

DOING GOOD: "Don't Be Deceived" Part 1

INTRODUCTION: "Spiritual warfare is asymmetrical."

- **Key Idea: Doing Good** requires rejecting bad theology.
Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Corinthians 11:2-4; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 7; Revelation 2:1-6

Applications:

1. The church needs to be serious about **confronting error**. ("They must be silenced" – v.11)
2. The church needs to be **discerning about doctrine**.
1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

THE CONTRAST (TITUS 1:5-9, 10-16)

- Verses 5-9: Church **order** by godly men **faithfully teaching the Word**.
- Verses 10-16: Church **disorder** by ungodly men who **teach what they ought not to teach**.
"For" (v.10) – conjunction that explains why we need good pastors/elders in the church.
- **Key Observation:** False Christians and false teachers within the church have done more damage than secular pagan governments and persecutors outside the church.

"The temple of truth has never suffered so much from woodpeckers on the outside as from termites within."
(Vance Havner)

"The pastor ought to have two voices: one, for gathering the sheep, and another for warding off and driving away wolves and thieves. The Scripture supplies him with the means of doing both, for he who is deeply skilled in it will be able both to govern those who are teachable, and to refute the enemies of the truth." (John Calvin)

Role of a True Elder:

1. A True Elder **Points** – leads, governs, exercises spiritual oversight.
2. A True Elder **Preaches** – feeds the flock the Word of God, preaches the whole counsel of God.
3. A True Elder **Pursues** – cares for the wounded flock; leaves the ninety-nine to go after the one.
4. A True Elder **Prays** – for his people, their families, struggles and temptations.
5. A True Elder **Protects** – fights the wolf and does not stand for false doctrine.
 - The elder and pastor must have a militant spirit when necessary.
 - Every New Testament letter deals with controversy
 - Yet at the same time the elder should not love controversy or look for it unnecessarily.

THE CHARACTERISTICS (TITUS 1:10-16)

- A. **Deceptive Theologically** – They don't have the gospel. (v,10, 16)

Three Marks of a Deceptive Gospel:

1. Jesus plus _____.
2. Grace and faith plus _____.
3. The Bible plus _____.

"You and I are divided by two letters in the alphabet. . . you have a religion that could be described as **do**. . . my religion is a religion of **done**." (D.L. Moody)

Sermon Application Questions

April 28, 2019

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

In the sermon Pastor Philip made the statement, "Look out on the average evangelical church. . . and they are as naïve as little red riding hood." What was your reaction to this statement?

2

Paul writes to Titus to remind the churches in Crete that they are in constant danger of infiltration by false teachers. Do you think we are still under this threat today? What are some ways that we can guard against this threat?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

Galatians 1:6-9

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

2

Read Psalm 119:97-104. What are the characteristics of a believer who is faithful to God's Word?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

The Christian is called to be serious about confronting error. What is at least **one verse** that you would use to refute the following theological errors? (Feel free to write more than one verse).

- **Arianism** – holds that Jesus is a created being, begotten by the Father in time.

Verse(s) to Refute: _____

- **Docetism** – holds that Jesus was divine but only seemed be human; the human form of Jesus was mere semblance without any true reality.

Verse(s) to Refute: _____

- **Modalism** – holds that God is one person who manifests himself in three different “modes”; denies that God is three distinct persons.

Verse(s) to Refute: _____

- **Pelagianism** – holds that man is unaffected by the Fall and can keep all of God's laws; man's nature is basically good.

Verse(s) to Refute: _____

- **Tritheism** – holds that the Trinity is really three separate gods.

Verse(s) to Refute: _____

2

2 Timothy 2:24 says that “. . .the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.” What is one way that you can display the quality of gentleness this week? (Hint: most opportunities come in difficult or trying situations).
