

**True or False? Are You Prepared to Answer?
1 Timothy 6:3-5**

Second, by refusing to get ensnared with “*strange doctrines.*”

1. Do we have any strange people in here today? We all are a little strange, aren't we? But hopefully, you haven't gotten ensnared in any “strange doctrine.”
2. Hebrews 13:9 gives an important word of warning to believers, “*Be not carried about* (transported here and there) *with divers and strange doctrines.*”
3. Last week we talked about the doctrine of Jesus Christ given from heaven to the apostle Paul. Look at verse 3. Paul is telling his son in the faith, Timothy, “You stick by the stuff I have given you because it came directly from Jesus Christ.” Paul gave doctrine to the church that leads to godliness in this present dispensation. Titus 1:1-3
4. But what if a person will not acknowledge the doctrine that is according to godliness? What is the result? Look at verse 4. “*He is proud, knowing nothing...*” That is a big statement, but very true.
 - When a person will not acknowledge Paul's position as the apostle of the Gentiles and will not acknowledge that he received special revelation from Jesus Christ for the church, the body of Christ, he can study the Bible until he is blue in the face, but he won't get it right. He won't rightly divide it.
 - And when you refuse to rightly divide the Bible, you end up with wrong answers. You may be able to quote Scripture, and you may be filled with pride over how much Bible you know, but it will avail nothing. It will lead only to confusion, frustration, false doctrine, and false expectations. Look at verse 4 again and see the result.
5. A false teacher, in pride, always wants to share some “new truth” with you or some deep doctrine never before revealed.
6. Salvation is no longer a simple-to-understand doctrine to a false teacher. Look at what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
 - Paul said to the church in 2 Corinthians 11:3, “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*”
 - Do you want to know one way to test whether somebody is a false teacher? Ask him this question, “How can I be saved and forgiven of all my sin and know that I am going to heaven?”
 - If his answer is a lengthy discourse, you probably have a false teacher on your hands.
7. False teachers can be very convincing though (Ephesians 4:14). They are cunning and crafty. This is why it is so important that you, as a believer, grow in Christ. You must be able to detect these false teachers.
8. They can crop up in your own local church. Paul warned about this (Acts 20:29-30). Paul said they dote about questions and “*strifes of words.*” That word “*doting*” literally means “to be sick (as a diseased appetite), to harp upon.”
 - They have a disease of the spirit that causes them to fall in love with controversial things, and they get consumed with things that don't really

matter. They are wrapped up with strifes of words rather than focusing on the clear, pure doctrine of Jesus Christ revealed to us through the apostle Paul.

9. If this kind of people get involved in a church, they can do a great deal of damage. Look at the result of their teaching and attitudes in verse 4: “*envy, strife, railings* (to vilify, blaspheme), *evil surmisings* (casting suspicion over good doctrine).”
10. What do you do when you run across a person like this? Romans 16:17-18
 - Paul says to avoid them. Their diseased spirit will influence you. If you don’t want to catch a contagious disease, stay away from those infected!

In Conclusion:

1. You say, “Pastor Dan, what kind of strange doctrines does this kind of people teach?”
2. Everything imaginable! If you channel surf the religious channels on your television, you will hear many strange doctrines.
 - This is why you have to get rooted and grounded. You don’t have to know every conceivable false doctrine. It would be impossible. There are too many of them.
3. You need to concern yourself with knowing the truth, and you will be able to detect the difference between “*wholesome words*” (vs. 3) and “*strange doctrines*.” As Paul put it in verse 5, “*Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds...*”
4. If you know the truth, the truth will make you free. You won’t get entangled in ridiculous questions and “*strifes of words*” (vs. 4).
5. Paul is going to give us an example of one of these strange doctrines. It must have been very prevalent in his day. What’s amazing is that it is still prevalent today.
6. We will look at this next week.

End Part 2