

Lesson Notes:

## **Beware of False Teachers**

Certain passages of the Bible may be interpreted differently as some scripture is intended to be taken literally while some is written using allegories and phrases commonly used in the time the scripture was written. Therefore, there is bound to be some debate regarding the exact meaning of certain passages.

While this debate is to be expected, there are some teachers however that will question the basic doctrine of Christ's teachings. Atheists argue that there is no God and the world simply appeared into existence without the knowledge power and creativity of a divine being. Others argue against the intelligent design of humankind while some attempt to take scripture out of context for personal gain.

In Paul's first letter to Timothy he urged Timothy to guard against false teachers and provided examples of how Christians are to respond to false teaching which can be applied to our lives today. Following is a summary of Paul's first letter to Timothy.

## **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) False Teachers do not consent with the Word of God – In 1 Timothy 6:3** Paul tells Timothy that false teaching will be contrary to the word of God. In **1 Timothy 6:3** Paul goes on to say that false teachers preach ungodly doctrine.
- 2) The Teachings of False Teachers is foolish and futile - In Romans 1:21-23** Paul tells the Romans that the teaching of false teachers is foolish and futile. In **Romans 1:24-25** Paul says that they serve the creature rather than the creator in **Romans 1:28** God has given them over to a retro bate mind.
- 3) False Teachers are usually Proud – In 1 Timothy 6:4** Paul tells us that false teachers are usually proud individuals inviting debate.
- 4) Many False Teachers will use the word of God for their own financial gain – In 1 Timothy 6:9** refers to the use of God's word for personal gain as a "snare". In **1 Timothy 6:10** Paul tells us that the love of money is the root of many kinds of evil.

## **How should we respond?**

- 1) Flee their teachings – Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 6:11 – 12** to pursue righteousness and to fight the good fight.
- 2) Remember Jesus is the source of all Life – In 1 Timothy 6:13** Paul tells us that God gives life to all things. In **1 Timothy 6:16** Paul reminds us that Jesus is the only way to immortality.

**3) Keep God's Commandments – 1 Timothy 6:14.**