



Big Idea: Stand guard against false teaching in the church.

Mark 13:5, Colossians 2:8, 1 Timothy 4:16

1.) False teaching is UBIQUITOUS (v. 10).

- Even in the infancy of the church on Crete, false teachers were legion.
- False teachers remain pervasive today.
- Three Characteristics of False Teachers: Insubordination, Hypocrisy, and Deception

2.) False teaching RUINS lives (v. 11a).

- Doctrine has real life consequences, and false doctrine brings devastating effects (Romans 16:17, 2 Peter 2:1-3).

3.) False teaching is SELF-SERVING (v. 11b).

- True doctrine is all about magnifying the glory of God; false doctrine tends to magnify the individual who promotes it (2 Peter 2:1-3).
- Be on guard against false doctrine, because it so often ushers in the total devastating selfishness.

4.) False teaching is an unavoidable symptom of SIN (v. 12-14).

-- **Fallen humanity is easily duped.**

- Paul commands Titus to confront false teachers, because he knows how easily congregations can be deceived.
- Because human beings are corrupted by sin, false doctrine is not only likely, it is inevitable.
- False teaching generally starts off with a whisper, and if it is not rebuked, it will eventually become a roar.

5.) False teaching suggests a false BELIEVER (v. 15-16).

- When minds and consciences are corrupted, doctrine will be as well (Matthew 7:15-20).
- Those who preach a false faith are almost certainly rooted in a false faith (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Application

1.) Stand GUARD against false teaching.

- Mark 13:5, James 1:16, 2 Peter 3:17

2.) Stand UP against false teaching (v. 11, 13).

- The doctrine and practices of the church of Jesus Christ must be directed and regulated by His Word.
- The stakes are far too high to turn a deaf ear to false teaching.

3.) Stand TOGETHER against false teaching.

-- Because true doctrine in the church is such an urgent priority to God, the NT directs local churches to appoint overseers to safeguard the teaching of the church.

-- Titus 1:5, Acts 20:28-31, Hebrews 13:17

-- Biblical governance of the church matters so much because sound doctrine is required.