

Pastoral Letters (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) – Lesson 4 Workbook

False Teachers

1 Timothy 1:1-11

1. According to verse 3, what is Timothy's job in Ephesus?

2. What does Paul call these doctrines in verse 6?

3. Why do these people do these things (see verse 7)?

4. Verse 4 says that these things distract from the ministry of the Gospel. How can this be?

1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. What does this passage say will happen in "later times"?

2. What false teachings does Paul mention in verse 3?

3. What do these teachings mean to do?

1 Timothy 6:3-5

1. According to verse 3, what is the standard of truth?

2. What does verse 4 say about a person who teaches false doctrine?

3. In what does Paul say people who do this are interested?

4. What is the result of this false teaching in verses 4-5?

5. Would you have thought false teachings could be so damaging? Why/why not?

Titus 1:10-16

1. How does Paul describe the false teachers with whom Titus deals?

2. According to Titus, what were these false teachers causing?

A Serious Concern

1. Why do you think, in all these passages, false teaching is dealt with so seriously?

2. How can teaching the wrong things about the Gospel damage the church's mission?

3. Do you think false teaching is real in the church today?

4. In what forms do you think it exists?

5. How can we know a certain teaching is false?

Homework

- Memorize 1 Titus 1:16
- Pray that God will help you be able to discern false teachings, and be able to expose them for what they are.
- Visit your church library, or a Christian bookstore and read one or more books about defending your faith against false teachings.

(Workbook for lesson 4 continued on next page)

False Doctrines

Decide if the following doctrines are Scriptural or not. Prepare to defend your position with Scripture.

Doctrine #1

The Bible identifies Jehovah as the only true God. (Psalm 83:18; John 17:3) The prophet Isaiah recorded God's own words when he said: "Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none. I—I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior."—Isaiah 43:10, 11.

The Scriptures do at times refer to actual persons as gods. However, a careful examination clearly reveals that the term "god" in these instances is not intended to designate these individuals as deities. Rather, in the original languages in which the Bible was written, the term "god" was also used to describe a mighty person or an individual who is divine or closely associated with the Almighty God.

For example, some Bible verses allude to Jesus Christ as a god. (Isaiah 9:6, 7; John 1:1, 18) Does this mean that Jesus is to be worshiped? Jesus himself said: "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service." (Luke 4:8) Clearly, although Jesus is mighty in power and divine in nature, the Bible does not portray him as an object of worship.

- Do you consider that doctrine Scriptural? Why/why not?
- Do you believe it is true? Why/why not?

Doctrine #2

Faith in Jesus Christ and repentance prepare you for baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ taught by example that everyone must be baptized of water and of the Spirit (the Holy Ghost) for the remission, or forgiveness, of sins. Through baptism by one who holds priesthood authority and through receiving the Holy Ghost, you can be spiritually reborn.

When you have repented, and are baptized and confirmed by one with the priesthood authority given by God, you receive a remission of your sins (Acts 2:38). You make a covenant, or promise, with God to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, to follow Him, and to keep His commandments. In return, He promises to forgive your sins and let you return to live with Him, provided you keep your covenants. You are briefly immersed in water, as Jesus Christ was baptized. Baptism by immersion is a sacred symbol of the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it represents the end of your old life and the beginning of a new life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We must be baptized to become members of the restored Church - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - and to eventually enter the kingdom of heaven. This ordinance is a law of God and must be performed by His authority. A bishop or mission president must give a priesthood holder permission to perform a baptism or confirmation.

- Do you consider that doctrine Scriptural? Why/why not?
- Do you believe it is true? Why/why not?

Doctrine #3

There is one Creator God. He is one. Angels and demons are real, and we should revere the prophets of God. Jesus was a true prophet of God, born of a virgin, who will come back again someday. Human nature is good and evil, and we have equal ability to do both. Those who die in good standing with God will be rewarded with eternal paradise. Those who do not will suffer in an eternal hell. Jesus did not rise from the dead, however, and in fact did not even die on the cross. One of his disciples died in his place. We are saved by correct belief, doing good deeds, and by living by the Five Pillars.

- Do you consider that doctrine Scriptural? Why/why not?
- Do you believe it is true? Why/why not?
