



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|--------------|
| PREFACE: | p. 5 |
| FOREWORDS: | pp. 7-9 |
| TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS: | p. 11 |
| INTRODUCTION: <i>What is Discipleship and Why is it Important?</i> | pp. 13-18 |
| COURSE ONE: <i>The Doctrinally Sound Disciple (The Word of the Disciple)</i> | pp. 17-51 |
| COURSE TWO: <i>The Defending Disciple (The Warfare of the Disciple)</i> | pp. 53- 94 |
| COURSE THREE: <i>The Developing Disciple (The Worship and Walk of the Disciple)</i> | pp. 95- 154 |
| COURSE FOUR: <i>The Dutiful Disciple (The Work of the Disciple)</i> | pp. 155- 198 |
| COURSE FIVE: <i>The Decorated Disciple (The Winning of the Disciple)</i> | pp. 199- 228 |
| DISCLAIMER: | p. 229 |
| FORMS: | pp. 231-236 |
| CREDITS: | p. 237 |



The Decorated Disciple



Foreword: Rev. James V. Collins

Having traveled to four different continents to preach and teach the Word of God, I have come to the realization that one of the most critical and essential needs for the church is discipleship. With an increase in modern day apostasy and the global thrust of the Charismatic movement and their disregard of doctrine, I have come to the same conclusion as a great patriarch of old who said, “God is not looking for fans but disciples.”

I was shocked by a recent conversation I had with a colleague. A local pastor set him down during a revival meeting and spoke to him about his church. He said, “*We* know that Jesus did not come into existence until His virgin birth 2,000 years ago. *We* know there is no triune God, *for the Holy Ghost is not God!* And *I* can show you many places in the King James Version where there are many mistranslations.” This pastor is now elderly and has been in the holiness movement for over 50 years. Sadly, his church has been hearing this apostasy week after week! It is clear, we need discipleship!

In my opinion, a song that is often sung in some of our Pentecostal churches sums it up, “If this *Ain't* the Holy Ghost, I don't know, it just suits me!” Think of it! We are supposed to be singing praise to our God, and we are saying “I do not know if this is your Spirit or not but it *feels* so good, I am happy either way!” I see the same problem all over the world. It reminds me of the spirit during the days of King Jehoshaphat and Micaiah in I Kings 22. How can we judge other heresies if we are unequipped ourselves? Doctrine is supreme and ultimate. Doctrine is simply the sum total of any Biblical topic. By it we conduct ourselves.

Dr. Charles Pahlman has done a notable work in producing *The Decorated Disciple*. I believe it is a significant item for consumption for the church of today. Having taught *The Decorated Disciple* program already with Dr. Pahlman in Nigeria, W. Africa, I can honestly say it is a *magnum opus*. It was enthusiastically received and very much appreciated by the Christians there. This work is comprehensive yet does not confuse the reader with extraneous material. There are a wide variety of issues introduced, and the student is familiarized with the contemporary concerns. It is a ‘compass’ for the local church, steering them back in the right direction. In every way, *The Decorated Disciple* is a practical tool that gives the student opportunity to put the principles into practice.



Rev. James V. Collins

President, Good Shepherd Holiness Ministries/ Good Shepherd Bible College - India



COURSE TWO:

The Defending Disciple (*The Warfare and the Disciple*)

Key Verses:

Philippians. 1:17 “But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.”

Jude 3 “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.”

I. Introduction

A. William Burkitt commentary on Jude 3- “That it is the duty of Christians at all times, but especially in times of error and seduction, to contend earnestly for that pure and uncorrupted faith which is contained in the gospel.”

B. Albert Barnes commentary- “The reference here (Jude 3), of course, is only to contention by argument, by reasoning, by holding fast the principles of religion, and maintaining them against all opponents. It would not justify "contention" by arms (weapons), by violence, or by persecution; for :

1. that is contrary to the spirit of true religion, and to the requirements of the gospel elsewhere revealed;
2. it is not demanded by the proper meaning of the word, all that that fairly implies being the effort to maintain truth by argument and by a steady life;
3. it is not the most effectual way to keep up truth in the world to attempt to do it by force and arms.”

C. We must understand this fact: The Christian faith is under attack from Satan.
It is a spiritual warfare, not physical (Eph. 6:10-12; 2Cor. 10:3-5)

A. Albert Barnes commentary on 2Cor. 10:3-5

“The warfare of Christians relates to the following points:

1. It is a warfare with the corrupt desires and sensual propensities of the heart; with internal corruption and depravity; with the remaining unsubdued propensities of a fallen nature.
2. With the powers of darkness--the mighty spirits of evil that seek to destroy us.



The Decorated Disciple



3. With sin in all forms; with idolatry, sensuality, corruption, intemperance, profaneness, wherever they may exist. The Christian is opposed to all these; and it is the aim and purpose of his life, as far as he may be able, to resist and subdue them. He is a soldier, enlisted under the banner of the Redeemer, to oppose and resist all forms of evil. But his warfare is not conducted on worldly principles. Mohammed propagated his religion with the sword; and the men of this world seek for victory by arms and violence. The Christian looks for his conquests only by the force and power of truth, and by the agency of the Spirit of God.”

Illustration: It has been said that in Martin Luther's home in Wartburg, Germany, there exists a dark spot on one of the walls which was reportedly caused by the breaking of an ink bottle that Luther threw at the devil. Apparently, Luther heard noises in the wall, and thought the noises were from the devil. Many have explained that Luther actually heard rats crawling in the wall, and perhaps rats would be a more logical explanation, but what does it matter--Luther thought it was the devil, and so he hurled the ink bottle at the direction of the noise! Charles Goodel adds to this story, "I wish there were more men today who would fling their ink at the devil, whether by the bottleful or in drops from the pen's point."

E. The Christian is engaged in Spiritual Warfare with the enemy of his soul. One of the greatest weapons in his defense is a working knowledge of the Word of God. This in theology we call *Apologetics*.

II. What is Apologetics

A. Most unbelievers think that Christianity is based on myths and is irrelevant. They think faith means "believing something that you know is not true." To them, it is superstition based primarily on subjective, emotional considerations. This is untrue!

B. Christian faith goes beyond reason, but not against it. Peter and Paul teach that we should be able to *defend* our belief in the Gospel: (Acts 22:1; 25:16; 1Cor 9:3; 2Cor. 7.11; Phil. 1.7, 16-17; 2Tim 4.16; 1 Pet. 3.15).

C. Peter tells us (1Pet. 3.15) to give reasons, precisely because Christianity is rational. The verse is a command. If we cannot give reasons for our faith, we are failing God as well as our fellow man!

Quote: *"To be ignorant and simple now, not to be able to meet the enemy on their own ground, would be to throw down our weapons and to betray our uneducated brethren who have under God no defense but us against the intellectual heathen. Good philosophy must exist if for no other reason because bad philosophy needs to be answered."* C S Lewis

Note: Christianity is rational (it makes sense); this is different from *Rationalism*!
Rationalism defined: "A branch of philosophy where truth is determined by (human) reason."