

• True or False?

1. The only even prime number is 2. **True**
2. A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time. **True**
3. Mark Twain's real name was Samuel Clementine. **False**
4. If a month starts on a Sunday it will contain Friday the 13th. **True**

*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



I Timothy

Dealing with Falsehood

1 Tim. 6:3-5

1. Recognizing False Teachers (3)
2. Understanding False Teachers (4-5)



1. Recognizing False Teachers

- How do we know them?

- A. By What They *Affirm*

- They advocate a different doctrine

- Different from the apostles' teachings (e.g.- 2:1—6:2; cf. 2 Pet. 3:1-2)

- Timothy was to instruct certain men not to teach such things (1:3)



1. Recognizing False Teachers

- How do we know them?

B. By What They *Deny*

- They do not agree with *sound words*

- *Sound = Healthy* – promoting spiritual health (cf. 1:10)

- Cf. *nourished* on the words of the faith and the good doctrine (4:6)



1. Recognizing False Teachers

- How do we know them?

B. By What They *Deny*

- They do not agree with words *of* our Lord Jesus Christ (Regarding? Spoken by?)

- *From Jesus, through* His apostles (1 Cor. 14:37; Gal. 1:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6; 2 Pet. 3:1-2; cf. 1 John 2:7-8)



1. Recognizing False Teachers

- How do we know them?

B. By What They *Deny*

- They do not agree with the doctrine conforming to godliness (4:7-10; 6:11)
 - I.e. - teaching that outlines Godly living (cf. 1 Thess. 4:1-12)



2. Understanding False Teachers

- Characteristics of false teachers:

- They tell only half the story

- Over-emphasize what we *get*: freedom, forgiveness, gifts from God, etc.

- Overlook what we are to *do* with what we have been given: love, give, serve, good deeds, etc.



2. Understanding False Teachers

- For example:

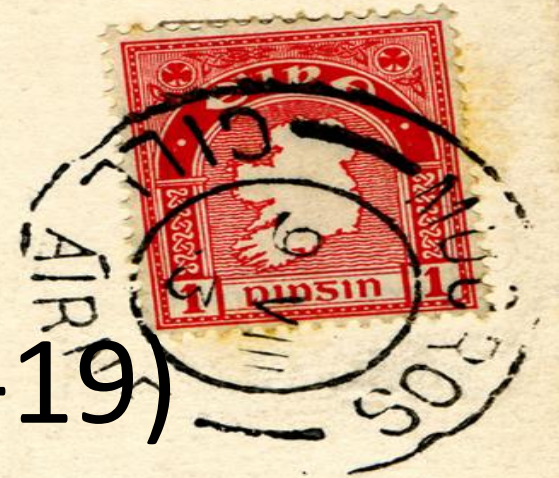
- “It was for freedom that Christ set us free” (Gal. 5:1a)

- “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Gal. 5:13)



2. Understanding False Teachers

- Characteristics of false teachers:
 - Appeal to the flesh (2 Pet. 2:18-19)
 - Misuse grace / freedom (Jude 4, 16)
 - Twist God's word (2 Tim. 2:14-19)
 - Appear orthodox (2 Cor. 11:13-15)
 - Motivated by greed (2 Pet. 2:3, 13)



2. Understanding False Teachers

A. They are *conceited*

- *Blinded by smoke* (see 3:6)
 - He has placed himself above God's word and judges it (cf. James 4:11-12)
 - We should humbly submit to it (Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 11:28; cf. James 1:22-25)



2. Understanding False Teachers

B. They understand nothing

- Or: *he has become conceited while understanding nothing*
- Baseless pride
- Rejection of God's word brings ignorance, blindness, judgment, etc. (Eph. 4:17-19; Mark 4:11-12; John 12:44-50)



2. Understanding False Teachers

C. They are *sick*

- An unhealthy obsession with:
 - *Controversial questions*: (philosophical) speculations with no answers or purpose
 - *Disputes about words*: trifling over insignificant differences (2 Tim. 2:14-15)



2. Understanding False Teachers

D. They produce works of the flesh

- *Envy* – ill-will due to the excellence, happiness, or success of another
- *Strife* – wrangling, contention
- *Abusive language* – slander, insults
- *Evil suspicions* – judging another's motives
- *Constant friction* – irritability



2. Understanding False Teachers

D. They produce works of the flesh

- See Rom. 1:28-32; Gal. 5:19-21;

Col. 3:8; cf. James 3:14-16

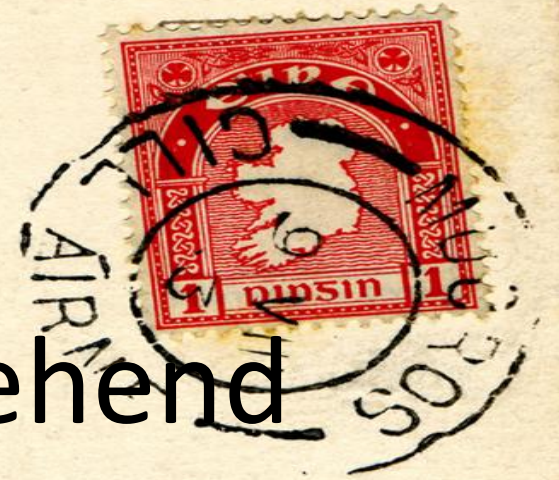
- Acting out when desires not fulfilled (see James 4:1-10)



2. Understanding False Teachers

E. They have corrupted minds

- The mind is designed to comprehend truth and inform the will
- The mind that rejects God's truth will cease to function properly
 - *Hate the truth; love the lie* (Rom. 1:18-32; Eph. 4:17-19; cf. 2 Thess. 2:9-12)



2. Understanding False Teachers

E. They are *deprived* of the truth

- Better: *bereft* – they were once exposed to truth but have turned away (1:19; 4:1; cf. Mark 4:24-25; Titus 1:14)
- They even *oppose* the truth (2 Tim. 3:8)
- Dangerous! (Heb. 10:26-31)

F. They are *greedy* (next week)



So What?

- False teachers emphasize *self*;
God desires love & good deeds
 - “the goal of our instruction is love” (1:5)
 - Created for good works (Eph. 2:10)
 - “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (Heb. 10:24)



So What?

- You have been *given* to *give*; use what you have been given
 - “Freely you received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:8)
 - “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (Eph. 4:32)



So What?

- *The Truth is important to God!*
 - The truth sets us free (John 8:32)
 - We must know sound doctrine
 - We must live out sound doctrine
 - This is how we know that we have come to know Him (1 John 2:3-5)



So What?

- Are we false teachers if we don't know everything perfectly?
 - No, we cannot know *everything* perfectly
 - But we are expected to grow in knowledge (1 Pet. 3:18; cf. 1 Pet. 1:3-11)
 - Speak the truth to one another, to promote maturity (Eph. 4:15)

