

# The Old Paths

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## “Our Example”

Jarrod Jacobs

**E**very day we make an impression on people. When the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus, he talked about the importance of a Christian’s example. In this article, let us see what one’s example ought to be and what can happen if we are not showing the proper example.

### The Young

Paul told Timothy, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (I Tim. 4:12). He continued, *“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee”* (I Tim. 4:15-16). When it came to this young man’s example, he was not to “sow his wild oats,” but take heed to God’s word and be a godly example to others.

Titus was commanded, *“In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you”* (Titus 2:7-8). Our young people today must also show the right example before the godly and ungodly.

### The Old

Older folks must be good examples. When the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, he remem-

bered the godly influence that two older women had on Timothy. He wrote, *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also”* (II Tim. 1:5). These women had such a good influence on Timothy that he had grown up knowing the Scriptures (II Tim. 3:15)! What great role models for this young man! These women showed Timothy how to please God by their example!

Please read Titus 2:2-5. In that short passage, we read the role that older men and women must play among those who are younger. What a great asset older men and women can be when they show the proper example! Let us not take them for granted.

### Those Who Are Evil

Even those who are evil leave an impression! May God help us to learn from their sins. It is written, *“But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: 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”* (II Tim. 2:16-18). These men left bad examples and caused the faith of some to be overthrown. A bad example can be devastating, spiritually!

Paul showed Titus that there were some that would deceive people and *“subvert (plunder, overthrow, Vine’s, p. 1111) whole houses.”* The plunder was not physi-

cal. It was through false teachings that these people would be carried away and turn themselves from the truth (Titus 1:10-14). Let us learn how destructive a bad example can be and determine not to act that way.

### Christians In General

Some may think that they have no “special” talent, and therefore they have nothing to contribute in the kingdom --- WRONG! All Christians are to show the proper example to others. Timothy was told, *“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, who are taken captive by him at his will”* (II Tim. 2:24-26). When it comes to being a good example, ALL must do their part!

### The Reason That We Are To Be Good Examples To Others

In Titus 2:11-14, we see why God wants people of all ages to be good examples to others. We read, *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”* In other words, we are to be good examples because Christ died for us and showed us how to live (II Cor. 5:14-15). We also need to be good examples in order to lead others to Christ. Jesus taught that people will glorify God when they see us being the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16). What kind of example do we have? Is it good or bad?

## The Deceit Of Alcohol

Jarrold Jacobs

**T**he consumption of alcohol is a rampant problem in our world. In fact, drinking alcoholic drinks has become a "way of life" for many cultures, where some of the youngest among us are brought up drinking alcohol. In our society, teenagers are encouraged by their peers to drink alcohol, as well as consume other drugs. In connection with the dangers associated with alcohol, including addiction, destroying the body, the failure of marriages, and the break-down of the family environment; underneath all of this is the very real danger of self-deceit. When drinking alcohol, people deceive themselves into thinking that the alcohol is harmless to them and others, and any harm they are feeling is the result of other things.

The other day, a friend and I were talking about the dangers and the deceit associated with alcohol. I was reminded of Solomon's words, *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise"* (Prov. 20:1). In addition to this, Proverbs 23:29-35 explains the results of drinking alcohol in great detail. People who justify drinking alcohol are deceiving themselves! With all the harm alcohol can do to a person, perhaps deception is the worst harm it brings! Solomon says it best when he writes that those who drink alcohol say, *"I will seek it yet again"* when they come off of their drunken stupor (Prov. 23:35). So long as one has deceived himself by denying the true reason for his troubles, he will continue to drink and ruin

his physical health, his family, his life, and worst of all, he will jeopardize his soul!

We know one jeopardizes his soul in the drinking of alcohol when we read passages like I Peter 4:3-4. There, the apostle Peter wrote, *"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you."* In I Peter 4's context, Peter contrasts the people's old way of life with the new way of life in Christ (see also: II Cor. 5:17). In so doing, Peter equates the drinking of alcohol with *"lasciviousness, lusts ... abominable idolatries ... excess of riot"*! We know these sins are not "harmless pleasure," or ways to "relax." Why then would we place the consumption of alcohol into such a category? Truly, we have deceived ourselves when we treat the drinking of alcohol as "nothing". Alcohol will maim and destroy lives. In addition to these passages, let us add I Corinthians 6:10 and Galatians 5:21 to our study. Yes, the consumption of alcohol will jeopardize our soul.

In closing, read this great contrast of the myths of alcohol and realities of alcohol, written by Mark Simons. Let us heed the warning and not be deceived by alcohol.

"We drank for happiness, and became unhappy.

We drank for joy, and became miserable.

We drank for sociability, and became argumentative and unsocial.

We drank for friendship, and made enemies.

We drank for sleep, and awakened without rest.

We drank for strength, and felt weak.

We drank "medicinally," and acquired health problems.

We drank for relaxation, and got the shakes.

We drank for bravery, and became doubtful and cowardly.

We drank to make conversation easier, and slurred our speech.

We drank to forget, and were forever haunted.

We drank to erase problems, and saw them multiply.

We drank to cope with life and invited death."

*By Mark Simons*

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