LIGHT IT UP!
Identifying False Teaching

Various Scriptures   Pastor Mel Svendsen
                                            October 26, 2014

Bottom Line:
Believers in Christ need to be aware of and alert to the false teachings that exist all around us, and be able to defend the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Intro: Why is this important?

- **Because it is _____.**
  2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:18

- **Because it is _____. Matthew 24:11**

- **Because it forces us to _____ what we believe. Acts 20:29,32; Ephesians 4:14-15**

Some definitions:

- **Cult: A group which claims to be _____ but denies at least one of the core teachings of the faith.**

- **Occult: Means "_____" and covers practices not approved by God, such as sorcery, witchcraft, casting spells, and is connected to Satanic rituals.**

- **Other Religion: Does not claim to be Christian and has set of core beliefs and practices that are faithfully practiced by it's adherents.**

Cult, Occult, or Other Religion? (biblical examples)

- **Gnosticism: Believed that body and soul were evil, but spirit was good and divine. Salvation is using knowledge to liberate the spirit out of the earthly dungeon of the body. (1 Timothy 6:20-21) _____**

- **Nicolaitanism: Believed in a religious hierarchy, where one class of people were closer to God than others. (Revelation 2:6,15) _____**

- **Witchcraft: Connected to the powers of Satan. (1 Samuel 15:23; Galatians 5:19-21) _____**

- **Baal Worship: Worship of the Canaanite fertility god known as Baal. (Judges 2:13) _____**

Four Key Questions to Identify False Teaching:

1. Do you base your teachings on the _____ alone, and not other "revelations"? John 14:6; Galatians 1:8; Revelation 22:18-19

2. Do you believe that Jesus was and is _____ the 2nd Person of the _____? John 1:1; John 8:58

3. Do you believe that you are saved by _____ _____ and not your works? Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9

4. Do you believe that other _____ teach the truth and will go to heaven? (Christians believe that there are true believers in many different Bible-teaching denominations. False teachers believe their group alone has the truth and that all other groups of Christians are deficient and need their exclusive teaching and knowledge.)