
FAKE NEWS THAT'S FATAL NEWS

1 TIMOTHY 6:3-5



We live in a dangerous world, don't we? Especially in this time of a global pandemic, we face an invisible danger. Everyone is taking defensive measures to one degree or another. We want to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community.

But COVID-19 is not our greatest danger. It may kill tens of thousands, but there's something else that has killed millions, even billions, and it's still doing so today. It's false teaching about religion. It has destroyed and damned more people than COVID-19 ever has or will.

We must take defensive measures to protect ourselves and our loved ones, and the first step is recognizing the virus of false teaching. If we don't know what we're dealing with, and what to look out for, we're going to be extremely vulnerable. In 1 Timothy 6:3-5, we learn four marks of false teachers:

- **THEY CONTRADICT THE SCRIPTURES**
- **THEY ARE PROUD**
- **THEY MAJOR ON MINORS**
- **THEY ARE GREEDY**

LEARNING

FALSE TEACHERS CONTRADICT THE SCRIPTURES

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness (3). Anything that differs from the words of Scripture or our Savior is false, and fraudulent, and fake, because it doesn't produce godliness but devilishness.

FAKE NEWS IS FATAL NEWS

FALSE TEACHERS ARE PROUD

He is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing (4). They are vain and self-centered. They are proud of their knowledge but when tested it's clear they know nothing worth knowing.

FALSE TEACHERS ARE SELF-INFLATED
BUT EASILY DEFLATED.

FALSE TEACHERS MAJOR ON MINORS

He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words (4). And what's the result of that? It produces envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth (4-5). They specialize in limited areas and weaponize that to portray themselves as knowledgeable and right and everyone else as ignorant and wrong.

A LOVER OF CONTROVERSY
IS A HATER OF SOULS.

FALSE TEACHERS ARE GREEDY

Imagining that godliness is a means of gain (5). Whatever differs among false teachers, this unites them all, they are greedy and use religion primarily to make money.

CHRIST MADE DISCIPLES NOT DOLLARS.

LOVING

When we see so much false teaching around, and we see so many infected and dying of it, let's thank and praise God for preserving us. The God of truth has given us the truth, he's given us true teachers of truth, and he's kept us in the truth.

Doesn't this make us love Jesus more? He was truth enfleshed. He not only taught the Word perfectly, he is the perfect Word. His teaching is the only hope of godliness. **You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free** (Jn. 8:32). He said, **Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls** (Matt. 11:29). He knew more truth than anyone else and yet was humble about it. He focused on majors and used the truth to unite people. He had no desire for money, only the gain of his hearers.

LIVING

Later in this chapter, Paul reflects on this section and warns, **Flee these things (11)**. Run away from it as fast as you possibly can. Run from falsehood, and run to the truth of Jesus, because your life, your spiritual life, and your eternal life, depends upon it.
