

Reasoning out of the Scriptures by Allegory & Type



Signs in the book of Acts

Study 8 Be not shaken in Mind

Unto Whom Does Yahweh Reveal His Word?

- Those who cry after knowledge and lift up their voice for understanding; who seek after it as silver and a hid treasure—Pro 2:1-6 (*Isa 28:9*)
- Those who ask, knock and seek will find. This is of Divine promise that makes it incumbent upon ourselves to pursue—Luke 11:9-10
- Those who desire to know when they don't understand, and toil within themselves to comprehend the revealed Word—Dan 7:15-19; 8:27
- The result for such: their hearts burn within them and they are filled with joy upon enlightenment—Luke 24:32
- Yahweh reveals His Truth to His servants—Amo 3:7

Isa 66:2 “For all those *things* hath mine hand made, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: *but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*”

READING—2Tim 3

“Be Not Shaken In Mind”

*Open Letter from Bro. Thomas to Bro. Roberts, 1866
Printed in the “Ambassador of the Coming Age”*

- ❑ “Do what is right, be valiant for the Truth, teach it without compromise, and all lovers of the Truth will approve you; for all others, you need not care a rush.”

Act 27:30-31 “And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when THEY HAD LET DOWN THE BOAT INTO THE SEA, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved”



Mark 4:1-2 “And he began again to *teach by the sea side*: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that *he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea*; and THE WHOLE MULTITUDE WAS BY THE SEA ON the land. And *he taught them many things by parables*, and said unto them *in his doctrine*”

- In the natural, this would appear futile. However, symbolically, it represents the “voice” of Truth prevailing over the “roaring” waves and “noise” and “tumult” of the sea (*Psa 65:7; 93:4; Jer 6:23; Eze 43:2; Luke 21:25*). Thus, the Lord deliberately told his disciples to “thrust out a little from land” that he might sit in a ship to teach (Luk 5:1-3). The Word of Truth has always been contested, and yet will always prevail over the multitude of chaotic wind and waves.

Mark 15:11 “But *the chief priests moved the people*, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them”

- Although the Jewish leaders appeared to have succeeded, they were a necessary evil to fulfill God’s purpose (Act 2:23). Since the days of the serpent in the garden, there has always been a contending spirit present to oppose the single voice of the Truth. It is by divine design.

As Christ's brethren, we place absolute trust in the Divine Authority of the Bible alone. Therefore, it is good to remember the EXACT CONTEXT of 2Tim 3—

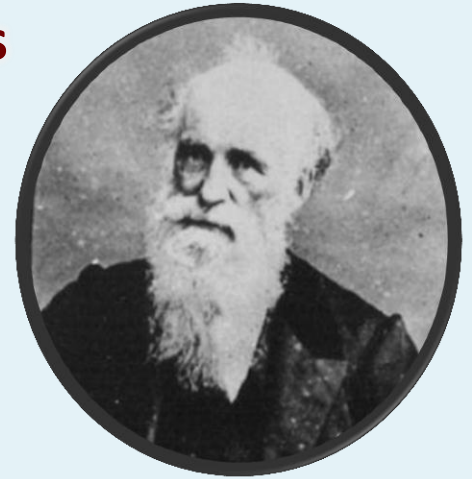
2Tim 3:13 But *evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse*, deceiving, and being deceived.

2Tim 3:14 BUT CONTINUE THOU IN THE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST LEARNED AND HAST BEEN ASSURED OF, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

2Tim 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.



Brethren in Christ are neither *hopeless* PESSIMISTS, nor are we *naive* OPTIMISTS. We are *enlightened* REALISTS. We are aware of the many prophetic warnings that error would arise in secular Christianity, as well as within the ecclesia. REMEMBER: all prophecy is intended to comfort Yahweh's people (Amo 3:7)! If error arose without any inspired warning, we would be bewildered and overtaken with grief. But we are not!!! Deviation from the Truth is recorded everywhere in the Bible: in the Garden; in every epoch of Israel's history; and within in the various ecclesias recorded in the N.T.

We must be “led by the Spirit”—Rom 8:14

TWO WRONG EXTREMES IN RESPONSE TO THE RISE OF ERROR:

- 1. Attempt to create an exclusive ecclesia or fellowship**
- 2. Attempt to create an all-inclusive ecclesia or fellowship**

We cannot demand immediate judgment on things deferred to the Judgment Seat, nor can we be permissive where God forbids it.

We use the Scriptural term “the Truth” because it is constantly used in contrast to error (Rom 1:18-25; 1Tim 3:15; 4:1-3; 2Tim 2:15-19; 3:1-8; 4:1-4; 2The 2:1-13; Tit 1:9-14; 1Joh 1:6-10; 2:1-4; Joh 4:22-24)

2The 2:1-3 “Now we BESEECH YOU, brethren, *by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye* **BE NOT SOON SHAKEN IN MIND, OR BE TROUBLED**, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a* ***falling away first*** ***apostasy**

Paul appeals to his brethren not to be “shaken” by doctrinal error. *It is part of God’s deliberate process to achieve His ultimate purpose.*

- This study is **NOT** intended to deal with any specific doctrinal error, but **WHY** God has permitted it and **HOW** we are to respond to it.

2The 2:15-17 “Brethren, *stand fast, and hold the* ***traditions which ye have been taught**, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and *hath given us* **EVERLASTING CONSOLATION AND GOOD HOPE** through grace, **COMFORT YOUR HEARTS**, and stablish you in every good word and work” (1Cor 15:58; 16:13) ***ordinances**

Remember The Ecclesia in the “Wilderness”—Act 7:38

1Cor 10:1-12 “Brethren, I WOULD NOT THAT YE SHOULD BE IGNORANT, how that **ALL** our fathers were under the cloud, and **ALL** passed through the sea; And were **ALL** baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did **ALL** eat **the same** spiritual meat; And did **ALL** drink **the same** spiritual drink... BUT with **MANY** of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now THESE THINGS WERE OUR EXAMPLES (**type**), to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were **SOME** of them... Neither let us commit fornication, as **SOME** of them committed... Neither let us tempt Christ, as **SOME** of them also tempted... Neither murmur ye, as **SOME** of them also murmured... Now all these things happened unto them FOR ENSAMPLES and they are written for our admonition (**warning**), upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (Jude 1:3-5)

False Prophets in Israel—False Teachers in the Ecclesia: Foretold

2Pet 2:1-3 “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. And MANY *shall follow their pernicious ways*; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they WITH FEIGNED WORDS make merchandise of you...”

- “False prophets” were continually defined as declaring “peace” and God’s acceptance of their conduct, when, in fact, His true prophets urged them to “repent” (1Kin 18:19-22; 22:6; Jer 14:13-15; 23:16-32; 27:14-18; 29:9-32; 37:19; Eze 13:1-18; Mic 2:11; 3:5-11; Mat 7:15).
- **Peace can only be achieved by purity—Jam 3:17; Heb 7:2; 2Kin 9:22.**

Rom 16:18-19 “Now I beseech you, brethren, MARK THEM WHICH CAUSE DIVISIONS AND OFFENCES CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE WHICH YE HAVE LEARNED; AND **AVOID THEM**. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; *and by* GOOD WORDS AND FAIR SPEECHES DECEIVE *the hearts of the simple*” *“from such turn away” 2Tim 3:5*

- First, “divisions” and “offenses” are caused by the “fair speeches” of those who do not maintain the “doctrine”
- Second, it’s of no value to deny false teaching “within.” We need only to understand WHY it is exists, and HOW to rightly react to it

Act 20:29-30 the apostle told the elders at Ephesus: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also OF YOUR OWN SELVES *shall men arise, speaking perverse things, TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEM*”

□ *“The ministration of the Spirit, and this presence of Divine authority in the ecclesias, continued during the days of the apostles, and the generation next ensuing. After that, an apostasy arose in the apostolic community, after the analogy of the case of Israel, in their first settlement of Canaan; who ‘served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that out-lived Joshua’...(Jud 2:7). The apostasy prevailed more and more, as the Apostles, by the Spirit, predicted would be the case (2Tim 4:1-4; 2:17)...”*

—R. Roberts, Ecclesial Guide, Art. 3

Art. 1 “Ecclesia” not church. Art. 2 “Christadelphian” not Christian

Jude 1:3-5 “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*. 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. *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” (Rom 6:1-2; Gal 5:13; Tit 2:11-12; 1Pet 2:10-22).**

- **We are men and women of “Truth,” and recognize the continual scriptural warning of deceptive teaching within. Therefore, we are not fearful to study this or any subject (2Cor 11:1-3; 1Joh 4:1-3).**
- **In contending with doctrinal error, Paul comforts Timothy—**

2Tim 1:6-8 “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. **FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND”**

- **God's directive: "avoid them."** We are not obligated to bid "God speed" to everything named "Christadelphian" books, periodicals (2Joh) *There are prohibited allegiances (2Chr 19:2; 17:1—Eureka vol 2, 90)*

2Tim 1:13-15 "HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS, WHICH THOU HAST HEARD OF ME, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes"

- **The proper reaction is: ignore absurdity and "study" the Scriptures.**

2Tim 2:1-4 "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also..."

2Tim 2:14-26 "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. *STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness..." *2Tim 3:14-17 **Shun, Avoid Them!**

2Tim 2:17-26 “Their word will eat as doth a canker (**gangrene**): of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED, saying that the resurrection is past already; *and overthrow the faith of some*. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, ***THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS. (*few names— Rev 3:4)** Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. *But in a great house (ecclesia—1Tim 3:15) there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.* IF A MAN THEREFORE PURGE HIMSELF FROM THESE, HE SHALL BE A VESSEL UNTO HONOUR, SANCTIFIED, AND MEET FOR THE MASTER'S USE, AND PREPARED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK. Flee also youthful lusts: *but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.* BUT FOOLISH AND UNLEARNED QUESTIONS **AVOID**, knowing that they do gender strifes. *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose THEMSELVES; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover THEMSELVES out of the snare of the devil...*” (“oppose themselves” Luk 7:30; Act 18:4-6)

Tit 3:8-11 “*This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou AFFIRM constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and PROFITABLE unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an *HERETIC after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself. *divisive*”

- Affirm the true teaching of the Word of God (2Tim 3); personally studying to know how to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2Tim 2).
- Avoid those causing divisions with false teaching (Rom 15; 2Tim 2).
- Do not engage in perpetual debate questioning Truth (2Tim 2; Tit 3).
- Edify and speak profitable things with those who call upon God with a pure and genuine heart (2Tim 1-4; Tit 3).
- False teachers refusing the Truth are self-condemned (Act 13:46).
- Reprove false teaching with meekness (2Tim 2; Gal 6:1; 1Pet 3:15)
- *The Scribes Pharisees asked many dishonest “questions” for the purpose of “entangling” the Lord in his words (Mat 22:15; Luke 11:53-54; 20:20,27).*

Christ told the Jews to “search the Scriptures” that testified of his teaching (Joh 5:39). Bereans were noble-minded because they scrutinized Paul’s teaching against the Word of God (Act 17:11). We must do the same, within and without.

□ **Eureka Vol 5**—“In all the ‘times of the Gentiles’ the saints are a mixed community, in which are found fish of all sorts, good, bad, and indifferent... In our generation, as in that of the apostles, the ecclesia, or general assembly of the many, who are called, is composed of these heterogeneous (*diverse*) materials. IT HAS BEEN THUS IN ALL GENERATIONS before and since Satan, in the days of Job, mingled with the Sons of the Deity, when they presented themselves in the Divine presence (Job 1:6). The satanic element has ever been among them with its ‘depths as they speak’ (ch. 2:24), corrupting and perverting the weak. *In the wisdom of the Deity, Satan has been permitted to practise, and to deceive the hearts of the simple, who are ‘ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth’ (2Tim 3:7), without judicial interference.*”—*John Thomas, pg 81*

1Cor 11:18-19 “For first of all, when ye come together in the church (Lord’s supper v.20), I hear that THERE BE DIVISIONS AMONG YOU; and I partly believe it. FOR THERE MUST BE ALSO HERESIES AMONG YOU, THAT THEY WHICH ARE APPROVED MAY BE MADE MANIFEST AMONG YOU”

- **RSV** “those who are genuine...”
 - **RV, Yng’s** “those approved may become manifest among you...”
 - The apostle openly acknowledges the necessity and wisdom of God permitting error within, while withholding immediate Divine judgment against it. This “satanic” element in our midst is quite essential for inspecting the genuine hearts of His saints.
 - The “simple” are led away and deceived (Rom 16), because they follow “men” (Act 20:30; 2Tim 4:3). The “strong delusion” is believed by those who “receive not the love of the Truth” (2The 2).
- ☐ “God permits the up rise of false teachers to prove those who have the truth, that they may show themselves worthy of the Kingdom. All will be tested or proved in some way or other... The testing is designed to purify characters for the Kingdom.”—HPM

□ **Eureka Vol 5**—“The truth as it is in Jesus is entrusted to the ecclesia, or House of the Deity (1Tim 3:15)... The members of this house are held responsible and accountable for their relations to this, as a treasure committed to them to be contended for earnestly, and to be upheld at all hazards, in their day and generation. This house being furnished with vessels of all sorts, some to honor and some to dishonor, the truth receives a characteristic treatment at the hands of each sort... From these premises it is inevitable that, as Paul says, ‘there must be heresies among you’. *They are permitted to exist, though not approved.* THEIR EXISTENCE AROUSES THE FLAGGING ENERGIES OF STERLING AND FAITHFUL MEN... IT SETS THEM TO CONTENDING MORE EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS (JUDE), WHICH MANIFESTS THEM AS THE APPROVED... (1COR. 11:19; COL. 1:23). ***This manifestation of the approved after this process is one reason why Yahweh keeps silence, and permits Satan to continue their operations among the Sons of the Deity, without any present judicial interference***”—John Thomas, pg 82

❑ **Eureka Vol 5**— “The Satanic element in an ecclesia is always prompt and vivacious for mischief. If it fears to attack openly the most prominent advocate of the truth, it has recourse to underhanded and secret influences. Handling the word of the Deity deceitfully, ‘deceiving, and being deceived,’ are its characteristics.”—*John Thomas*

- *Leaven, The Simple, Silly Women, Fair Speeches, Feigned Words: all characteristics of those who seeking a personal following (Act 20:30). The “smooth things” and “lightness” of the false prophets deceived many in Israel (Isa 30:10; Jer 23:32).*

Mat 15:12-14 regarding the Pharisees, the Lord told his disciples: “LET THEM ALONE: they be blind leaders of the blind”

John 8:6 “Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, AS THOUGH HE HEARD THEM NOT”

Yahweh permitted false prophets to stand contemporary with the prophets; the voice of scribes and Pharisees in the days of Christ and the apostles; faithless spies in the days of Joshua and Caleb. *The spirit of Judaisers, Nicolaitans, Balaam and Jezebel is often present.*

2Tim 4:1-4 “I CHARGE THEE therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; *Preach the word; be instant (RSV, Yg’s “earnest, urgent”) in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and DOCTRINE. For the time will come when they will not endure sound DOCTRINE; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”*

Deu 13:1 IF there arise AMONG YOU a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

Deu 13:2 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; *(remember: we hold no common doctrine with false religion)*

From among you—the real trial is from within. The “sign” seems to be plausible by immediate fulfillment. However, the teaching includes that which follows false religious world about them: “other gods.”

• *False prophecy, Theistic Evolution...etc. did not originate with us.*

1Cor 1:19-21—wisdom of this world is foolishness with God—1Cor 3:19

Remember: “signs” FOLLOW teaching of Truth (Mar 16:20). If the “sign” is not of “sound doctrine” it is to be rejected. The “strong delusion” of apostasy is based on “signs and lying wonders” NOT doctrine (2The 2:9) An “evil and adulterous generation” seeks “signs” (Mat 12:39). We must be extremely careful. “Signs” are an interpretation of doctrine.

Deu 13:3 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.

Deu 13:4 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. *We are beholden to God alone, not men (Gal 1:6-9)*

For Yahweh your God Proveth You—Heb. “test, try.” The Heavenly Father permits false teachers “TO PROVE US” as a measurement of our “love” and allegiance toward Yahweh! Nothing will test our conviction of God’s Truth like spiritual error that arises “among us.”

Isa 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”

Deu 13:5 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. (false teaching is the greatest offense)**

Deu 13:6 *If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;*

Deu 13:7 *Namely, OF THE GODS OF THE PEOPLE WHICH ARE ROUND ABOUT YOU, NIGH UNTO THEE, OR FAR OFF FROM THEE, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth*

Relatives and Friends—the closest relationships will test whether we will remain convicted and loyal to Yahweh, or not (Mat 10:37; 12:48)!
Gods of the people round about you—especially noted: the teaching takes on the interpretation of the unenlightened religious world; whom the Bible states do not know God's word (1Cor 1-2; 1John 4:5-6).²⁰

1Joh 4:1-6 “BELOVED, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: *because many false prophets are gone out into the world...* They are of the world: THEREFORE SPEAK THEY OF THE WORLD, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. HEREBY KNOW WE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR” **Test: is it the world’s theory?**

Deu 13:8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye *pity him*, neither shalt thou *spare*, neither shalt thou *conceal him*:

Deu 13:9 But thou shalt surely kill him; THINE HAND SHALL BE FIRST UPON HIM to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.

No pity, sparing or concealing—Heb. “compassion.” The very ones most inclined to cover up error are other family members by “compassion.” In contrast, they are commanded to be the “first” to condemn false teaching. In many cases, this is opposite (1Sam 2:13-29 *soft reproof*).

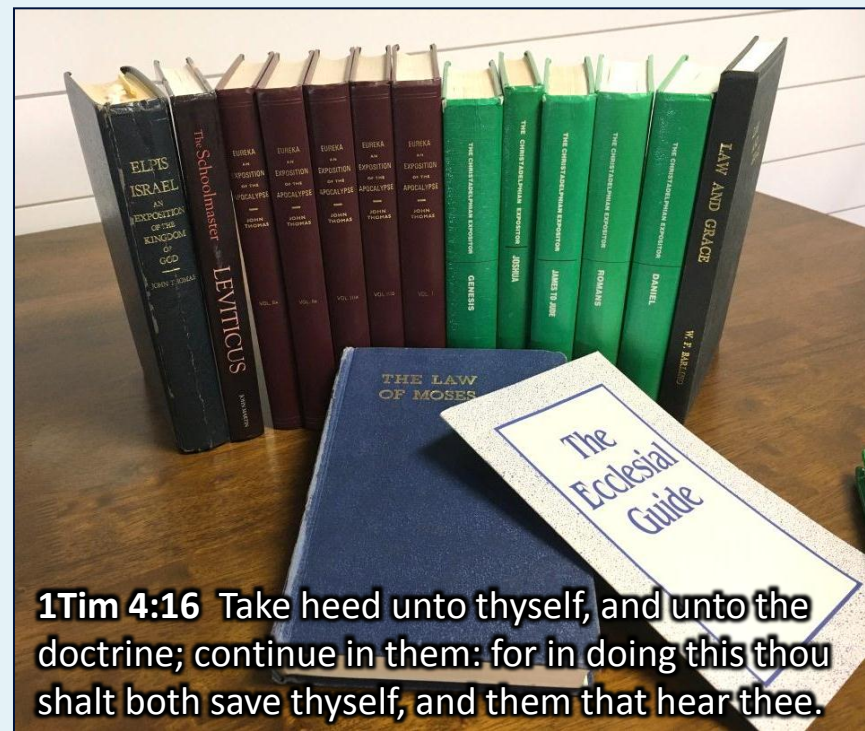
“Mercy” is only extended if there is “repentance”

Afterwards, the hand of all the people—the ecclesial body should be in support of the family; not left to deal with what family has covered up.

Deu 13:12 If thou shalt hear *say in one of thy cities*, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying,
Deu 13:13 *Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;*
Deu 13:14 *Then shalt thou *enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you; *not accusation—E.G. Art. 36-37*

Individual, Ecclesial, Fraternal—
the proper Divine order. **Primary attention must be given to the individual and family, above ecclesial and fraternal.**

Timothy and Titus: let a man first be proved at home, before ecclesial oversight. If error exists, Mat 18 must be carefully followed, especially with elders (1Tim 5:19).



2Kin 20:12-14 “At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of **BABYLON**, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: *for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick*. And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the **house** of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and *all the house* of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: *there was nothing* in his **house**, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not. *Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee?* And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from **BABYLON**” ***Babylon is the system of false religion (Rev 17)**

- 2Chr 32:31 “Howbeit in *the business* of the ambassadors of the princes of *Babylon*, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, *God left him*, TO TRY HIM, *that he might know all that was in his heart*”
- **Yahweh does not always interfere, to the intent that He might prove His servants by various circumstances (2Cor 11:13-15; Jud 3:1-7; Deu 8:1-6)! Such manifests the heart.**

Preservation of the Righteous among Spiritual Decay—

- When Abraham appealed to Yahweh regarding Sodom, God assured him He would not “destroy the righteous with the wicked” (Gen 18:23-33)
- Yahweh assured the sorrowful Elijah He knew the “seven thousand” that had not “bowed the knee to Baal” (1Kin 19:18).
- The Lord did not tell the brethren to abandon the ecclesias he wrote to; but rather exhorted them to “strengthen the things that remain” as there were “a few names” (Rev 3:1-4; 1Sam 2-3).
- In the midst of their contemporaries, Caleb and Joshua expressed opposition to the voice of faithlessness. But, it did not draw them away, as they personally still entered the Land (Num 14; Jos 14).

Jeremiah, Daniel, Joseph and many others were subject to the evil conduct of their contemporaries. Yet, each were individually, personally treated well in captivity. *Jer 39:11-12; 40:1-6*

Act 1:15 God knows “the number of the names”



1Pet 4:12 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you”

***Letter from Bro. Thomas to Bro. Roberts, 1866
Ambassador of the Coming Age***



“I entirely agree with you in your graphic description of the barrenness of Christadelphia... The Christadelphian Body in the days of the apostles abounded with professors whose hearts were but little attuned to the faith and hope they professed... The influence of these, who passed themselves off for Christadelphians, was more disheartening to the apostles, and the rest of the real brethren of Christ, than all the opposition that Satan could bring to bear upon them from without... ‘The truth as it is in Jesus’ was too exclusive and uncharitable for their piety and liberality of soul... They wanted a broader way, whereby some good, pious souls might be saved... Do you expect poor, decrepit, human nature to evolve holier influences now than it was socially capable under the apostolic ministration? I believe you do not. It would be very pleasant if there were none in Christadelphia but the called, the faithful and the chosen; all of one mind... But ecclesiastical perfection is not to be expected in the absence of Christ.”

Rev 3:7-12 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia (**love of the brethren**) write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; **I KNOW THY WORKS: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: FOR THOU HAST A LITTLE STRENGTH, AND HAST KEPT MY WORD, AND HAST NOT DENIED MY NAME.** Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation,* which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: **HOLD THAT FAST WHICH THOU HAST, THAT NO MAN TAKE THY CROWN.** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem,* which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name*”