

A Practical Study of Titus
Growth Toward Godliness
“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”

**Study Number Three – The Perversion of Godliness –
Titus 1:10-16**

This series of studies is Growth Toward Godliness.

Now where've we been? In the very first verse of chapter 1 we looked at the PROCESS of Godliness.

It is from FAITH to TRUTH, which produces GODLINESS.

Faith—Food—Fruit. The three F's.

When I take the Word of God into my life, like a newborn babe takes milk:

“I desire the sincere milk of the word” (1 Pet. 2:2, 3) “I grow thereby.”

It is the reception of truth into my life that produces godliness.

So I'll have to say with that:

as you hunger so you're going to grow.

I've have to say with that:

an authentic new birth experience will be accompanied with a healthy appetite for the Word of God.

Now when I don't take in the Word of God, there are **NEGATIVE RESULTS**. And today's picture is negative.

I mean the apostle showed you last week a picture of what it looked like. He gave you 15 characteristics of the godly life.

It was kind of fun to study that because some of you said "hey that's not too bad after all. I don't know, I think I'd kind of like being godly."

It's because we've seen so many perverted pictures of godliness, people who say they are or people who are self-righteous, or people who are looking down their noses at others and in the process are really just trying to defend their own empty lives in order to cover it up. And we don't like that. We can't relate to that because that isn't real.

And the picture that Paul gives here to Titus, these fifteen characteristics of the godly life, are great. And then we really can see how God can work in a life and produce these fantastic results and we begin to get excited about that happening in our lives.

Then that brought us to what we're going to look at in verses 10-16, which I have called:

the PERVERSION of godliness.

Paul warned Timothy very seriously in two passages:

one in 1 Timothy and

another in 2 Timothy

about people in the last days living in the following fashion.

In 1 Timothy chapter 4 he says:

1 Timothy 4:1, 2

The Spirit explicitly is saying that in the latter times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and to teachings of demons, by the hypocritical preaching of liars, seared in their own conscience with a red-hot branding iron.

And then in his last letter that he wrote in chapter 3, just before he concluded his letter to Timothy he says this:

2 Timothy 3:1-4

Mark this, there will be terrible times in the last days. People will love themselves, they'll be lovers of money, they will be boastful and proud and abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love,

unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, they will be brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...

And then this last phrase is so interesting:

2 Timothy 3:5

having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

In other words, everything is external. Everything's on the surface. Everything is said with the lips but there isn't a great deal of validity in the light.

And you know, people can tell whether you're just talking a game or whether you're really living it.

And my challenge to you is not to look for some instant way of becoming godly through doing something but to become godly by following the principles of scripture.

It's going to take longer. Sure it might seem that way from your point of view, but it'll be genuine and far more fruitful when the results are finally all in.

Everything else is going to be a work of the flesh and it's going to be sound and fury signifying nothing. Whereas the work of the Spirit of God in a person's life as he relates to divine truth, begins to really grow and develop the qualities that we looked at in the picture last week.

Now we've seen the PROCESS, we've seen the PICTURE. Why the PERVERSION? It's in today's study.

If you'll pick up with me at verse 10 you'll begin to see it.

You have a homemade translation of the Greek text [see STUDY GUIDE] there so just kind of use it to follow along and mark on it. It's yours to take home with you after you get through.

v.10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Now when a verse starts with the little word "For" it is always a REASON for something that has just been said before it.

In the last verse of last week's study, the last thing Paul told Titus to do on the Island of Crete—remember?—was to:

Titus 1:9

cling to the trustworthy message...

Which was able to build him up, which was in accordance with the teachings of the apostle.

And I gave you the picture of a tug-o-war. Hang on against the pressures of everybody trying to pull it away from you. You're going to be out there. They're going to be people who are going to

disagree with you. They're going to be opposed to what you're teaching. But Titus, whatever you do, hang on to the Word of God. Cling to it. Against all the pressures of everybody around you, why? The reason is right here in verse 10.

“there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers...”

Now he characterizes these fellows in three ways but he says they're mostly from “the circumcision.” What does that mean?

That means they're mostly Jews.

Now that doesn't mean that he's down on the Jews because he himself is one.

But let me just tell you what happened under the apostle's ministry. Many times he would go into a location and he'd begin to preach the gospel that Christ was the Messiah, He was the Savior of the world. And the Jews rejected that message. They hated him for preaching it.

But even after they became Christians, some of them they said salvation by faith is not enough. You've got to keep the Law. You've got to live by the 10 commandments and the golden rule. All the men have to be circumcised as an indication of their devotion and commitment to this.

Now why are they continuing to do that since the Jerusalem council has already met and said that it is salvation by faith

and by faith alone when the person receives the gift in the Lord Jesus Christ? When he invites Christ into his life, then he becomes a child of God. Salvation is a gift from a Father who is ready to give that gift to those who will respond by faith and receive the gift.

Well, he says they are first of all:

1. “rebellious men.”

Now I want to make a statement here that I want you to think about.

You know in the first study I said there is no such thing as an undisciplined godly person. Well I’m ready to make another statement in view of the fact that we’re going to see it when we get to chapter 3:

There is no such thing as a godly rebel.

A person who is godly has learned to live with another authority in his life. And when we get to chapter 3 you’re going to see that as one of the critical points.

If I am godly, I have learned to live comfortably with divine authority in my life.

In other words, a person who is still rebellious, still wanting to do their own thing and living their own way are never going to

cooperate and know the joy of submitting to God’s way of doing things.

Isaiah the prophet said through divine inspirations the Lord spoke:

Isaiah 55:8-9

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” sayeth the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

The godly person has learned that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are better than our thoughts. And when we feel ourselves open to those two possibilities, we make fantastic progress and we are tremendous candidates for seeing godliness result in a quality of genuine authenticity of lifestyle.

So first, we need to realize that the Father is looking for people who are willing to be submissive and obedient.

Submissive to His authority and His right to call the plays in your life, but also obedient to what He asks us to do through truth to produce the godly life.

He says these fellows that are coming behind are, first of all:

1. “rebellious men”

And you're going to see in just a minute, they're not very godly either.

Secondly, they are:

2. "empty talkers"

Paul says they are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Have you heard people like that? They can talk for hours on end but they never say anything.

And they can talk all the way around an issue but they never get to the main point of the thing. And so, you never really get anything from them.

Their talking is void of anything relevant. It is **EMPTY TALKING**—they talk a lot but they never say anything.

And third he says they are:

3. "deceivers"

Now the first ones they deceive are themselves.

"If anyone says they have no sin in them"—1 John 1:8 says—"we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

But the tragedy of it all is they deceive others.

Second Corinthians chapter 11 says:

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such a false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading themselves as the apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades himself as an angel of light. It is not surprising then if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. And their end will be what their actions actually deserve.

These false teachers that are going to give Titus the problem and he's got to cling to truth while they're teaching their position are "rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers."

Listen to the J.B. Phillips paraphrase he just says it so well:

"there are many, especially among the Jews, who will not recognize my authority, who talk nonsense, and yet in so doing they have managed to deceive the minds of men."

And basically that's what he's warning Titus about. These are the people that he's going to have to deal with and he's going to have to take a stand against on the island of Crete who are going to have disrupt and actually render ineffective the ministry that he's having in the teaching of truth to these people.

Now notice verse 11.

v.11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things which they should not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

That first word “who must be silenced”—that’s the only time that occurs in the Greek text.

That’s the word for “putting a bridle on it.” That is making them ineffective in being able to speak.

I think Paul is saying to Titus “wouldn’t it be great if some of these teachers on the island of Crete who are so rebellious and who talk empty nonsense and are deceiving others could have a double hamstring of the tongue.” They’d be bridled. They’d be silenced so they wouldn’t continue to be doing two things.

And you’ll notice the two things they’re doing. This just scares the liver out of you when you think about this for just a second. What are they doing?

1. “they are upsetting whole families” and
2. they are doing this for “dishonest gain.”

Now I’ve got some things to say about that, “upsetting whole families” but also for “dishonest gain.”

“Got to take another offering. We didn’t get enough in the first

one.”

“And with tears in our eyes, we’ll get on the television and for 30 minutes we’ll beg for funds for a project that God told us to do. And we’ll even send you a sanctified piece of rope or a lawn chair or something else if you’ll just write in, right now. And in fact, we’ll even send you an autographed picture of Jesus Christ if you want it. If you’ll just send in \$5 to help us and supporting our program.”

I’m going to make a statement right now that you might not agree with, but boy it’s really gotten home to me. And that is, when a man has to start to talk about money you better scrutinize his ministry. Because it is not the man of God’s responsibility to fleece the flock, but to feed it. Not to milk it, but to minister to it.

And there are a lot of guys running around doing that very thing under the guise even of conservative Christianity today, spending time in dishonest gain and ministering to their own comfort.

Titus is going to face it on the island of Crete. Believers need to recognize that it is about us.

Now, a man then who has to talk about these things is a man whose ministry needs to be scrutinized. I’m ready to make about 3 or 4 statements with regard to true and false godliness right now.

True godliness is always the result of God's work.
False godliness is the result of man's work.

The truly godly person is going to minister to the unity of the family.

For a child who comes to know Christ by faith and begins to learn how to submit to the authority of a heavenly Father doesn't have a great deal of difficulty implementing that on the horizontal level and learning how to live in a family relationship. He should be a better child if truth is being taught.

True godliness is a result of God's work. False godliness is a result of man's work.

Do you realize that's exactly the same in salvation?

True salvation is a result of God's work in answer to your faith. False godliness is good works or false salvation trying to gain my acceptance into the presence of God.

Now I'm ready to say that on financial matters. A man who is concerned about works in godliness and works in religion has to look to man to meet his material needs. The guy who is walking with God really looks to his heavenly Father to supply his needs because He knows what they are.

And I put Philippians 4 right there. Paul says:

“You Philippians forgot about me, but it wasn’t because you forgot, it’s just that you hadn’t had an occasion. I thank you for remembering that.”

Evidently he’d been praying about his financial needs and they remembered and they answered him with a generous gift to meet his needs. And he can say then “I’m ready for anything through the strength of the One who indwells me.” (Phil. 4:13)

“I’ve learned to be hungry and I’ve learned to be full. I’ve learned to go without and I’ve learned to have abundance. And right now the Lord is blessed because of your gift and I thank you for it.” (Phil. 4:12)

But there is no issue in Paul’s ministry or anybody else’s in the Scripture, as far as I can tell, of making an issue about raising funds and having to have support a ministry which they involved in, because they are looking to the Lord and not to man.

Verse 12.

v.12 A certain one of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

Now sometimes when you really want to tell people what you want to tell them, the best thing you can do is to quote one of their own. And Paul has read enough of the poets and of the

writers of the day—the philosophers—that he picks out a statement from Epimenides who was the 6th century B.C. philosopher, well respected by the people on the island of Crete. And he pulls a statement of his writings and uses it under divine inspiration here in the text to describe these people on the island of Crete.

And he says:

“Cretans are liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

Now why are people like that? I want to say the reason they are like that is because of the absence of truth.

Their religion is spoken with the lips. They confess it. But they don't live it.

And the therapy that the apostle is going to give to Titus, as far as a program strategy, is to teach truth. You're going to see it in the very next verse in just a minute.

But I want to land on those three words for a minute. They are:

“liars”—in other words, they're dishonest. You can't trust them.

They are:

“evil beasts”—what does that mean? Well they're selfish

and they're savage. They're concerned only for their own interests. A beast is only interested in its own comforts.

And animals are like that—inherently selfish. And as soon as they get through chowing down, where do they head? Into the middle of a chair or a bed and to sack out for the rest of the day. What a life! Total selfishness.

And so that is a good characteristic of these people evidently.

They're dishonest and they're selfish and savage. But that last phrase is really a cracker jack. I translated it in the Greek text as “lazy gluttons.” You could say “slow bellies”—would be another way of putting it.

But there is a better one that even I think communicates it far better and that is “unemployed stomachs.”

They evidently, on the island of Crete, had the food stamp program. I mean there were people who were unemployed and who still got hungry. And they had to be fed and they were not motivated to have an idea to go to work to earn, by an honest day's living, the food for their tables.

Paul talks about that in Philippians 3:18 and 19. He says:

Philippians 3:18-19

As I have also told you before, and now I say it again with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ, their

destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, for the glory in that which they should be ashamed of.

They are “unemployed stomachs.”

Now, if you put those three characteristics in layman’s terminology, we would say they are “untruthful,” they’re “selfish,” and they’re “pleasure-loving.”

They would rather just lay around and play and love pleasure rather than be involved in hard work in order to meet their own needs.

Now what do you do with people like that?

Verse 13.

v.13 This testimony is true. For this cause be rebuking them severely, in order that they may be sound in the faith,

“This testimony is true.”

Paul says: “I agree with it. Epimenides is right. Those people on Crete are like that. What are you going to do?”

“For this cause”—then Titus, this is your approach—“rebuke them severely,”—HOW?—“ in order that they may be sound in the faith,”

How are you going to do that? By presenting truth.

See when you present the truth of the Word of God, it's going to REBUKE, it's going to EXHORT, it's going to REARRANGE PRIORITIES, it's going to SHAPE THEM UP so that they become "sound in the faith."

I've got to make another couple of observations at this point.

The reason these people's lives are like that is because they've had NOT TEACHING OF TRUTH.

And the second observation that I want to make is turn that around and make it POSITIVE:

If truth is being presented, lives are being changed.

I mean, if in fact, we're studying truth tonight, and by the power of the Spirit as I have prayed that such would be the case, you're catching the message, you should go out different than when you came in.

Certainly should not be wasting your time by speaking what I think. But if it's in fact truth, it ought to do something to your life. The fact that I am teaching it and exposed to it myself, it ought to be changing my life. As I should demand change in yours as a result of exposure to truth, you should demand change in mine. There should be a deeper intensity and a greater love for Jesus Christ and a greater longing to serve

Him and to be effective for Him on the part of both of us, if in fact we are looking at truth.

The real reason there is such a lack on the island of Crete, a perversion of godliness, as we have seen is because these teachers are not teaching truth.

Truth produces godliness.

Godliness is the result of truth being presented.

You know how sometimes you're fighting for concepts and you're studying passages? I can never describe to you the experience I had with this verse when something really broke upon my thinking as I sat before the Lord.

I want to put this in the form of a question and if you've heard nothing else today, I want you to chew on this question for just a minute.

The question is as follows:

Could it be that the absence of honesty, love and hard work in America is the result of turning away from truth?

We have neglected divine truth that produces the godly life.

Now you'll see that in verse 14.

v.14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who are turning themselves away from the truth.

“not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who are”—WHAT?—“turning themselves away from the truth.”

There’s your KEY PHRASE to today’s study.

The reason those people are “rebellious...empty talkers and deceivers,” and the reason those people on the island of Crete are dishonest, selfish and pleasure-loving are because they have made the decision to turn away their ears “from the hearing of the truth.”

Why are they dishonest, selfish and unmotivated? Why are their personal lives a mess and cannot be borne up under close scrutiny? It’s because they’ve made a decision to turn away their ears “from the hearing of the truth.”

Notice verse 15.

v.15 All things are pure, to those who are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Why does he make mention of the “mind” and the “conscience” and of purity and impurity?

I struggled with that for some time. Then I realized the truth.

The apostle in many of his letters attributes poor conduct to the citadel of the mind.

It all goes back to what you think is what you are. Jesus said it.

Proverbs 23:7

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

And when you make a decision to turn away truth and you begin to think these things in your heart—of compromise, playboy philosophy, materialism—it then begins to produce the ugly lives that result and are picture of what's on the island of Crete.

When you compromise with divine truth, you'll always get negative results. But when you obey it, you'll always get positive results.

When we first come to know the Lord:

Isaiah 1:18

Come now and let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they'll be as white as snow; though they be read like crimson, they shall be as wool.

There is a purifying and cleansing process that takes place when I become a Christian but how do I continue to be washed?

John 15:3

You are now clean through the Word which I have spoken to you.

The Word of God is that cleansing agent. It is that which in fact produces godliness.

When you reside in truth—you memorize it, you meditate upon it, and you study it—it begins to filter into your mind. And as you think it, so you become.

That's why I believe that Psalm 119 is so fantastic. In verse 9 the psalmist says:

Psalm 119:9

Wherewith all shall a young man cleanse his way.

And then he turns around in verse 11 and he says:

Psalm 119:11

Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.

If I want a godly life, then I've got to begin to meditate, to memorize, and to fill my mind with the thoughts of the Word of God.

So then everything is pure to the man who is pure when it passes through that mind that is cleansed.

Sex is pure because it's in its right place. Money is pure because I don't love it. It is to be used to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ as it is provided.

As those things pass through my mind that have to do with my relationships to my fellow man, I manifest love rather than thinking bitter and resentful and competitive thoughts about him as a person.

But to the guy who doesn't take truth into his life, he defiles everything that passes through his mind. He goes with the pornographic playboy philosophy and he defiles sex and makes it ugly. He looks at money as the end of all things and so he consumes himself with materialism. In human relationships its get all you can get, you know, and walk over anybody you have to in order to get it.

And in the relationship to God it's exactly the same way with the pure in mind it doesn't make any difference how bad life becomes, God is permitting that and He's going to work it together for good and accomplish some good things in my life through it. But to the guy who is not walking with the Lord, every time something hits him on the blind side, he blames

God for it, becomes bitter and resentful and shrivels up and never becomes really a freed person from the events and circumstances that come into his life.

So this verse really makes a lot of sense.

David said:

Psalm 51:7, 10

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be white as snow.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

As a result of my walk with God, the purifying of the Word of God, purifies my mind and it is that mind that determines the conduct and the character.

Philippians 4:8 and 9 goes right there. Just stick it alongside and read it when you get home:

Philippians 4:8, 9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true and whatever is noble and right and pure and lovely, admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned and received or heard from me or seen in me, put it into practice and the God of peace will be with you.

It ought to be the goal of every person pursuing godliness to have a PURE MIND and UNDEFILED CONSCIENCE.

Acts 24:16 is your verse. Paul says:

Acts 24:16

Herein do I exercise myself to always have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men.

That's giving fertile soil for truth to come in and to produce the purity and the quality of life that we saw in last week's picture.

Now verse 16 is the last one for today and as I look at it with you, you're going to see the dichotomy. You're going to see the perversion of godliness.

v.16 They are confessing to know God, but by their deeds, they are denying Him, being detestable and disobedient, and with reference to every good work disapproved.

“They are confessing to know God,”—who are the “they”?

That's the rebellious men, the empty talkers and the deceivers.

That is the dishonest, selfish, pleasure-lovers on the island of

Crete.

“They are confession to know God, but by their deeds, they are denying Him, being detestable and disobedient, and with reference to every good work disapproved.”

You know people like that? “Hey, you know God?”

“Oh yeah, I know God. Yeah, back when I was six I accepted Jesus as Savior.”

But when you get in close, their lies will not bear up what their lips profess.

It's easy to say it! “Oh yeah, yeah I do.”

And realize that by their very lives they're nullifying what they're confessing with their lips.

Notice the D's in this passage? Four of them there:

1. “their DEEDS, they are DENYING Him” by them,

James 2 says:

James 2:26

Faith without works is dead.

A living faith will manifest itself in fruit in the life.

Secondly:

2. they are “DETESTABLE.” It means their lives are ugly.

Third:

3. they are “DISOBEDIENT.”

We’ve already learned they are rebellious against the Word. They don’t obey it.

And fourth:

1. they are “DISAPPROVED.”

Paul says:

“I treat my body roughly and I make it serve me, lest when I have preached to others, I myself might be disapproved or ordered to stand aside...” (1 Cor. 9:27)

Isn’t that something? These people are disobedience and their lives are detestable. And they are those who are eventually going to be disapproved.

Matthew chapter 7 says:

Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say unto Me on that day, “Lord, Lord, haven’t we done”...and I will say “depart from Me, I never knew you, you workers of iniquity.”

We’ve got to tell people that when they come to know Christ, that is the beginning of a beautiful relationship of getting to know their Lord. And as a result of getting to know their Lord through reading the truth of the Word of God, they become more like Him.

And one of the evidences of a new birth is a hunger for truth and the constantly changing life that is becoming more Christlike.

But it is so easy when we want to deny the process and when we want to not take the time to cultivate this relationship, to put on a big show in the flesh. And with our old nature, confess a lot of things with our lips that down deep in our hearts we know that God who sees all things, can really tell that we’re not being truthful. It’s all from the flesh. It’s a big show.

I say it’s high time we get close and we look at it. We begin to discern motives. And if a life won’t bear up under close scrutiny then you’ve got to question whether that person is teaching truth.

Our goal ought to be pure minds and a clear conscience before God and before our fellow men, and to be those who walk in an

ethical fashion toward those outside. And when we begin to do that, people are going to be touched by the quality of our lives

Our Father, strike from our minds and thoughts anything that was not truth tonight. And pray that we will meditate upon those things upon which we can agree. Certainly that it is the exposure to truth that brings about changed lives. Lord, and we know as there are changed lives as a result of interaction with truth, others are going to be attracted and they're going to be touched by it. We just pray if there's somebody here who is still searching and seeking because they've not seen very much of truth or of genuine changed life, that You'd really draw them with a hunger and a desire to an authentic new birth experience. And accompany that with an appetite for Your Word so that they might begin to really grow in grace and in knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is our prayer for this class and for this time together. And as we together search for answers to the day in which we live, that as we sit as students before Your Word, You would open it up and reveal to us the things we need to know and the things that we need to guard ourselves about and how to be discerning of the times. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**A Practical Study of TITUS:
Growth Toward Godliness**

“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”

**STUDY NUMBER THREE – THE PERVERSION OF GODLINESS
– TITUS 1:10-16**

NOTES

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v.11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things which they should not, for the sake of dishonest gain.
v.12 A certain one of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”
v.13 This testimony is true. For this cause be rebuking them severely, in order that they may be sound in the faith,
v.14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who are turning themselves away from the truth.
v.15 All things are pure, to those who are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.
v.16 They are confessing to know God, but by their deeds, they are denying Him, being detestable and disobedient, and with reference to every good work disapproved.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Titus 1:10-16 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does the phony man manifest himself, according to verse 10?

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3. What must be done, according to verse 11?

4. What is the result of their teaching, according to verse 11?

5. In what three ways does the prophet of the Greeks characterize the Cretans, according to verse 12?

6. What is the purpose for rebuking them, according to verse 13?

7. How do the mind and conscience relate to godliness?

8. Describe the perversion of godliness in verse 16.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Those who are teaching error use a lot of words but say little.

LESSON #2: Those who have to speak often of financial matters in their ministry must be scrutinized with suspicion.

LESSON #3: False godliness is the result of man's effort. Whereas, true godliness is the result of God's work in our lives.

LESSON #4: The decision to turn away from the truth produces the ugly lives in this passage.

LESSON #5: The goal of every growing believer ought to be a pure mind and clear conscience.

LESSON #6: Watch the person who confesses to know God, but whose life cannot bear close scrutiny.

LESSON #7: Could it be that the absence of honesty, love, and hard work are the result of turning away from the truth?

LESSON #8: The Father seeks the submissive, obedient heart to serve Him.

LESSON #9: "Beware of refusing to go to the funeral of your own independence." (Oswald Chambers)

LESSON #10: "To master my will He had to melt my heart. Surrender is a crisis that develops into a process." (Ruth Paxson)