

2 Timothy 2:16-19
Spiritual Gangrene

Contrary to the Gospel ...

- I. Irreverent Babble
 - A. Corruptive
 - B. Corrosive
- II. Multiple Examples
 - A. A Destructive Duo
 - B. Dangerous Doctrines
- III. A Solid Foundation
 - A. God's Seal of Approval
 - B. On a Holy People

... avoided like the plague.

Children, Listen ...

1. What is a heretic?
2. What happens when people twist the meaning of what the Bible plainly teaches?
3. What should the church do with someone who keeps teaching false things?
4. What are some good ways to make sure a preacher or teacher is being true to what the Bible says?

Swerving vs. Solid

Doctrinal error in the church takes on many forms. To state the obvious, it is always damaging. We must always strive for biblically sound interpretation, but the fact of the matter is perfection is unattainable due to our finite grasp of things. But while misunderstanding and nuanced misinterpretation may have a negative impact, grave heresy is quite another issue. Narrowly defined, heresy is error that strikes at fundamentals of true Christian faith. The end result of embracing such teaching is devastating to those who are lead astray. Consequently, those who teach them face terrible consequences (2 Peter 2; Jude 1:3-16). The church has been plagued with heretics from the beginning down to this very day. But God is faithful, and He has preserved His Word and provided sound doctrine through the faithful in His church through the ages. Solidly established on His foundation believers can be assured they have the truth, but also that they will not be deceived by falsehood if they are careful students of Scripture. God knows His own and will not let those He has put his seal upon them slide into the pit of soul-destroying heresy. But we must be vigilant, not tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." Ephesians 4:14