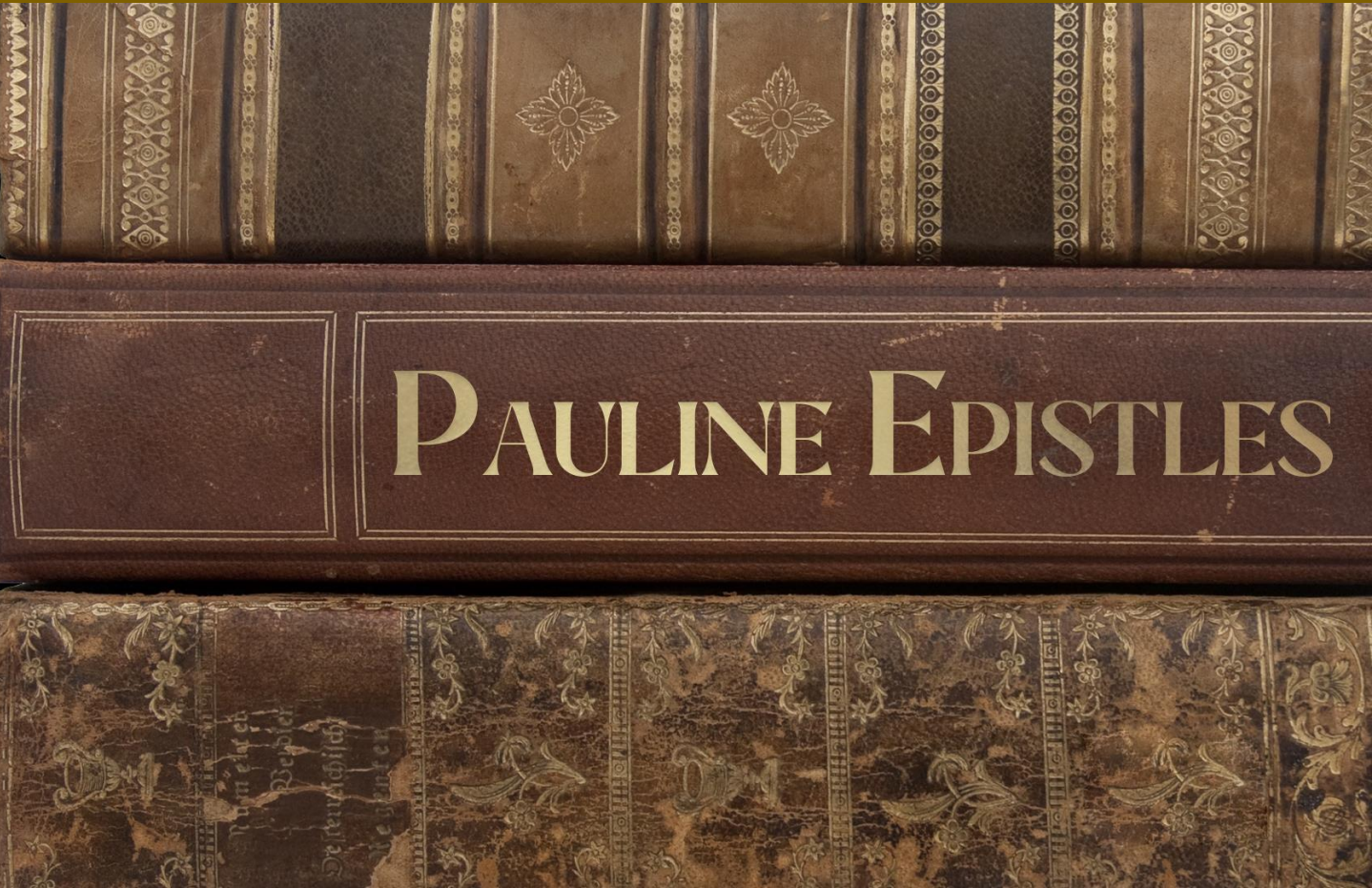
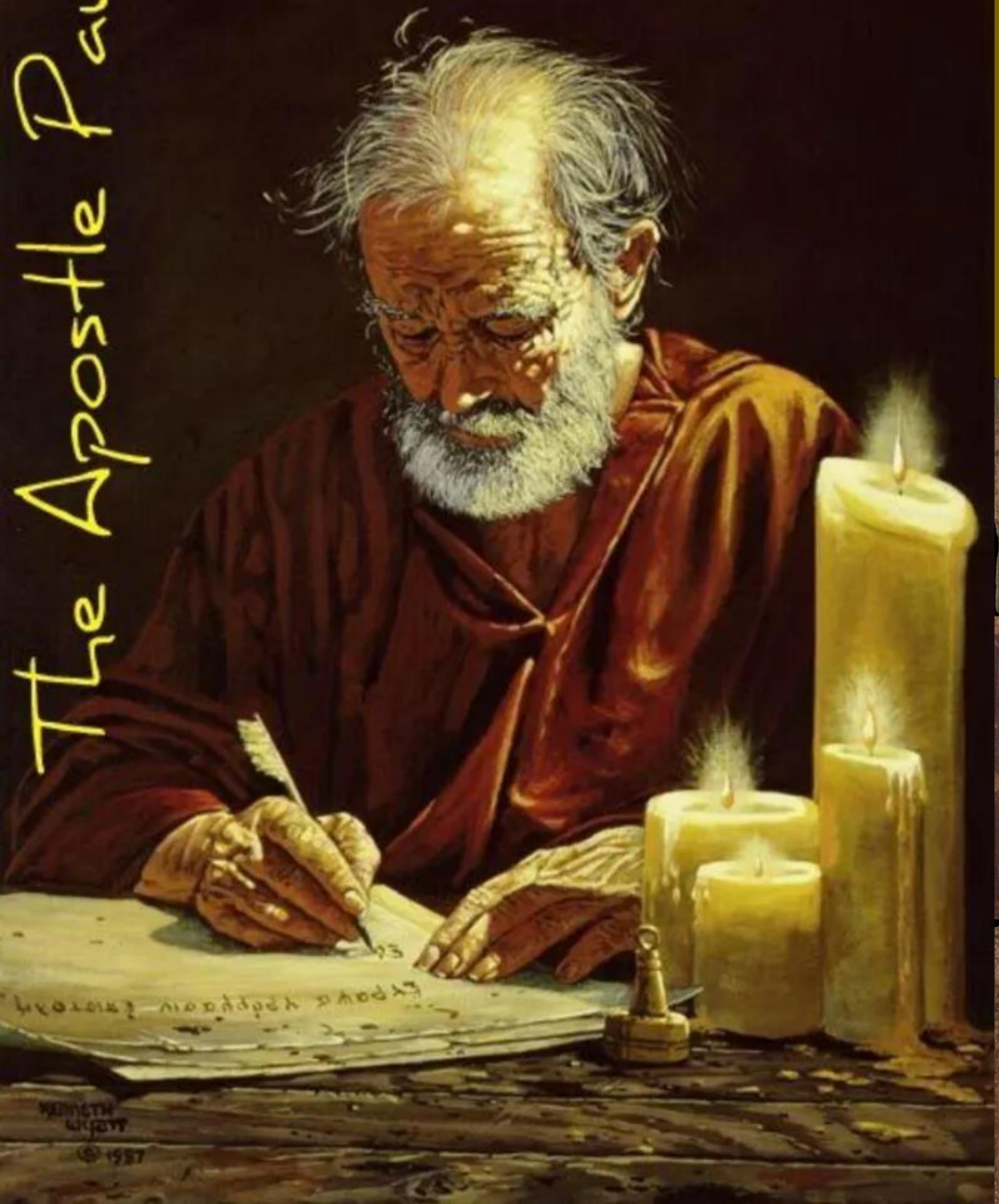
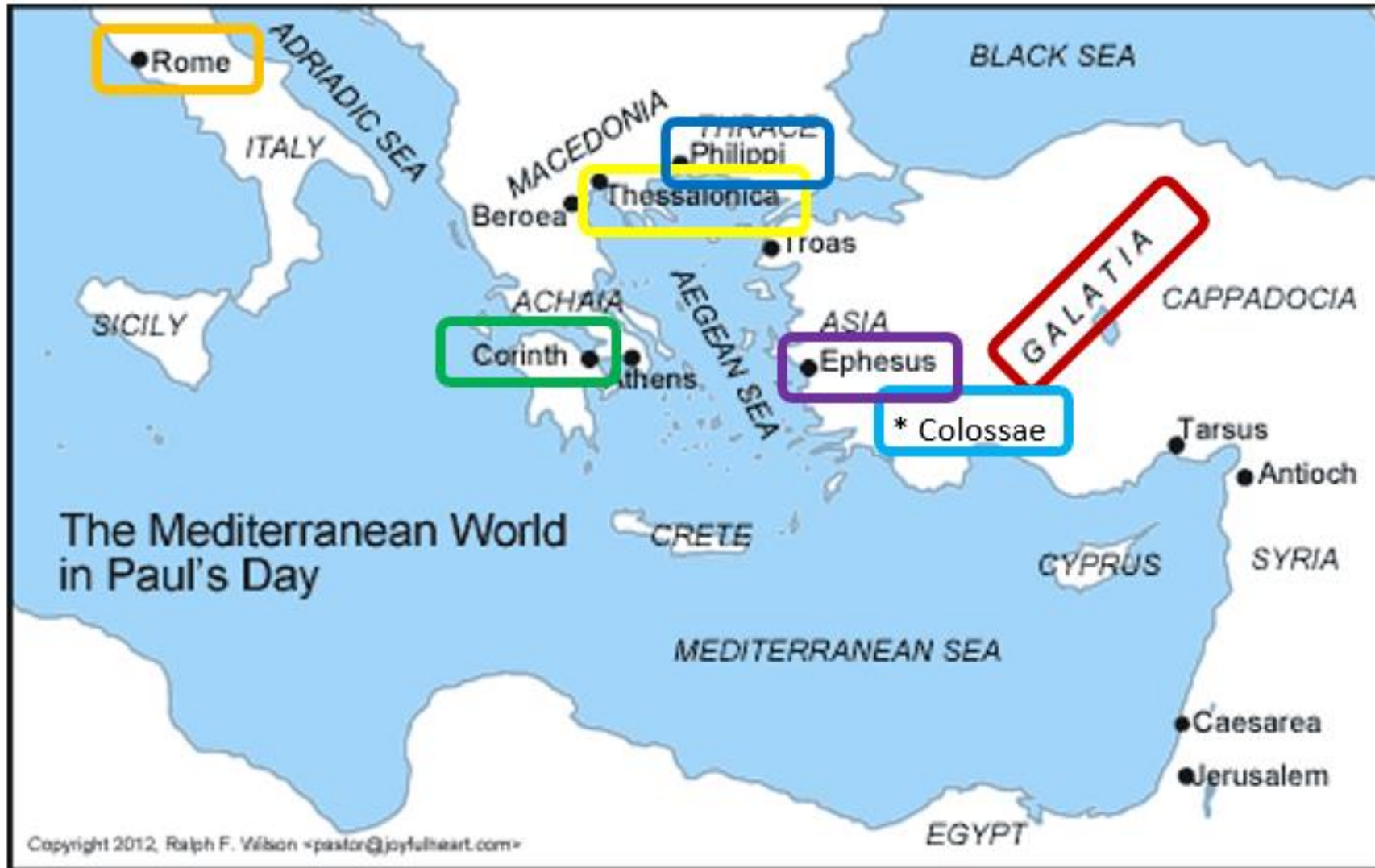


The Apostle Paul





9 letters to 7 churches

4 letters to 3 individuals: Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Pauline Themes



Suffering and Perseverance	Worship	Grace	Righteous living	False teaching
Joy	Discipleship	Return of Christ	Holy Spirit	Adoption
	Unity	Finding life	Love	

False Teaching / Heresy

- belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious (especially Christian) doctrine.
- opinion profoundly at odds with what is generally accepted.
- Opposite of orthodoxy



Joan of Arc, 1431

It is a good time to be a heretic!



It seems that today's most brazen heretic will be granted a hearing and, in all likelihood, a book deal. Novelty is appealing, orthodoxy boring. It's the ones who sound the warning and issue the challenge that bear the risk—the risk of being labelled “haters.” There's more patience for those who smilingly subvert the truth than for those who boldly defend it. Conviction is a sign of arrogance, while humility is expressed in uncertainty. Love, it seems, requires us to bear patiently with any amount of error. And this kind of love, we are told, is modeled after Jesus. Jesus did not judge, Jesus welcomed all opinions, Jesus would have accepted different kinds of teachings—so long as those teachings contained love and hints of truth.

**Woe to you,
teachers of the law
and Pharisees,
you hypocrites!**

Matthew 23:13,15,23,25, 27,29 - NIV





8 Ways to Spot False Teachers

1. False
teaching
preys on the
spiritually
immature





Romans 16

¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Ephesians 4



¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



Galatians 1

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

Chapter 3: You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?



2 Corinthians 11

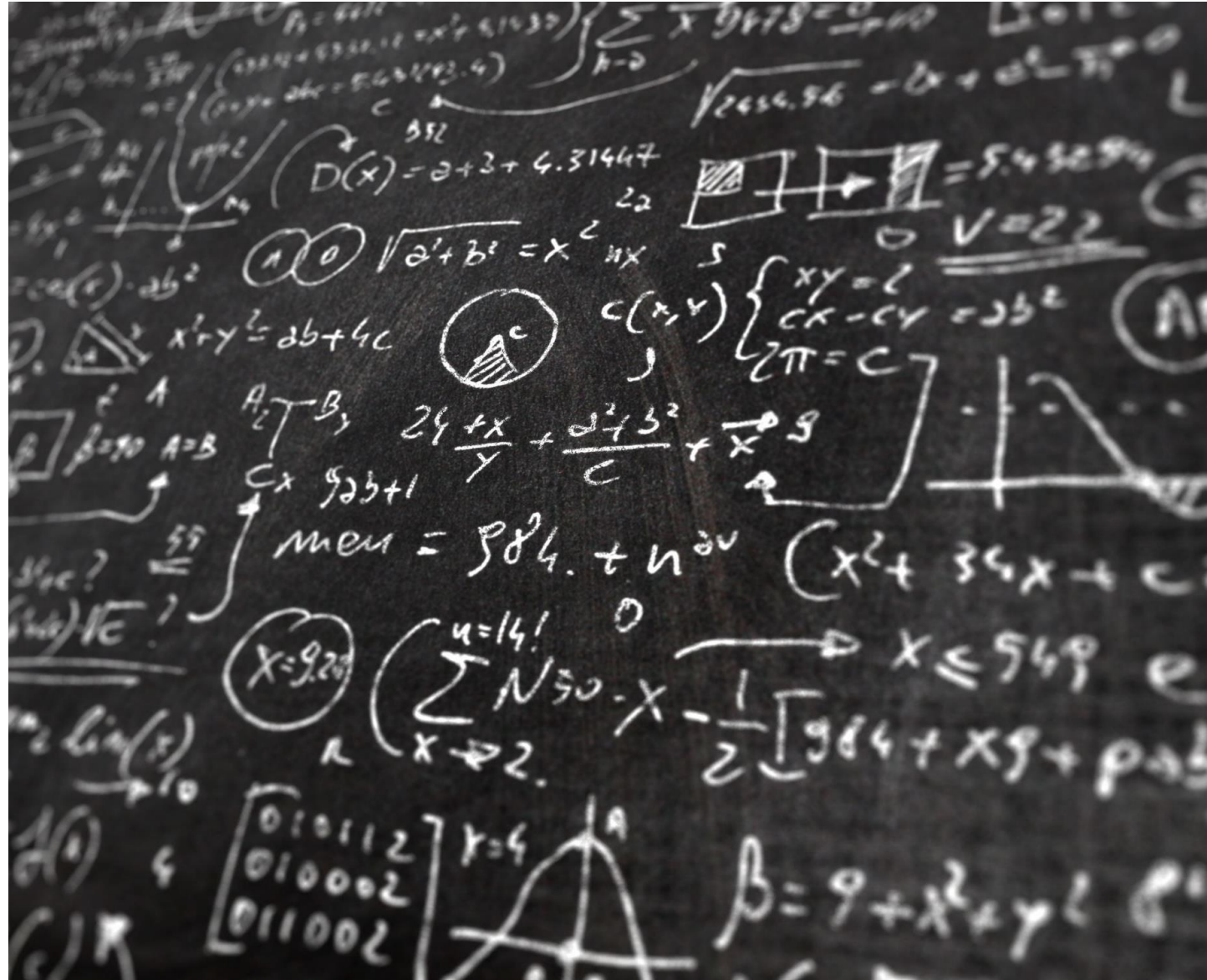
² I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.



2 Timothy 4

² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

2. False teaching can be the product of distorted interpretations of Scripture by those not firmly established in the truth.





2 Peter 3 *(referring to Paul's writing)*

¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

3. False teaching grows out of ungodly ambition, ignorance, and conceit.



1 Timothy 1



³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

4. False teaching
sometimes
stems from a
desire for
material gain.





2 Corinthians 2

17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.



1 Timothy 6

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. ³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴ they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

5. False teaching can result from and lead to inappropriate personal desires.





Romans 16

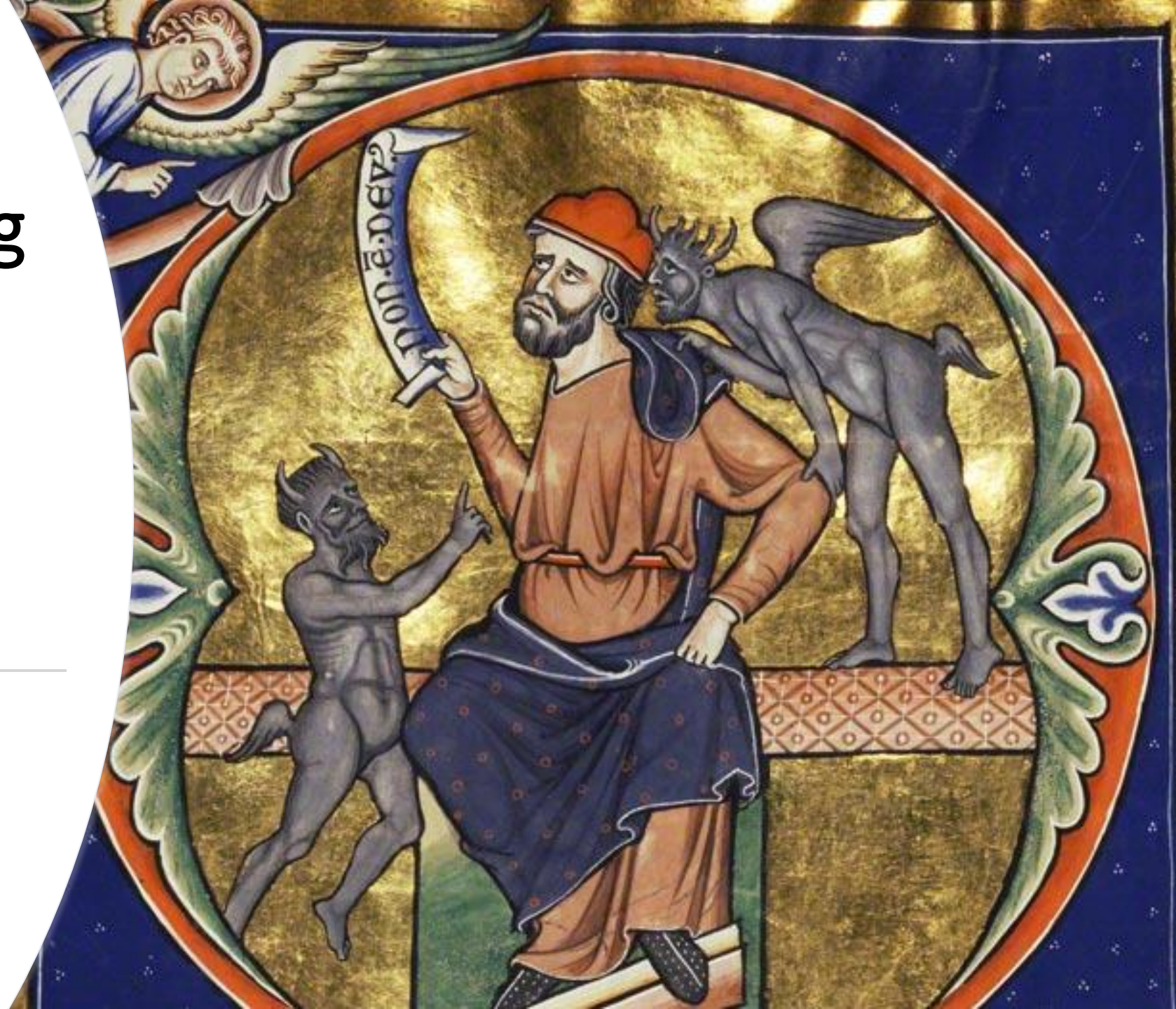
¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.



2 Timothy 4

³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

6. False teaching is sometimes attributed to demonic deception.





1 Timothy 4

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

2 Corinthians 11



¹² And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. ¹³ For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

7. False teachers seek to divide the body of Christ.





Romans 16

¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.



1 Timothy 6

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. ³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴ they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.



Titus 3

⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹ You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

8. False teaching
can come from
apostates and
deviant teachers
within the church.





Acts 20 (*Paul talking to Ephesian elders*)

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.



2 Timothy 2

¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

²³ Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.



Titus 1

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain... ¹⁴ and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.

Heresies:

*1st Three
centuries of
the church*

- Fighting heresies:
 - Judaizers – Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)
 - Marcionism
 - Gnostics – Apostle's Creed
 - Arianism – Nicene Creed
 - Docetism
 - + many others, especially regarding nature of Jesus
- Patriarchs / Bishops:
 - Enhanced authority of the Bishop to define true teaching

AD 381 to
refute Arianism
*(Jesus was a
creation of, and
lesser than, God
the Father)*



NICENE CREED

I believe in **one God**, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. **God from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;**
Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under
Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the
third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and
is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the
Son is adored and glorified**, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church**.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.



facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

Text evolved 3rd –
5th centuries to
combat Gnosticism
(*dualism*)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God
the Father almighty, from thence He shall come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.



Top 5 Heresies Today in U.S. Evangelical Christians

Based on 2022 Lifeway Poll



- Jesus was created by God - *Arianism*
 - “Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God”: 73% agreed
- Jesus is not God – *Socianism* (*Unitarians, Jehovah’s Witnesses*)
 - “Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God”: 43% agreed
- Jesus is not the only way to God - *Universalism*
 - “God accepts the worship of all religions”: 56% agreed
- Humans aren’t sinful by nature – *Pelagianism* (*modern liberalism*)
 - “Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature”: 57% agreed
- The Holy Spirit is not a personal being – *Star Wars* (*Athanasian creed*)
 - “The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being”: 60% agreed

Themes and Key Takeaways







- Jesus Christ warned, “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many” ([Matthew 24:4–5](#)). He further warned, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible
- The apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthian believers to watch out for anyone who came preaching “another Jesus whom we have not preached...or a different gospel which you have not accepted” ([2 Corinthians 11:4](#)). Paul explained to the Galatians that the perversion of the true gospel amounts to nothing less than “a different gospel,” and that anyone who preaches or practices such a “gospel” is to “be accursed” ([Galatians 1:6–9](#)).e, even the elect” (verse 24).



Speeches of Paul in Acts

- 6 of the 11 warn about heresy or teachers who will turn people away from Christ
- Cypress: Jewish sorcerer and false prophet: Bar-Jesus/Elymas (ch. 13)
- Lystra: Paul and Barnabas = Zeus and Hermes (ch. 14)
- Jerusalem: Judaizers (ch. 15)
- Philippi: Slave girl with evil spirit (ch. 16)
- Athens: unknown God (ch. 17)
- Ephesus: Elders, keep watch... savage wolves (ch. 20)