

## DANGER OF FALSE TEACHERS

## Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26

| 1. | Scanning acros | s the readin | a, what sort o | f aospel worke | er does Paul | want Timoth | v to be? |
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2. Paul warns about "quarrelling about words" (v14), "godless chatter" (v16) and "foolish and stupid arguments" in the church (v23). What does Paul say is so unhelpful about these things?

3. Paul calls out Hymenaeus and Philetus for teaching something other than the gospel Paul teaches (v16-18). How would it affect your life to follow either teaching?

|                   | Earthly Wisdom                                      | Wisdom From Above                                                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Teaching          | Enjoy all the blessings<br>of resurrection life now | Suffer for the gospel now, looking forward to the final resurrection |
| Practical Results |                                                     |                                                                      |

Where we see people have been led astray by false teaching, they "must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth" (2:25). But for the false teachers themselves, it's more serious...

## Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9

4. The characteristics mentioned in 3:1-5 are meant to describe patterns of behaviour that some people have - even inside the church! What does it mean to have "the appearance of godliness" while "denying its power" (v5)?

## Jannes & Jambres

Jannes and Jambres (v8) are not named in the Old Testament, but ancient and medieval sources identify them as two of the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses in Pharaoh's presence.

Read what happened in Exodus 7:8-13. In the animated film *The Prince of Egypt*, Steve Martin and Martin Short provide the voices of Hotep and Huy, who were based on Jannes and Jambres.

5. What response are Christians to have when 'Christian' leaders behave this way (v5,9)? Why?

As Paul passes the gospel baton on to the next generation, he warns them to keep their eyes wide open. If what is passed on is bad teaching, it'll produce bad fruit: people will be led astray, discouraged, and distracted. It's not good. So Paul warns: keep an eye out for it. Don't buy it. Instead a Christian should 'correctly handle God's word' (v15) and gently help others to do the same (v24-25). They should follow Jesus and pursue faith, love and peace (v22)!

| 6.  | How do Paul's warnings here apply to our expectations of church leaders and ministry trainees today?                                                                                                                |
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| 7.  | Today's world is filled with all sorts of mixed-messages, hype, and straight-out lies. What issues do we need to talk to the next generation about so that they'll be following Jesus firmly for years to come?     |
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| 8.  | What does it mean to 'rightly handle the word of truth' (i.e. the Bible; v15)? Suggest ways that we can equip ourselves to do this more effectively.                                                                |
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| eqı | end some time in prayer reflecting on how we can be keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, aipping ourselves to be handling the Bible in truth and gently helping others, particularly the ct generation, to do the same. |
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