (verses 3–5). The rationale behind these restrictions probably came from a belief, common in parts of Greek philosophy, that all physical matter is inherently evil. This philosophy teaches that by avoiding physical pleasures such as those afforded by marriage and certain foods, a person could earn divine favor. These restrictions contradict Scripture (1 Corinthians 7:28; 8:8; Colossians 2:20–23).

A relationship with Jesus Christ brings a transformation that should affect our entire being, from our thoughts and words to our priorities and actions. **Realizing what Christ did for us can be a powerful incentive to follow Him wholeheartedly. There is a vast difference, however, between obeying God's commands and following a list of human-made regulations. We have the Bible to show us what kind of lifestyle God has called us to live, and He has given us the Holy Spirit to empower us in living that way.**

Discuss

? What do you think causes a follower of Christ to stray from the truth?

? How do you make decisions about what is proper or improper regarding your lifestyle?

Recognize Subtle Deception

2 Peter 2:1–3

[2Pe 2:1-22 KJV] **1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4** For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous [are they], selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty,

they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Say: Some falsehoods are easy to identify. Unfortunately, those are often not the lies the enemy of our souls tries to get us to believe. The most dangerous falsehoods are those that contain just enough truth to sound plausible. Such deceivers may even quote the Bible, as Satan did when he tempted Jesus. Most deceivers are themselves deceived. They believe they are right, and they sound convincing. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

False teaching is not new. As far back as the Garden of Eden, Satan has used deception to twist God's clear commands and tempt people. Adam fell into the sin with Eve, and the human race has been paying the price ever since.

Peter's reference to false teachers in 2 Peter 2:1–3 shows that their deception is nothing new. False prophets led the people of Israel astray. In a similar way, false teachers were in the Early Church and led people away from the truth of the gospel (verse 1).

It is important to acknowledge the power of false teaching and recognize its true danger. False teachers are capable of leading many people away from the truth (verse 2). When those who once followed the gospel become entangled in the sinful lifestyle encouraged through false teaching, their public example brings disgrace on the way of truth.

Peter also identified human greed—a common root of many sins—as a driving force behind false teaching (verse 3). **False teachers are focused on their own gain and are willing to fool people for the benefit of themselves. Some false teachers are deceived and truly believe they are right in what they teach.**

While we certainly acknowledge Peter's principles for recognizing false teachings as relevant today, we also note another common factor. A major characteristic of some modern false teachings is the complete devotion of followers to a leader. The members direct their strength and resources to satisfy the leader's demands. Such leaders misuse Scripture to justify their actions.

Resource Packet Item 1: Profile of a Deceiver

Distribute the work sheet and ask for a volunteer to read each of the Scripture passages aloud. Discuss the characteristics of a deceiver as revealed in these passages.

Discuss

? How can we recognize false teachings?

? What are some common forms of false teaching today, and how can we prepare to reject such teachings?

Part 2—Depravity of False Teachers

Arrogant People Who Claim Authority

Jude 1:8–11

[Jde 1:5-11 KJV] 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. **8 Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.**

Say: Jude devoted a significant portion of his short letter to the subject of false teachers. He also offered Old Testament examples to help his readers understand. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Jude 1:8–11 offers a vivid description of the false teachers, including the nature of their sins as well as the way in which they conducted their deception. **The false teachers indulged in a variety of sins, which they may have justified by claiming to have had their practices endorsed by God through dreams (verse 8). The nature of their sin was threefold, representing some of the most common deceptions that**

threaten believers even today: sexual indulgence and perversion, the rejection of the lordship of God over their lives, and an arrogant dismissal of spiritual forces.

Jude's example can be difficult to fully understand, as the incident it describes does not appear in the Old Testament. However, verse 9 sheds much light on its meaning. Michael is a high-ranking and glorious angel. Yet he refused to use slanderous words against Satan during a dispute with Satan, choosing instead to rebuke him in the name of the Lord. **Michael recognized Satan's profound wickedness but would not speak judgment on him, choosing instead to leave judgment to God. Unlike Michael, the false teachers were characterized by arrogance and presumptive attitudes toward the spiritual realm.**

Jude further exposed their pride in verses 10–11. **Combining arrogance with ignorance, they did not understand the spiritual realm, thus had no concept of the judgment they were heaping on themselves. Specifically, these false teachers were compared to Cain, who tried to make an offering on his own terms and was rejected by God. Balaam, who is mentioned second, was moved by greedy motives. Korah, the final individual referenced, rebelled against the authority of Moses and of God. Like Korah, these deceivers would meet with God's judgment for their evil ways.** (See Genesis 4:1–7; Numbers 22–24; 16:1–35.)

Discuss

? What do you know about Cain, Balaam, and Korah that might help you understand what is meant by deception?

? Note the three-fold nature of the deceivers' sins in Jude 1:8. How might this compare to deceptive teachings we hear today?

Following the Way of Judgment

Jude 1:12–16

[Jde 1:12-16 KJV] 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds [they are] without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after

their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling [words], having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Say: False teachers will face judgment, as will those who follow their evil teachings. Jude offered clear illustrations of the destructiveness false teachers have on the church. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Upon announcing their impending judgment, Jude continued to describe the corrupt character of the false teachers (Jude 1:12–13). Note that they selfishly cared for themselves, imperiling God's people. Theirs was the way of judgment.

The love feasts, mentioned in verse 12, were fellowship meals that accompanied the celebration of the Lord's Supper. These events were a powerful symbol of the love and spiritual unity characterizing the Early Church. The false teachers brazenly participated in these events despite their immoral lives and deceptive teachings. Jude called them "spots" (verse 12, KJV) or "dangerous reefs" (NLT). This is translated from a rare word in the Bible that in other usage is rendered "reefs," pointing toward a possible wordplay by Jude. **Some commentators note that the false teachers presented themselves as "rocks" or "pillars of the community" when in fact they hid their spiritual treachery, leaving unwise and careless Christians in danger of disaster, as a ship imperiled by a hidden reef.**

Jude described the fate of the false teachers with an example not found in the Old Testament but described in the apocryphal book of Enoch. It is important to note that while this book is not part of Scripture, we can attest to its accuracy on this specific point because Jude used it in Scripture.

The example concerns Enoch (verses 14–16), a man who lived seven generations after Adam and walked so close to God that he went to heaven without dying (Genesis 5:23–24). This prophet, who lived near the very beginnings of human history, prophesied of the Lord's judgment (Jude 1:15–16). Enoch's prophecy reminds us that wickedness was destined to be judged from the very beginning.

Discuss

? Jude 1:19 says that these deceivers would specifically set out to cause division. Why do you think division is such a destructive danger to the body of Christ?

? In what sense is it appropriate to refer to Communion as a love feast?

Resource Packet Item 2: Deceived

Distribute the case study and have someone read it aloud, then discuss it as a class. Or, divide your class into small groups and have them read and discuss it.

Part 3—Contend for the Faith We Are Called To Persevere

Jude 1:3–4,19–21

[Jde 1:3-4; 17-21 KJV] 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. **19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

Say: While Jude warned strongly against the false teachers, he also encouraged his readers by giving them positive ways to protect themselves and grow in their faith. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Jude wrote to a wide audience of Christians, urging them to contend for the faith (Jude 1:3). Jude had laid aside his original purpose for writing after hearing that aggressive opponents of the gospel had infiltrated the church. It was critical that his readers aggressively resist them. The word “contend” draws from an image of a military battle or athletic contest. It describes an active, intense, ongoing struggle. In this case, Christians were to actively engage their opponents to preserve the truth of the gospel.

Jude reminded Christians that the presence of false teaching is inevitable; it had been prophesied by the apostles (Jude 1:17–18; see Acts 20:29–30; 1 Timothy 1:3; 2 Peter 3:2). Jesus himself declared that His followers would be confronted by this problem (Matthew 7:15–20). False teachings are the product of carnal people led by their own desires. Furthermore, these people do not have the Spirit in their lives (Jude 1:19). The presence of the Spirit is a fundamental sign of a Christian. But false teachers bring confusion, deception, and division to the body of Christ.

In answer to the danger, Jude offered positive exhortations to Christians (verses 20–21). He recognized that they would persevere in the faith if they went beyond focusing on false teachers. They needed to take positive steps, building one another up in the faith. Christians can help one another stay strong by reminding each other of scriptural truth and encouraging each other to grow in the Lord.

Jude's second encouragement was also foundational: praying in the Spirit (verse 20). Christians are to be people of the Spirit, for through the Spirit they find strength to stay strong in the Lord and oppose the enemies of faith. With the Spirit's help, they will remain in Christ as they focus on the hope of eternal rewards granted at the return of Christ (verse 21).

Resource Packet Item 3: Faith Building

Distribute the work sheet and have students work in groups of two or three to fill it out. Then have them share responses, writing them on the board.

Discuss

? How would you define the phrase "contend for the faith," and what specific ways will contending for the faith impact your life?

? How would you describe how the hope of eternal rewards impacts your life, including the way you think and act every day?

We Are Called to Rescue the Perishing

Jude 1:22–25

[Jde 1:22-25 KJV] 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Say: We are responsible for one another, not as judges but as merciful rescuers. We must not ignore the effects of false teachings on our brothers and sisters. Instead, **let us show mercy for the individuals without accepting their sins.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Jude 1:22 provides good practical advice on how to respond when fellow believers are struggling with the consequences of false teaching. **Jude recognized that there would be Christians who were confused by false teachers, even to the point of doubting matters of faith. The proper response in this situation is not condemnation but mercy. Some might be inclined to shun them, or even expel them from the church. But by showing them their error and lovingly leading them back to the truth, the doubter can be snatched "from the flames of judgment" (verse 23, NLT). One commentator likens this to snatching a child away from a hot stove.**

However, Jude also noted that there were others who had become more deeply entrenched in false teaching (verse 23b). Perhaps they had begun to adopt the doctrines or even the ungodly lifestyles of the false teachers. In such situations,

Christians should respond in mercy mixed with a healthy fear (verse 23a, KJV). “Fear” here is rooted in a recognition that these individuals have become defiled by dabbling in the sins of the false teachers. Christians must be repulsed by such sin, recognizing it to be nothing more than filth and deserving of total rejection. The principle here is that of protecting oneself from sin, maintaining a revulsion toward sin, and doing everything possible to rescue the endangered person from judgment (see also Galatians 6:1).

Jude’s doxology, which closes the book in verses 24–25, is rich in encouragement. God gives Christians everything necessary to overcome the world and serve Him faithfully. **He watches over His people like a sentry who stands guard in wartime, providing wisdom and power to overcome error with truth. He enriches the lives of His people with the glorious hope of one day being presented faultless before Him. As a result, despite its many challenges, the Christian life is filled with rejoicing in the glory and majesty of the Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Discuss

? How should we respond to people who are struggling in their faith today?

? What does Jude’s doxology in 1:24–25 tell us about the Christian life and the nature of God?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: Have you ever been confronted by a false teaching? Maybe someone has tried to persuade you to believe something you knew to be scripturally false and spiritually destructive. How did you react? There is a tendency to be attracted to charismatic personalities. One might even be inclined to believe them because they are insistent and persuasive. But false teaching must not be taken lightly, for it will lead you astray. Ultimately, it promotes a path that leads to destruction. Pray that God will help you discern error, remain committed to truth, and take a strong stand against false teachers.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Encourage students to commit themselves to biblical truth.
- Help students prepare for those times when they may need to help a fellow believer deal with the error and deception of false teaching.
- Pray that God will give students a deep love and desire for Scripture and prayer, preparing them for the challenges of living for Christ every day.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Purge the Evil Among You.
Deuteronomy 13:1–5

[Deu 13:1-5 KJV] 1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come

to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. 5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn [you] away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

Tuesday:

Divine Punishment on False Prophets.
Jeremiah 14:14–16

[Jer 14:14-16 KJV] 14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. 15 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed. 16 And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them.

Wednesday:

Spiritual Darkness of False Prophets.
Micah 3:5–7

[Mic 3:5-7 KJV] 5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him. 6 Therefore night [shall be] unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them. 7 Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for [there is] no answer of God.

Thursday:

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing.
Matthew 7:15–20

[Mat 7:15-20 KJV] 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so

every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Friday:

Ignorance of False Teachers.

1 Timothy 1:3–7

[1Ti 1:3-7 KJV] 3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: [so do]. 5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

Saturday:

Corruption of False Teachers.

Titus 1:10–16

[Tit 1:10-16 KJV] 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. 12 One of themselves, [even] a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians [are] always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. 13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; 14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. 15 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. 16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Charles Spurgeon on the Holy Spirit. "Common, too common is the sin of forgetting the Holy Spirit. This is folly and ingratitude. He deserves well at our hands, for He is good, supremely good. As God, He is good essentially. He shares in the threefold ascription of Holy, holy, holy, which ascends to the Triune Jehovah. Unmixed purity and truth, and grace is He. He is good benevolently, tenderly bearing with our waywardness, striving with our rebellious wills; quickening us from our death in sin, and then training us for the skies as a loving nurse fosters her child. How generous, forgiving, and tender is this patient Spirit of God. He is good operatively. All His works are good in the most eminent degree: He suggests good thoughts, prompts good actions, reveals good truths, applies good promises, assists in good attainments, and leads to good results. There is no spiritual good in all the world of which He is not the author and sustainer, and heaven

itself will owe the perfect character of its redeemed inhabitants to His work. He is good officially; whether as Comforter, Instructor, Guide, Sanctifier, Quickener, or Intercessor, He fulfils His office well, and each work is fraught with the highest good to the church of God. They who yield to His influences become good, they who obey His impulses do good, they who live under His power receive good. Let us then act towards so good a person according to the dictates of gratitude. Let us revere His person, and adore Him as God over all, blessed for ever; let us own His power, and our need of Him by waiting upon Him in all our holy enterprises; let us hourly seek His aid, and never grieve Him; and let us speak to His praise whenever occasion occurs. The church will never prosper until more reverently it believes in the Holy Ghost. He is so good and kind, that it is sad indeed that He should be grieved by slights and negligences.”