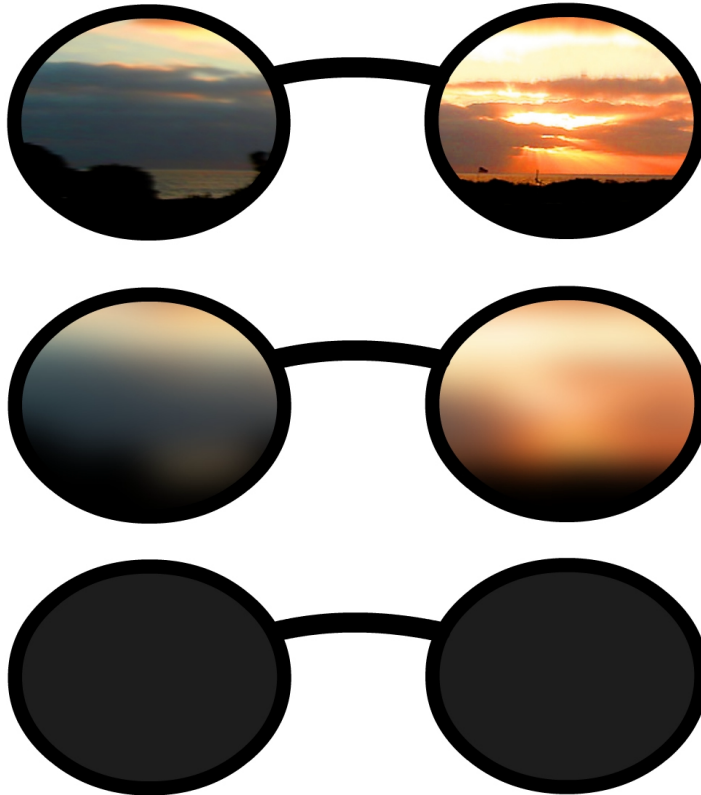


## "Contend Earnestly For the Faith" Part 2

by Erik Olsen

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

### --THE LENS OF SCRIPTURE GIVES US A CLEAR VIEW OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY...



--Luke 24:25-27: "Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**"

--Acts 26:22-23: "Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, **saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come — 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.**"

--John 1:29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

--**the meaning of true Christianity:** Christ died in our place to make full payment for our sins so that we can have a relationship with Him both now and in eternity... almost all other religions, in various ways, say that we are responsible for at least part of the payment...

### --STRATEGIC INSIGHTS FROM TWO SPIRITUAL BATTLES IN THE BIBLE

--**Church history is so turbulent because the church is located in the middle of a battlefield!**

--**False teachers constantly try to distort God's Word by adding to or taking away from it!**

--**Satan is the mastermind behind all false teachers.** Before looking at how specific false teachers operate it is wise to first look at what the Bible tells us about how Satan operates.

--Jesus called Satan **the father of lies.** (John 8:44)

## --STRATEGIC BATTLE 1: Adam and Eve's encounter with Satan

In the Garden of Eden, Satan first questioned the Word of God when he said to Eve, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" (Genesis 3:1) After Eve answered, "God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die,'" (Genesis 3:3) Satan took it one step further and outright denied God's Word by saying, "You will not surely die." Then he added, "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). ...in other words, your wisdom will be equal to God's wisdom -- ***you don't need to listen to God's Word, you can rely on your own ideas / follow your own way contrary to God's way... This lie is the seed of all false teachings.***

--1 Corinthians 1:21-25 "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. "

## --STRATEGIC BATTLE 2: Jesus' encounter with Satan

--Satan tempted Jesus during His 40 days in the wilderness by misquoting scripture. Jesus always replied by correctly quoting scripture...

--Luke 4:1-4: "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. ... And the devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' But Jesus answered him, saying, '**It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."**'"

--Christ "left us an example, that we should follow His steps..." (1 Peter 2:21)

## --SCRIPTURE REPEATEDLY WARNS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS:

--1 Timothy 4:1: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and **doctrines of demons...**"

--Colossians 2:1-8: "For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea. ... **Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you** with persuasive words. ... **Beware lest anyone cheat you** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

--Galatians 1:6-7: "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; **but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**"

--Ephesians 4:14: "...we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men..."

--Hebrews 13:9: "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines..."

--Hebrews 5:12-13: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food."

--2 Timothy 3:13-15: "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

--2 Timothy 2:14-19: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have **strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.** 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands..."

--Hebrews 2:1: "Therefore **we must give the more earnest heed** to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." ("So we must listen very carefully to the truths we have heard, or we may drift away from them." -TLB)

--2 Peter 2:1-3: "But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach their destructive heresies about God and even turn against their Master who bought them. Theirs will be a swift and terrible end. 2 Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. **And because of them, Christ and his true way will be slandered.** (NLT)

--Titus 1:10-14

--2 Peter 3:1-13

--Jude 3-4