

# Sermon Study Guide – Titus 1:10-16

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Week of March 15, 2015

**Title:** “*Standing Firm in a Quicksand Culture*”

**Sermon Idea:** Like quicksand, false teaching must be pointed out and avoided.

**Key Points:**

1. Beware the quicksand of ‘Gospel-Plus’ teaching – be careful who you listen to. (vv.10-11)
2. Beware the quicksand of cultural baggage – be careful of what you assume. (vv.12-14)
3. Beware the quicksand of religious pride – be careful of how you live. (vv.15-16)

**What do I want people to know?** I want people to know that what they believe is crucial and that there are many false teachings out there that can derail them.

**What do I want people to do?** I want people to be careful of who they listen to, what they assume and how they live.

**What need am I addressing?** I am addressing the need to avoid falling into error.

**Recommended Resources:** *Charles R. Swindoll, “Swindoll’s Living Insights: 1&2 Timothy & Titus;” N.T. Wright, “Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters”*

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**Intro:** Have you ever had an encounter with a cult member? Describe how it went.

**Reflect:** What did God teach you from the sermon this week?

**Day 1 Dig:** 1 Timothy 4:1-5 describes those who preach a ‘Gospel-Plus’ message. What are some examples of human works we might try to add to our salvation?

**Day 2 Dig:** Galatians 6:1 exhorts us to gently restore one who has gone astray. It seems that very few of us ever actually confront others in this way. Why?

**Day 3 Dig:** Matthew 18:15-17 gives us practical steps in applying biblical discipline. How would you summarize these steps in your own words?

**Day 4 Dig:** Mark 7:1-15 contains Jesus’ scolding of the Pharisees for their religious hypocrisy. What religious rules do you still tend to judge others by? Be honest.

**Day 5 Dig:** 2 Timothy 3:1-5 warns of coming apostasy. As you read through this list, what ‘bad fruit’ are you convicted of? What are you not believing in the gospel that is causing this ‘bad fruit?’ What gospel truth would enable you to bear ‘good fruit?’

**Apply:** Ask yourself, ‘What do I listen to most?’ That is probably what shapes you. Is it the quicksand of worldly, cultural or religious wisdom or is it ‘gospel-centered?’

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, give me discernment to identify quicksand when I see it. Help me to center my life on the firm foundation of the gospel and nothing else. Amen.