Who Were the False Teachers and what were They Teaching?

1:10 ‘Circumcision (group)’

The false teachers were somehow connected to Jewish legalism.

1:14 Jewish Myths

This probably consisted of useless speculations based on the Old Testament or on apocryphal writings of Judaism.

1:15 ‘To pure all things are pure’.

This is a reference to the Jewish food (Kosher) laws.

3:9 ‘Genealogies’

This is probably speculations about Old Testament genealogies or maybe gnostic genealogies.

3:9 ‘Quarrels over the law’.

This would point to a misunderstanding and/or the misuse of the Jewish law.

How Did This False Teaching Affect the Church?

1:1 The truth which accords with godliness

The teaching produced a group of people that believed one thing and did another.

1:11 Upsetting whole families

Family literally means houses, so could be talking about house churches or families.

1:15 ‘Pure all things are pure’

This indicates that Jewish food laws (legalism) were being imposed on the people. See also Titus 3:9

1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:8, 3:14 Repetition of ‘good works’

The fruit of the false teaching was evidenced by lack of character. Notice how much space in the letter is given to issues of character. This is the law of composition of principality.