

End Time Guiding Principles

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August 2009

(all scripture quotes are from the *New King James Version of the Bible*)

There are three guiding principles from the Bible that the *Church of God Santa Rosa* uses for guidance in determining what are the correct teachings concerning God's True Doctrines. These three guiding principles lead to a fourth principle or conclusion. The first three principles are firmly supported with many scriptures. While there are no scriptures that explicitly state the fourth principle or conclusion, for us there seems to be only one spiritual conclusion that makes complete spiritual sense.

- **Spiritual understanding can only come through spiritual revelation.**

This is the first of our three Biblical principles. Spiritual revelation is seldom by visions or dreams. It usually comes through prayer and Bible study. But human efforts alone do not result in spiritual understanding. If our "works" of prayer and Bible study resulted in spiritual understanding, then we as humans could "boast" of our accomplishments. But God tells us through His inspired scriptures that spiritual understanding comes only by His grace and mercy towards those He calls and chooses. Only when God chooses to call an individual and open their mind through the power of His Holy Spirit can any individual understand spiritual truth. This is "spiritual revelation". The scriptures for this and the other principles will be listed at the end of this article.

- **Christians need to "hang on to" or "fight for the faith once delivered".**

This is our second guiding principle. Inherit in this directive is the spiritual logic that the Christians that are reading this have had "The Truth," that is, "The Faith once delivered." When one considers the New Testament as a whole, it seems to us that it is written first and foremost to true and faithful Christians in the collective Churches of God. The book of Revelation is a good example of where this is distinctly evident -- it is addressed to the seven churches of God in Asia Minor (Revelation 1:4). Secondly, the Bible is also intended for all Christians in general, and thirdly, the world as a whole. True Christians need to take note of this and not "brush off" these warnings as only for non-believers.

- **There will be a "falling away" from the truth.**

This is the third principle and it is very similar to the second. However, while the second principle is a positive exhortation, the third principle is a dire prophet warning. This principle is stated in many New Testament scriptures as listed below. It also requires that the Christians to whom these warning are directed have had God's spiritually revealed true doctrines. This warning is not directed to those who have never known God's truths such as the seventh day Sabbath, the seven holy feast of God, humans don't go to heaven when they die but through a resurrection from the dead at Jesus Second Coming will be "spiritually born" into the Family or Kingdom of God, and so forth.

- **There has to be a "beginning point" when God laid a foundation of spiritual truth within a church in the "end time" period just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

When one considers the first three principles along with the teachings of the entire New Testament, one is lead to this fourth concluding principle. While the Bible is written to all peoples of all ages, it does seem to have more of an emphasis for true Christians living in the end times. These Christians can not hang on to the faith once delivered if they never had it in the first place. Neither can they fall away from the truth if they never had

the truth to begin with. And since spiritual understanding can only come through God's spiritual revelation through the power of His Holy Spirit, one must conclude there has to be a revelation of the basic core doctrines at different times in human history. Paul refers to such a concept as a spiritual foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10-11). Paul also warns Christians to be careful what they do with this foundation, what they build upon it (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). The question then is, when did this period of revelation, or spiritual "new beginning" occur for the current time period in which we live?

New Beginnings and God's Church

Since the time when God brought Israel out of Egypt, God has worked through a church. Israel was called the "church" or "congregation" or "assembly in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38). Israel had lost much truth during their slavery in Egypt. They no longer kept the Sabbath day, as one example. Through His servant Moses, God revealed His commandments, laws, statutes and judgments to the Israelite congregation. This was a "new beginning". It should have been a spiritual new beginning, but God said Himself that Israel did not have the heart to obey Him (Deuteronomy 5:29).

During the times of the judges and the kings of Judah, there were a few "new beginnings" or "awakenings" to the keeping of God's commandments, laws, statutes and judgments. God would use a judge, prophet or king to awaken His people and bring them back to Him.

The three and a half year ministry of Jesus Christ which resulted in the beginning of the New Testament church would be the most important "new beginning". Jesus added the "spirit of the law" (Matthew 5:17-48, Romans 8:1-9) and promised to send the Holy Spirit of His Father to give us understanding and the heart to finally be able to obey the spirit of God's law (John 14:26; 16:13). This is, of course, the only true spiritual foundation that all humans should build upon.

But what about after the time period of the New Testament church as recorded in the Bible? Have there been one or more episodes of falling away from the truth followed later on by a spiritual reawakening, a revealing of the truth once again resulting in a "new beginning"? To answer this question we need only to turn to the book of Revelation and consider the history of the true church since the time of Jesus Christ's ministry.

Regardless of whether or not one believes in "church eras", it seems logical to admit there at least has been many departures and then revivals in what the Churches of God have believed and taught down through the ages. Another point to consider concerning the seven churches of Revelation, why in a book that is completely and totally prophet would the messages to the seven church not also be prophetic? One reason would be that if one believes this is the end time age and that there are church eras, then one has to consider the conclusion that maybe many people who consider themselves to be true Christian might be deceived about how truly faithful they are to the sum total of God's doctrines – maybe they are in a "Laodicean" condition spiritually. To avoid that conclusion and any resulting spiritual introspection, one simply needs to deny that there are church eras. But even if one denies church eras, we all should remember that for each and every single one of the seven churches in Revelation, God says: "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**" In Revelation chapters two and three, God warns several of the churches with a statement similar to the one He makes to Ephesus: "**Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.**" (Revelation 2:5). The New Testament writings of John, Peter, James, Jude and Paul are filled with warnings for Christians not to allow "false ministers" to preach among them, perverting the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. These warning state that such perversions were already occurring in several of the churches established by the apostles. These warnings are as valid in the end time as when they were first written.

When was the last time in recent history that a church reestablished the basic truths of God: the Sabbath, the Holy Days, a future resurrection not immediate ascension to heaven, we're to be sons of God not angels, 10 commandments are still to be obeyed in the letter and spirit but we are under grace not the death penalty for disobedience, the identity of the lost 10 tribes of Israel, and so forth? For us, this occurred in the 1930's and 1940's as the *Radio Church of God* was begun by Herbert W. Armstrong and his wife Loma. For us, the servants God worked through is not that important as all servants of God are imperfect, some more so than others. Consider that God used Eli, Samson and David for special purposes even though each was quite imperfect. What is important is that this church, a church that sifted spiritual wheat from chaff, reestablished the core doctrines that match up with the "new beginning" of Jesus' teachings as evident from a thorough study of the Bible. This did not occur in an instant, but God working with humans is patient and "re-revealed" His True Doctrines, sometimes one at a time, as this "new" church took root and grew in grace and knowledge. For us, this is a "new beginning". There was not a "new beginning" in the 1970's when Pentecost and D&R were changed. The doctrines of God had been firmly established in the Church of God for several decades, close to 40 years in many cases. What happened in the 1970's were "changes", "departures", not the reestablishment of a spiritual foundation. The same situation occurred with the multitude of changes that occurred in the 1990's.

Many in the Church of God were dismayed at the doctrinal changes proposed in the mid 1990's. They recognized these changes for what they were, the watering down or departure from spiritual truth. They chose to change organizations or start a new organization rather than accept the proposed changes. Why did they not have the same reaction to the changes made by the Church of God in the mid 1970's? That is a question all Church of God Christians should give serious consideration. The changes in the mid 1970's were a more liberal teaching on Divorce and Remarriage and changing a Monday Pentecost to a Sunday. The situation was that many welcomed these changes, especially the D&R change because they wanted "freedom" to remarry after divorce. Even those who may not have agreed with the change said "it doesn't affect me personally and my beliefs so I will continue with this church". What many have not understood is the spiritual principle that Pentecost had to be and was changed first. Pentecost represents the power of the Father's Holy Spirit starting, guiding and leading His New Testament Church and those Christians involved within the Church of God. Before the change to D&R could take place to satisfy the "lusts of the flesh" of some ministers and members, there had to occur a diminishing of the power of the Holy Spirit within the church, otherwise the mass leadership and membership would never accept such changes. By ignoring the spiritual revealed truth of a Monday Pentecost, a few scholarly ministers used the "study of words" from the "wisdom of the world" to convince the leadership of the Church of God to change Pentecost from a Monday to a Sunday. The Church of God has never been the same since then. Some of the consequences of this change were immediate, the change to D&R, while many other changes took years and decades to infiltrate the Church of God – an event predicted in the Bible as we can see from the scriptures below. When just one or two changes in doctrine are made, especially if they are relative to obscure Hebrew counting principles as relative to Pentecost, or an unpopular strictness in marriage, people are willing to accept those changes. However, when the church leaders of the 1990's started to water down a multitude of doctrines, changing popular doctrines like the Sabbath and Holy Days, then people made a spiritual stand. Both occasions were the watering down of the original revealed truths. The 1970 changes "snuck" by the church believers, the 1990 changes were too monumental to be "glossed over". Nonetheless, both sets of changes were departures from the foundation of truth laid in the 1930's and 1940's.

New people coming into the Churches of God have to ask themselves the question whether they have come into a church that has continued with the faith once delivered or a watered down (lukewarm) version of what was formerly taught. They should study the history of the doctrines of the church, not just accept the current status quo of doctrines.

Does God Reveal Truth that Contradicts Itself?

The obvious answer to the question above is, no, of course not. Yet God's people seem to fail to ask themselves this question: Did God reveal truth with the doctrinal changes of the mid 1970's or did God reveal His truths in a "new beginning" of His church in the 1930's and 1940's? It cannot be both times because the doctrinal changes of the mid 1970's contradict what was taught from the beginning of the *Radio Church of God*. The same question can be asked about the changes that took place in the mid 1990's. In the 1990's the answer is quite clear for many, they stayed with the beginning doctrines of the church, they did not accept the new changes. Why is it so much harder to ask and answer the same question for the mid 1970 changes?

God does not lie (Num 23:19, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18). Did he "lie" to His church and let them believe in a false doctrine when He started a new generation of His church in the 1930's? Or did humans seek the wisdom of the world and make changes that watered down the originally revealed truths? These are two more questions that need to be asked and answered. The scriptures that follow in support of the three principles of this article should help with the answers.

One should not only look at what is taught at the beginning or establishment of a "new" Church of God, but one must search the scriptures to see if what was taught does indeed match up with the foundation that Jesus taught as written down by the apostles. As we search the scriptures we see the same foundation was laid at the beginning of the *Radio Church of God* as was laid by the apostles of the New Testament. We do not see where the changes of either the 1970's or 1990's match up with the foundation as given in the New Testament. Indeed, both sets of changes contradict the foundation laid in both cases.

True Christians are given a spiritual challenge in 2 Corinthians 10:5: "**casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**". We view the changes of the 1970's and 1990's as the arguments and wisdom of men against the foundational truths laid by revelation from God within His end-time church. We also think there is historical Biblical significance that the Pentecost and D&R changes occurred almost exactly 40 years after the *Radio Church of God* had its beginning. For 40 years the *Radio Church of God* and then *Worldwide Church of God* held to the same set of doctrinal beliefs (the only exception was in how they administered church government, this started to change shortly after the foundation was laid -- but that is a separate discussion and article).

In Hebrews 13:8 it is stated: "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.**" God did not reveal Pentecost on a Monday and a Sunday. God does not forbid divorce and remarriage at one time and say it is okay at another. One set of teachings is by revelation, one is not. Did the revelation of true doctrines occur at the beginning of the *Radio Church of God*? If not, then people who believed in those doctrines were never truly converted nor was the *Radio Church of God* one of God's true churches. Conversion to The Truth then would only have occurred after the mid 1970's if that is when God revealed His Truth for the first time on these topics. But such a conclusion just doesn't make any spiritual sense as compared to the Biblical scriptures.

These are important questions and discussion as they have a major impact on our spiritual life before God. Let us have the spiritual courage to ask these questions and the spiritual fortitude to accept God's answers.

Biblical Understanding Only By Spiritual Revelation

While we must do our part in prayer and Bible Study, nevertheless, one does not come to The Truth of God unless these efforts are inspired and led by the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 25:14 The secret of the Lord *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

Daniel 2:20-23 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. “I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king’s demand.”

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Matthew 11:25-27 At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him* (Also Luke 10:21-22)

Matthew 13:10-13 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Matthew 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Luke 24:45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

John 6:44-45 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘*And they shall all be taught by God.*’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Acts 16:14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Rom 9:16 So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Rom 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

1 Corinthians 2:4-16 And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*” But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself

is *rightly* judged by no one. For “*who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?*” But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 1:11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Ephesians 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 3:3-5 How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Colossians 1:26 The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

James 1:17-18 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Hold Fast To The Faith Once Delivered

You can't hold on to something you never had. This admonishment is directed to true Christians of all ages, but especially those living in the end time before Jesus Christ' Second Coming. These New Testament warnings are written to the believing Church of God, not the deceived world.

1 Corinthians 15:2 By which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you ...

Philippians 2:16 Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Colossians 2:18-19 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge ...

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Hebrews 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

1 John 2:24 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

2 John 1:5-6 And now I plead with you, lady, not as I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning; that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

Jude 1:3-4 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

Revelation 2:13 ... And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith ...

Revelation 2:25 But hold fast what you have till I come.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. ...

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

A Falling Away From the Truth

There is not one warning against a refusal to accept “new” truth in the whole Bible. Yes, we are told to grow in grace in knowledge, but that is an admonition to grow in the established foundational truths of God. Growing in The Truth is not accepting new changes or teachings that destroy the original foundational truths.

There are dozens upon dozens of scriptures that talk about Israel and the whole world being deceived. While this is an important principle, it is not what true Christians who have had the truth need to be as concerned. Here we will review just those scriptures that warn Christians that false teachers and ministers will come to take them away from The Truth they have already understood, to deceive them with “new doctrines” that replace and destroy the doctrines of the original foundational truths. Or perhaps more dangerous than major changes, watering down true doctrines, just “little” changes – but enough to make God angry (Revelation 3:15-16).

Daniel 11:35 And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

Galatians 1:6-9 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

Ephesians 4:14 That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Colossians 2:4-8 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your *good* order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1 Timothy 1:3-7 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron

1 Timothy 6:3-4 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,

1 Timothy 6:20-21 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

2 Timothy 2:14-19 Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, ...

2 Timothy 3:1, 5-7 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ... having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:13-14 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Titus 1:13-14 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

Hebrews 13:8-9 Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines...

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

2 Peter 2:13-15 *And* will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. *They are* spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. *They have* a heart trained in covetous practices, *and are* accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2 Peter 2:18-21 For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

1 John 2:24-27 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

Jude 1:4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.