

**CONNECTION QUESTION**

How long did it take you to dig out from last week's snow storm?

REVIEW

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11. In the sermon, we learned about Timothy's traits. Can you relate to any of them?

What do you think it felt like to be a young man leading the church in Ephesus?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:37. Paul was adamant in 1 Timothy and in 1 Corinthians that the gospel message about Jesus was not his opinion. It was not up for discussion because it came directly from God. How does that change the way you think about the books in the New Testament?

FURTHER STUDY

Pastor Kurt mentioned some popular books (like *The Bible Code*) that have distracted Christians from a simple focus on Christ. Can you think of any other examples?

Read Romans 3:19-20 and 8:3-4. How are we to treat the Old Testament? Why is it important to understand this relationship?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, 4:3-6. Paul describes the good news of Jesus as far more glorious than the law of God. Why does Satan want to dull our understanding of the glory of the gospel? What does it look like when a seasoned Christian loses sight of the glory of the good news of Jesus?



The Bible describes many ways Satan attempts to distract our focus from Jesus. What distraction strategies do these verses reveal?

- *Read 1 Timothy 4:6-8, 6:20-21.* How does Satan use foolish controversies in the church to distract us from Jesus? Can you think of any you experienced?
- *Read Colossians 2:8.* How can Satan use philosophy and human wisdom to distract us from the simple life-changing message of Christ? What does a church look like when it raise human wisdom over the power of the simple gospel message?
- *Read Colossians 2:20-23.* Paul warns about self-discipline and self-made religion becoming a replacement for Christ. What does this look like? Share an example where you have seen spirituality raised over the message of the cross.
- *Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4.* Paul warns about a love for popularity and saying things people want to hear drawing people away from the Christ (*Think Joel Olstein*). Can you think of other modern popularity preachers that focus more on entertainment than Jesus?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. Who is behind all teaching that takes our eyes off Jesus?

Read Titus 3:9-11. How should we handle those who stir up controversies in the church and take our eyes off following Jesus?

Prayer — As we close the study, thank Jesus for the simple gospel message and its power. Confess your lack of fascination with the glory of the gospel and recommit yourself to walk with Jesus through prayer and his Word.