



Snapshots of a Disciple
A study on teachers - Lesson 18

[www.incpu.org/False_Teachers/lessons-on-teachers\(ls18\).pdf](http://www.incpu.org/False_Teachers/lessons-on-teachers(ls18).pdf)

Hello brothers, sisters, and friends,

Intro: This is continuing in our study of comparing and contrasting true Bible teachers versus deceptive false teachers. Thanks for joining us! ~ Let's dig in!

Next section in the notes of that study

Bible Teacher's side reads:

18 Despises entertainment and distractions as idolatry; avoids ungodly use of TV, movies or music

"... Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good." (Romans 12:9)

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good [your worldview is Scriptural], your whole body will be full of light." (Matthew 6:22)

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." (2nd Timothy 2:3-4)

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make [a way] the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1st Corinthians 10:13)

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)

>>> in contrast/comparison to -

False Teacher's side reads:

18 Loves entertainment & worldly distractions which is his idolatry; active TV, quotes clips of ungodly movies and music as ideals for living

“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power [*His control*]. And from such people turn away [*get away from false teachers!*]” (2nd Timothy 3:2-5)

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves as slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Romans 6:15-16)

“But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness [*rebellion*]. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness [*what you take in*], how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:22)

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My additional notes:

This is a core theme throughout the Bible, and yet it's the one that most people don't think about or talk about - why? Because we don't want to. It's that simple. This life is a battle - there are real casualties, and those that don't get saved - when they die, they are lost forever, and will be in Hell tormented forever. That's uncomfortable to think about, but since it's true, we need to work to make sure it's on our minds regularly and in our prayers often.

There's only 2 categories of things in this life - things that please Christ and things that please me. We see this in Colossians 3: “**Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**” (Colossians 3:2) And another passage that shows us this is in 1st John 2: “**Do not love the world [*sinful pleasures of*] or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**” (1st John 2:15-17) - It's pretty clear, isn't it? And, believe me, we all need reminders of this often :) So, with that starter, my next question then needs to be this - What avenues do you and I currently have in our

lives that are purely entertainment, and nothing about helping me/you follow or please Christ more? Let's try to list them in our heads or write a list on paper. Now, let's look at that list. That list of things, shows, movies, books, (even wrong-friendships) etc - You and I need to get those out of your life (permanently), for your soul's sake. Anything that takes our eyes off of Christ and growing in pleasing Him and being faithful in the real-life details, those are the kind of distractions that hurt us - not just now, but also in eternity. If you and I are adopted children of God, this doesn't talk about our salvation (unless it shows us that we are self-deceived and not yet in Christ). And yet, as growing followers of Christ, our interest in and indulging of things that are only self-pleasing entertainment [in this life] might prevent some who watch me/you from getting saved themselves (because sin is enticing and destructive). And, the things that me and you do only for self-pleasing entertainment will get us in trouble with God, as He works to teach us to spend less time on those things and more time, energy, and more of ourselves on things that will last forever - like sharing His truth with those around us.

>> An easy way for us to grow in this is by replacing things that hurt us and distract us spiritually with things that move us back to God's Word and help us to learn how to be more like Christ and share His Word. It's a process, but it is doable and Christ wants us to grow in this and will help us to do so - when we ask.

My friends, this lesson and the verses it references is one of the hardest subjects to talk about. Why? Because it hits on our core thinking and living. It reminds us that just because we think something is 'fun' or 'enjoyable' that doesn't mean that it is right in God's sight. If God's Word is true (and it is), then His Word will require and teach us to leave behind things that displease Christ and never look back. With that said, here's my next question for us - is (are) your Bible teacher(s) teaching you to leave behind things that have changed from important and necessary - to idols or selfish entertainment to you and me? If they don't, we need to change how much we give them our attention and respect. The Bible teachers around us that do not teach about this - we need to learn to rely on them less and study God's Word more (including Jesus' teachings), and watch these teachers more closely. Why? Because a Bible cannot teach what he does not know. And, a Bible teacher will not teach much (if at all) on what he is not obeying himself.

As you can see, this is a core teaching in this study to help us grow, and to help us identify and correctly handle Bible teachers around us. Biblical discernment and spiritual growth in the body of Christ is a team-effort [If you're in Christ, that includes you! :)]. So, let us keep growing in holiness and in cutting-edge obedience to what He's teaching us, and in encouraging/challenging those around us to do the same. ~

One last verse that we need to grow in keeping on top of our mind more and more every day ~ **“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”** (Mark 12:30) ~ When we are actively loving the Lord with all our

heart, soul, mind and strength, it doesn't leave room for idols and distractions. Throughout life, we'll see times when we are keeping our hearts focused well on Christ, and then we'll see times when we aren't doing well at it. The way to make sure our heart is focused on the right things is to check what our motivation is for getting up and doing what we do. There are 2 motivations as shown in 2nd Timothy 3 as we saw above: "...**lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...**" (2nd Timothy 3:4) Let's keep growing in this ourselves, and helping others to do the same. :)

Till next time, let's keep growing in following and pleasing Jesus!
~ your friend/brother, a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, SH :)

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About this study:

The above new lesson is one of a series that I plan to try to post once a week from. It's based on a new Bible study that my family did in 2012, where we sought to collect and compile verses that show the surface-level similarities between a Bible teacher and a false teacher, yet pointing out the bad fruit that shows up the motives, the message, and the conduct of these individuals. (To find this online - see below)

As you study this along (or read the study for yourself too), you'll notice that we do not name any Bible or false teachers by name, individually. We did that intentionally, to allow God's Word to sharpen all of our spiritual eye-sights to be able to see not just a false teacher better, but also false teaching (even when coming from a growing Bible teacher). In this study, we are not promoting ourselves better than anyone, for we too need to keep growing in hunger and thirst for God's Word and obeying what we read too. Our main point of this study is to encourage those who are studying and teaching the Bible as accurately as they can, while helping to expose false teachers by using God's Word to expose their false teaching. Of course, along the way, we encourage feedback - approving or disapproving, or even noting a gap or typo - all feedback is welcome :)

To find the whole study online:

There are 2 ways you can keep up with this study if you wish to - you can email me (see below) to be added to that e-list, or you can find them at my family's Bible study page on Facebook: 'Snapshot of a Disciple' -

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Snapshots-of-a-Disciple/140793325968043>

For those who have not seen the full study yet, here's a link:

[http://www.incpu.org/True-or-false\(booklet\)1.pdf](http://www.incpu.org/True-or-false(booklet)1.pdf)

And, you can find it on Lulu as an e-book (for free) ~ I hope to update the version soon so it can work for kindle and nook, but here's a link to the first edition:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/s-henry/a-study-of-bible-teachers-and-false-teachers/ebook/product-20369877.html>

(If that doesn't pull up for you, please email me and I'll be glad to send you a copy of the PDF as an attachment. ~ Steven.h3@gmail.com)

*** If you missed one of the previous lessons as we work through the study, you should be able to find it here: <http://www.incpu.org/true-false.html>