

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

A Good Watchdog

**Titus 1:10-16**

Lesson 12

There is nothing like having a good watchdog! They are loyal and fearless as they faithfully watch for intruders and warn you of any imposing danger. Well, Paul warned Titus that he would need to have that same persistent diligence in watching over the house of God! Like Timothy, Titus was faced with the dilemma of false teachers creeping into the church and misleading God's people. These false teachers told lies, acted rebelliously and disrespected the authority within the church. Titus was firmly instructed to stand guard and ward off any of these "unruly and vain talkers and deceivers" (v. 10).

Paul warned Titus that these false teachers would try to put the churches of Crete in bondage with all sorts of rules and regulations. Their only goal was to make money and their love for money overruled their consciences so much so that they thought nothing of taking advantage of the church. Paul wrote to Titus so that he would not be caught off guard. In his letter, Paul exhorts Titus not to stand quietly by, but to fight off false teaching with the truth of God's Word and to appoint qualified leaders to help him stop these deceivers.

Even today, false teachers abound and there are deceivers at every turn all too ready to take advantage of weak believers. Beware Christians! Stand guard against the enemies of the cross. Hold fast to God's Word and use it as your powerful weapon to defend yourself and your loved ones. Never forget that Satan is a relentless enemy who attempts to wear us down by throwing lie after lie against us. But, God who dwells in us is greater. No weapon Satan uses against us will be effective if we hold fast to the truth. Pray that God's Holy Spirit will watch over your life and quicken you if you begin to wander from the truth. Make a solid commitment to keep the scriptures at the very center of your life as you fight the good fight of faith.

**Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer**

**This Week's Scripture: Titus 1:10-16**

*"For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, <sup>11</sup>whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. <sup>12</sup>One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." <sup>13</sup>This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup>not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. <sup>15</sup>To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. <sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work." NKJV*

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

***"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."***

***Titus 1:15***

**Insubordinate:** defiant of authority; disobedient to orders.

1. According to our passage and the definition above, we see that there were those who were causing trouble in the church at Crete. Besides "insubordinate", what are the other two characteristics mentioned in verse 10 that describe these troublemakers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Look up 2 Peter 2:1-3 and answer the following questions.
  - a. Where are these deceivers found? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What do they do in secret? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What is the result of their heresies? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What will happen to the insubordinate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”*

*– Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:15-20)*

### **Group Discussion**

In 2 Peter 2:1, Jesus tells us there are false teachers and prophets among us who we must beware of. According to the passage from Matthew above, how can we identify these people in a practical sense? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do false teachers behave the way they do, according to verse 11 of this week’s scripture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a. As faithful believers, we have to be good watchdogs who guard sound doctrine. Using all of the above scriptures, why do you think it is so important that false teachers be stopped? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This quote from verse 12 can be difficult to understand. How can a whole ethnic race be this way? Ancient writers and philosophers agreed with this assessment regarding the Cretans. Apparently, this was the cultural norm for the people of Crete of this time. These habits were passed down from generations. Titus had the difficult task of teaching them the truth and he had to trust the Holy Spirit to then show them a much better way. How did Paul encourage Titus to treat these Cretans (v. 13-14)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“The essence of lying is in deception, not in words; a lie may be told by silence, by equivocation, by the accent on a syllable, by a glance of the eye attaching a peculiar significance to a sentence.”*

*– John Ruskin (1819–1900)*

*“Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted.” Titus 1:15 NLT*

5. According to Ephesians 4:22-24, how are we corrupted and how do we prevent ourselves from being corrupted? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a. Personal - How about you? Are you willing to do what this scripture says in order to remain pure and uncorrupted? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Verse 16 of this week’s scripture says the rebellious people claim they know God, but they deny Him by the way they live. Refer to a dictionary to define the following terms that are used to describe these people.

a. Abominable: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Disobedient: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Disqualified: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. As a good watchdog of the body of believers, why do you think these rebellious people have been disqualified for every good work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



