

**Recap of 4/10/16 (2 Peter 2:13-22):**

- 1. “The church should cherish and fervently protect the gospel because it is our only hope of salvation. We need not be surprised then when we discover how Satan, throughout history, has endeavored to twist and distort the gospel of God. In fact, even in the time of the apostles, a fierce attack against the gospel had already been launched.” (Joe Mizzi, Test All Things)**
- 2. “Some are faithful to the faith, sound in belief, orthodox in doctrine, but are not faithful to the fight, do not contend for the faith.” “Paul did not soften up in old age and drift into that smiling tolerance which so many today think is a mark of broadminded maturity.” (Vance Havner, Day by Day)**
- 3. Peter’s warning is appropriate for our day. Not everyone who calls themselves Christian, are Christian in the biblical sense. Not everyone who uses the Bible, uses it rightly. We are called to be discerning. The New Testament writers had no tolerance for deviation from the gospel, especially in the name of Christianity (see Galatians 1 for example). It is an ongoing battle to hold onto the truth; to hold onto biblical morality/purity; and to not devolve into formalism, that is, just going through the motions of religion.**
- 4. Peter’s descriptions and characterizations of false teachers are harsh for false teachers destroy the faith of, especially, new believers rendering them ineffective and unproductive in their faith; and they keep unbelievers from the truth of the gospel.**
- 5. “You can’t be a ‘halfway’ Christian or a ‘social believer.’ Ultimately you will choose to go all the way, in full commitment to Jesus. Or your natural instincts will win out, and you’ll turn away from the faith entirely. If you’re in that hallway state, go the whole way quickly. It’s better to have never known the way, than to know it and turn back” (Lawrence Richards).**