



# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

## Discerning the Daze of Deception, Pt. 4

Pastor John Riggs

### Key Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 11:3–4 — The central passage of this sermon; Paul warns the Corinthians about false teachers presenting “another Jesus,” “a different spirit,” and “a different gospel.”
- Jude 1:3 — Command to “contend for the faith” once delivered to the saints.
- 2 Peter 2:1–3 — Warning about false prophets and teachers who bring “destructive heresies,” exploit followers, and appeal to sensuality.
- John 14:6 — Jesus declares, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- Ephesians 2:1–3 — Description of humanity’s condition before salvation: “dead in trespasses,” following “the prince of the power of the air,” and “children of wrath.”
- Romans 1:16 — Paul affirms, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation.”
- Galatians 1:6–9 — Paul’s rebuke to the Galatians for “turning to a different gospel” and his warning that even an angel preaching a different gospel is accursed.
- Romans 1 (chapter reference) — General reference to moral decline and God “giving people over to their sin.”
- 1 Timothy 2:5 — “There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”
- Acts 4:12 — “There is salvation in no one else; there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

### NOTES:

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## Key Points:

- The current era is characterized by deception, with Artificial Intelligence playing a significant and potentially concerning role.
- There is a growing trend of people forming deep emotional connections with AI, leading to concerning societal implications.
- Christians are called to 'contend for the faith' against false teachers and doctrines that present a distorted view of Jesus and the gospel.
- The gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ alone is being perverted by the idea of multiple paths to God, which is a dangerous deception.
- The ease of accessing information through technology and AI poses a risk of pastors neglecting deep scriptural study and prayer.
- The gospel is the sole means of salvation, and its perversion by Satan is a significant threat.
- Christians must be discerning about the messages they consume, especially from popular media and figures.
- The true gospel offers reconciliation with God for sinful humanity, not acceptance of sin as it is.
- Societal decline is linked to a departure from biblical truth and the influence of sin.
- True salvation transforms a person, evidenced by a hatred for former sinful practices.
- Many people in the West, particularly in the South, hold a false understanding of Christianity, leading them to believe they are saved when they are not.
- Hell is a real place of eternal punishment for those who die without Christ, and its infrequent preaching contributes to a lack of fear of God.
- The ultimate judgment involves standing before God, with names either in the book of life or cast into the lake of fire.
- The way Christians live is a testament to Christ, and a lack of difference between their lives and the world's can negate their testimony.
- True Christianity is not about religious activity but about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, based on His finished work.

## NOTES:

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**Question and Answer:** (answers provided on pages 21-24 of the study)

Q: What are the concerns regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) mentioned in the sermon?

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Q: What does it mean to 'contend for the faith'?

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Q: Why is it important to be wary of teachings that suggest multiple paths to God?

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Q: What is the significance of a 'digital you' in relation to AI?

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Q: Why is AI technology mentioned in relation to the gospel?

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Q: What does it mean to 'pervert the gospel'?

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Q: Why are false gospels so popular?

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Q: What is the difference between the 'bad news' and the 'good news' of the gospel?

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Q: What does it mean to be 'dead in your trespasses and sins'?

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Q: Why should Christians not judge those outside the body of Christ?

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Q: What is 'sensuality' in the context of false gospels?

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Q: What is the greatest problem facing mankind?

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Q: What are the 'wages of sin'?

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Q: What is the difference between true Christianity and 'churchianity'?

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## Sermon Transcript:

I'd like to invite you once again to open your Bibles to 2 Corinthians chapter 11. We'll be looking at the mainframe verses of the study that we've been doing in the series called Discerning the Days of Deception. I will be wrapping this up next week and we'll be looking at some practical tools to help us apply these truths that we've been learning the last five weeks. No question, we're living in a very interesting time in the history of the world. This is nothing for us to be concerned with in that scripture pre-predicted that these days would be here and much has been written through the word of God to help us understand and know what we can expect to find taking place in what is called the last of the last days, these latter days. And no doubt we are living in what Jesus described would be a great time of deception. In fact, deception would be the overarching theme of the days of Christ's return. I find it very interesting this week that as preparing for this message and thinking about um, this passage of scripture, the roll out of what has become the most advanced artificial intelligence actually rolled out this week. It's known as Grok 4. Grok 4 is quickly moving us forward to what will be called general artificial intelligence. And then from general artificial intelligence, they have no idea how quickly we will jump to super intelligence. And so we know that we're on the precipice of entering an era in the history of the world that we will never return from. In fact, those that are the developers of AI, in fact, even the father of artificial intelligence has warned the world over and over of what is coming. That is, they do not know what this is going to do. The godfather of artificial intelligence said that he was concerned for his children and his grandchildren. The question is not, can we do something? The question is, should we do something? We're so busy trying to get smarter that we don't ask the question about what we're doing and whether or not we should even be doing it. But artificial intelligence, we know, will play a role in what we see as the new world order and this entire time known as the seven-year Great Tribulation. It'll play a role in all of what we see moving fastly as what Jesus described as the day of the Lord. And so don't be shocked by all these things. But there is some information that we need to learn and gain in order that we, like so many, the masses of the world, won't be deceived by what is here and what is coming. In fact, they say by 2026 things are going to change so drastically. And let me say, not one of you will be untouched by artificial intelligence. They have now a large group of people who are developing personal relationships with artificial intelligence through relationships, through these made-up artificial individuals and they're becoming very bonded to them. They're becoming emotionally connected to them. In fact, we have one man that even married his own artificial intelligence partner. You all laugh at this, but this is real. Why? Because relationships take time. Relationships are hard. Relationships are challenging and difficult. And there's an investment that is to be part of that. There's safety when you're actually building a relationship with something that is artificial in its nature. And yet it still gives back a sense of acknowledgement and conversation and developing this emotional attachment. You laugh at this, but it's happening and it's going to be very, very big in the coming years. We're already set up for this. Many of you have already set up a type of this. When you talk to uh Siri or you talk to whatever you talk to on your dining room table and ask it to find something for you, we're already doing this. And so we are in a very, very, very interesting time. Artificial intelligence is very fascinating to me, in fact, of what it will be able to do. They they say it has the it already can reason. It can do all these things. It will be running all kinds of things and we will all be a part of looking to artificial intelligence to be able to solve problems and answer dilemmas in life and to find new things in science. And all of this stuff will be a part of what's coming in the future. This artificial intelligence that they say is actually a type of being, if you will. There's not going to be any stopping it. The question is, can we control it? That's the real

question. Well, the good news for us is we know how all this ends. We know who Jesus Christ is. But let me tell you, it's here. And the reason I wanted to preach this series on discerning the days of deception is because we are in this time. And I do not want for any of you to be sucked into this this this this twisted um cunning and craftiness and all the deception that's going on in the world. And so we're going to look together again at this passage of scripture in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. Let's read this as we begin today. And we're going to be looking at the third element that these Christians in Corinth were actually putting up with and accepting. And that is that these teachers had come to them and they were presenting a different gospel. And they were putting up with this. And so Paul writes to them and he he writes, "But I'm afraid that as the serpent, that is Satan, deceived Eve by the cunning, by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one that we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, that would be the Holy Spirit. Or if you accept a different gospel from the one that you accepted, Paul says you put up with it readily enough." Paul's great concern, as we have learned over the last few weeks, was that their love and their sincere pure devotion to Christ was going to be affected because they were putting up with these false teachers and these false doctrines. They were teaching a different Jesus by a different spirit through a different gospel. And we know this is very prevalent today. So what are we to do as Christians? What is our responsibility? Why should we be so concerned about this today? Well, we're told that we are to be those that contend for the faith. In fact, Jude, uh, chapter 1, only one chapter, verse 3 says, "Beloved, although I was eager to write to you about our common salvation, Jude says, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." There is this requirement that we have been given this opportunity and this resolve that we are to contend for the true faith that was presented. That is the faith that we find, the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the word of God, the word of truth. And the word contend means to defend what is taught as truth in scripture against false teachers and their false teachings and beliefs. As we learned, I believe in week one or week two, one of the great things about the apostasy that will be so deceptive to Christians is it's going to be this falling away from truth, but churches are going to be exploding. And how do you come to grips with the fact that these churches are growing that put a a shingle above their name saying Christian Church? How are they growing so fast if what they're teaching is so wrong? It's because we learned that the last days many people will have itching ears. They don't want to hear the truth of scripture, but they'll set before them teachers to tell them the things they want to hear. And they're not interested in true doctrine or true scripture. They're not interested in defending the true faith. They have no interest in that. They're very sensual in nature. They're they're very driven by by living a life of sensuality, but wanting to also call themselves a Christian at the same time. And these churches that are growing very fast in our western civilization today are churches much like these. They are false teachers teaching and preaching what people want to hear in this consumeristic, sensual driven society that we all are in. And so don't don't look and say, well, man, I mean, the church is exploding X, Y, and Z. Yeah, you need to study what's being taught there and what is being preached there. You need to look at the whole thing that's going on. And once you begin to do this and you you hold it up to the light of scripture, you're going to find that we are to test all these things according to the word of God. You're going to find that it's not it's not upholding the truth of the faith of the scriptures. It's not doing that. But it's going to be very popular and very uh, very vogue in our time. And so we need to realize what is actually going on. So contending is to defend what is taught as truth in the scriptures against false teachers and their false teachings and beliefs. And so that's what we're learning together as we study this section of scripture. Many false teachers have gone out into the world and scripture warns that this will take place, especially in

the latter days. This will be very prominent. Now we have technology where we are constantly allowing ourselves to be bombarded and to take in different avenues of social media where we're constantly being bombarded with all of these different things. And many false teachers have gone out into the world like the ones in Corinth and they were teaching a different Jesus. We hear that a lot today. Jesus. The question is, as we've learned, there is only one true Christ. And it is the Christ that we find in scripture. They were also teaching by a different spirit and a different gospel. And you can't separate the three. Cannot do that. As we learned the last two weeks, we learned more in depth about how the Holy Spirit works in our life, the purpose of the Holy Spirit, and what he does for us, and what he does in our salvation, and so on and so forth. And you cannot separate the Holy Spirit from Christ, who is also God, from the gospel, which is the truth about how we can be reconciled to God, forgiven of our sin, and um, receive eternal life. We we want to know the truth of this. So the enemy of mankind, that would be Satan, we read about in this section of scripture here. He's been perverting the gospel and twisting the gospel through false teachers. And this was happening in Paul's day. And guys, it's on a level that we can't even measure today. So we need to be those who are men and women of the word. And see, the thing about reading scripture is it requires something of you. Sitting on your phone in a recliner or at your desk scrolling through social media takes no effort whatsoever. There is effort involved in studying the scripture and praying and seeking the Lord for guidance. There's effort there, but it takes nothing to just let someone just through the voice of whatever coming through social media just to listen to it. It takes no effort whatsoever. Here's another thing that's very concerning to me is these young pastors that are now coming into the church, and I just say pastors in general, they can now just go on, and I got this wrong in one sermon. Is it called Chat GTP or GDP?

GTP. My wife said, "You got that wrong, man." You can actually now go in and a friend showed me this this week. And you could say, "Um, I want you to type me out a sermon, and you can give the length of the sermon, you can give the scripture of the sermon, you can give whatever you want it to do. And within actual moments, it will print you out an entire sermon within seconds and it's completed with all the scriptures that you want. You can have it written from historical this or that. It's unbelievable what this stuff will do. And here's what I'm concerned about is that pastors will stop spending the necessary time required to study the word and let the word of God affect them personally before they ever preach the gospel to anyone. It's just now you just hit a button, zip, it's done. Stand up and just regurgitate this information that was given to you. This is happening, guys. And it's very serious because you can be disconnected from the Bible and still preach a message that you had no part in putting in hours, prayer, time, and study in order that God would reveal to you the things that you need to teach the people that he has given you to shepherd. But it's going to happen on a big level, man. Why they why is it going to be because they use it in school, they use it in college. It's it's just what they do. And Chat GDP is basically going to be obsolete with Grok 4. I mean, this is pretty much obsolete now. It's it's unreal what we see happening. The Corinthian believers were putting up with these false teachers and their lies of false doctrine. Thus, some were being led away from a sincere and pure devotion to Jesus Christ. And Paul was really, really concerned about this. So, Satan has been perverting and twisting the true gospel through false teachers and the influence of false teachers and false promoters and false proclaimers of Jesus. They cover the landscape of all types of media that are consumed daily by humanity. Many teach a perverted gospel by insinuating that there are many paths to God. You hear this all the time. It's a universalistic mindset that it doesn't matter if you're a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim, a Jew, a Christian, uh, Christian Science, or whatever it is, Scientologist. It's everybody is searching God, and we're all getting there on our own bus. That is not true. That is a lie from the pit of

hell. There is only one way that you can be saved. It is through Jesus Christ and Christ alone. And that's not my word. That is his word. There's only one name under heaven where we might be saved, and it is the name above all names, the name Jesus Christ. John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way. I am the truth and I am the life." And then he says this, "And no one comes to the Father." There's not another bus that'll get you to heaven. There's not another train or another trail or another path or another way. Jesus says, "And no one comes to the Father except wholly, completely, totally by me. I'm it. I'm it." But if you listen to social media, you're going to hear all these people promoting that, well, so and so, they just they love God, too. They're just trying to get to to heaven the way that you are, their own path. Well, I'm sorry. That is not what scripture teaches. And they are lost. And they were without hope and without God in this world. And they are still lost in their sin. That's why we preach the gospel, Christian, because the gospel is what saves. So here we are learning about this and in our time, guys. It's so we're so inundated with these things. We're so inundated with these things. We are addicted to our devices. Absolutely addicted. And those that create AI almost mockingly say, we are already connected to it. In fact, there is a digital you. It already exists and you've been feeding the AI system which has basically no oversight and no restrictions and and and none of those things, no regulations. And we are being feeding this system and they know all about you. You have a digital you. What you like, what you spend money on, where you go, what you look at, what are your interests. It it keeps track of everything about you. It already knows you have a digital you out there. And AI is learning. And that's why they offer this stuff for free. Grok 4 is free, by the way. If you want to go ahead and pump AI a little more, it's free for you to use. It's incredible what's going on. So, we have those that will pervert the gospel by insinuating there's many paths to God. There's others that human regulations must be added to the gospel. So, for instance, there's other religious systems out there that tell you, "Yes, we believe that you are justified before God by faith, but not alone. You got to do X, Y, or Z. You got to add things to the gospel." Or they subtract things and they add this and make you do this. This is this is a pollution and the twisting of the true gospel. Why do you suppose Satan would work so hard at perverting and polluting the true gospel? Why? Because it's the very means of salvation. Think about it. There's a lot of people who think they're going to heaven that are going to wake up in hell because they thought we must be born again Christian and we do that by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many, many false gospels are promoted and taught, promote and received by people all over the world on a daily basis. The consumption is unreal. I was showing my wife there's a pastor one who is very popular in our culture. He preached a message just like a week ago and he has a million views on his sermons within a week. But if you listen to his message, he's not preaching the true gospel. He's preaching a worldly gospel. It's all about people. It's all about how we become better X, Y, and Z. It's a little sociology and a little psychology, a little psychology. It's a little It's a little Jesus, a splash here, a splash there. And and and it's so popular in the world's eye. Be careful, Christian, who you consume and what you take in and what you listen to. Be very careful and prove it all by scripture. But see, that takes work. It takes effort to get your Bible out. It takes work to listen to X, Y, and Z, who's so popular with our culture and many of them, and actually write down the scripture that he uses because he's only going to use about one. And then compare what he says and align it with the scriptures. It's going to be very difficult. It's challenging, but it takes effort. It takes work, and we must do that, or you will be deceived if you're not careful. Second Peter 2:1-3. We got a lot of scriptures today. We'll write them down. Uh, someone was saying they appreciate when I go slow and let them look for it in their Bibles. We can do that, guys. Or we can be here till 3:00 and or I can give them to you because we have a lot of them. But I want you to get familiar with your Bible. This is important. And I'm not worried about what livestream thinks about this or those that'll watch this on YouTube or some other platform. I want for you

to be the ones who are benefiting from this. This is why we do this. So, if you can find Second Peter, it's going to be from where you were. You're going to go right in the Bible. It's getting pretty far back in the scriptures there. It's going to be Second Peter chapter 2:1-3. You can look if you want to, if you want to get there. If not, we're going to read it and you can write it down. Peter confirms the same thing here. But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you who will secretly bring in destructive heresies. How do you know if something's a destructive heresy? You have to prove it with scripture, man. But that takes work. That takes prayer. That takes time. And that takes effort on our part. They will bring in destructive heresies. Even denying the Master who bought them. How did Christ purchase us? By his blood. They will bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow. Notice, key word for our time. And it always has been sensuality. That is the ways of our flesh. The lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. And if you watch many of these today, you're going to learn that it's very sensual in nature. What I mean by that, it's not necessarily promoting sexual immorality, but it's sensual in the fact that it feeds those things about man. It's not calling them to the standard of scripture, to holiness, and to follow Christ, and to worship and serve and walk in obedience to his word. It's not those things. It's appealing to the flesh of man. They follow in their sensuality. And because of them, the way of truth is blasphemed. And in their greed, they exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle and their destruction is not asleep. It's coming. It's coming. Now, the gospel, guys, teaches how sinful man, separated from God by sin. That would be their sin against a holy God, guilty before God, meriting the wrath of God, awaiting death, judgment, and eternal damnation. That is the bad news. And this is why the gospel is the good news. The good news of the gospel teaches how we as lost, sinful men awaiting hell, damnation, judgment, and all the rest. How we can be justified. That means to be made right or declared righteous before God. How we who are separated and alienated from God, without God, without hope in this world, at enmity with God because of sin, how we can be now reconciled to this God through the gospel is how it's done. How we were born again, that means regenerated by the Holy Spirit. And how as a child of God, having given eternal life by grace through faith in Christ, how we've been adopted into this family of God. This gospel is absolutely incredible. And no wonder Satan wants to pervert it so very, very much. Ephesians 2:1-3 gives us a little picture about who and what we once were and where the world is. You hear people say all the time that God loves me just like I am. They're trying to state that because God is love that he's accepting of them in their sin. Therefore, he accepts them as they remain in their sin and they're good before God. That's not true. That is a lie. Ephesians 2:1-3 says this, "You were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you once walked." That's the way we lived, right? We following following the course of the world. This is what the world does. This is why we don't have to judge the world. People say, "Don't judge him." Listen, we don't have to judge someone outside of the body of Christ. Why? Because they're already judged. That means they're already condemned. Our judgment, they're already judged. We are to judge those inside the body of Christ. We don't judge those outside because they're already condemned and guilty before God. They're already judged. You'll hear this all the time. Oh, how dare you judge me? How dare you say that? No, sir. You're already condemned and judged by God. But let me tell you the good news. The good news is the gospel. Notice, you were dead in your sins, following the course of the world, following the prince of the power of the air. That's Satan himself. The spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh. It's why we have a society like we do. It just becomes more and more debased. No society ever turns around and comes back and gets better. Never happens. Study every empire in the world and you'll find out they all go downhill and they continue downhill and they become more and more debased. That's what

we have in America. We become more and more debased. Just read Romans chapter 1. You'll learn more about God giving people over to their sin. Notice they follow the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. That's what we once were among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh. And then carrying out the desires of the body and the mind. And we were by nature what? Children of what?

Wrath. Underline that in your Bible. Wrath is not a good thing to experience from God. But wrath is coming because God is holy. And in order for justice to be met in God's holiness, wrath will be what comes. So the gospel is good news, guys. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:16, he says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Are you ashamed of the gospel, Christian? Let me tell you something. The world will shame you if you preach the gospel. They want you to be ashamed of the gospel. How dare you tell me that I'm a sinner. Ma'am, sir, I'm not telling you anything. I'm just sharing with you what the word of God says. Your problem's not with me. Your problem's with the God of all creation. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God to salvation. You notice the gospel is the power of God to salvation for all who believe. First the Jew, then the Gentile. So since the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, we must be clear on what the gospel is. Therefore, we can contend for the gospel. Therefore, we don't fall prey to believing like the Galatian believers where Paul says, "I'm astonished that you're so quickly deserting Christ." How did this happen, man? Who bewitched you? Who cut in on you? Who did this to you that you no longer are trusting and believing in the gospel that you once received? It's happening all around us. It's happening to people we love, people we know. It's why we have great concern for this. Paul writes this in Galatians 1:6-9. He says, "I'm astonished that you're so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel." These individuals had heard Paul preach the gospel and they believe the gospel. Now Paul's writing back and saying, "Hey, some of you are leaving the true gospel and Christ behind here." Why? Because they were adding things to the gospel like Judaizers were teaching them that they need to add certain aspects like circumcision and all of these other elements in order that they could really be Christian. And then you had the Gnostics in there. And the Gnostics were teaching an entirely different type of gospel. Gnosticism, as I've mentioned a hundred times, if I've mentioned it once, is very prevalent in our society. So he was astonished that quickly they were discerning deterring from the true gospel. And then notice Paul mentions something here. Not that there is another one. What's Paul saying? Oh, there's lots of false ones, but there's only one true gospel. That's it. But there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel of heaven should come and preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed." Paul says there's a curse that's upon those who preach a false gospel. Paul is shocked that these that he had preached the gospel to and who had cheerfully, excitedly, and readily received the gospel that they were being led astray from false teachers promoting a different gospel. But we see it all the time today. Paul makes it clear there's only one, guys. There's only one gospel. So from the beginning of the church until now, the gospel has been attacked, distorted, and replaced by the domain of darkness. And these teachings that come from the kingdom of darkness through false teachers or those that are ill-informed to the truth. In fact, you're going to hear many today say that there are many ways to God. As we mentioned, Jesus Christ is the only way to God. 1 Timothy 2:5 says there's one only one God and there's only one mediator between God and man. Who is that one mediator? Jesus Christ himself. Scripture teaches us in Acts 4:12, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Paul writes, no, that's not Paul, but in Acts chapter 4, in Paul's day and throughout the church age, and even more so in our time with all the technology, many preach

a false gospel. And I'm telling you, this is serious. You have to hear me. I'm not wasting five Sundays of our year to just give you some fluff. I'm spending five to six weeks of our 52 Sundays out of this year to help equip you so you don't be deceived in these deceptive times where Jesus said, "If it was possible, the elect of God would even be deceived." And Jesus said, "I will cut short the days or no man would even survive." It's serious and I want you to take it serious today. Don't be deceived by what is happening in our world. Do not allow yourself to be. Galatians 1:8-9 says, I read that to you. We're not going to do that one again. Why the world needs the gospel. The gospel of Christ is the good news. Because it alone saves mankind. Mankind can be freed from the dire consequences of the bad news of the coming judgment, penalty, and payment of death, judgment, eternal damnation, and punishment. Mankind has a problem. Mankind has a serious problem, and it's not global warming. That is not mankind's big problem. It is not social injustice. It is not um communism or socialism. It's none of these things. The greatest problem that man faces, it is the problem called sin. Sin is the problem of all man. Everything else is a is just a symptom of the root problem. Symptom of the root problem. Man has inherited a sin nature from Adam. You can look that up and find that in Romans chapter 5:12. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. How did you receive a sin nature? You received it from Adam. That's where you received that. All who are born in Adam, which we all are, we receive the sin nature from Adam's sin. Because he sinned, we also sin. Sin is a willful act though that violates and disobeys the will and commands of God. Sin is rebellion against God. Sin separates us from God. Adam was separated from God when he willfully disobeyed God and sinned, bringing death spiritually and physically. Second Peter 3:7 says, "By the same word, the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for what? Fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly." This will happen. This what breaks our hearts. This is what moves us to share the gospel. This is what moves us to address someone in loving Christlikeness, to help them see the error of their ways, to point out to them through scripture in order that they might come to know the truth. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 reveals more information about that. But you can write that scripture down and read more for yourself. It's fairly lengthy speaking about the punishment that they will suffer, those who are without Christ and who are lost in their sin. Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." See, here's what I want you to see today, and I don't know how else to make it clear. We have a we have a religion that we call Christianity here in the West. And primarily I will focus it on the South. We have something that is so off the mark. When you take some great figures who call themselves Christians and they promote all of these things.

That they're Christian, they're believers, all of these things, and then they come out with a social media thing or they put on something and it's got homosexuals that are the front and center aspect of what they're sharing about their business. You saw it this last week.

These are Texas people who want to promote Christianity. Hey, we're Christians. Look at us. We're Christians. We believe in Jesus. And then look what they do. Do you not see how this is so weird? It's like we have schizophrenic Christians in the South. It's because we're born in the South, we believe we're all going to heaven because God blessed Texas with his own hands. I mean, he brought down angels from the promised land. We we hear these songs and we're puffed up with pride because we're in the South and we believe in God, guns, and country, baby. Let me tell you something. There are going to be so many who go to hell who believe that type of theology. And it scares me horribly bad because I'm in the South and I see it

everywhere. All you have to do is look at people's Facebook profiles. It's a Bible verse on this one and then smut and garbage and drinking and partying and carousing in the next one.

But see, that's Christians in the South. No, it's not. That is not Christianity. But we believe it is because we've been taught this that this is what it looks like. This is what it is. Well, just go to church on Sunday. That makes me a Christian. Or even or even just go on Easter and give God Christmas if we can, man. No, we are not in Christ. You're not in Christ by faith in the gospel if you have not repented of your sin and clung to Jesus, your only hope, and turn to him for everlasting life and pleaded for his forgiveness.

If you don't understand the gospel, listen, the gospel will change your life. It doesn't leave you as a reprobate like you were. It doesn't leave you following the prince of the power of the air, doing the things of the sensual flesh that give you gratification any longer. When you're born again, you'll be doing things you used to do, and you'll find out that you hate doing those things. In fact, they make you angry that you do them. There's no longer the satisfaction that you once had. And God is doing a work in your life. But man, if you can live like you live before you met Jesus, you did not meet Jesus. I'm telling you, I don't know what you met, but you didn't meet Christ. And I say this because I don't want any of you to go to hell. Quit playing around with this Christianity thing. Don't do it. I fear that there's going to be many, many, many who I've preached the gospel to over the years who will go to hell. Serious. Let me tell you something. You're one heartbeat away from it. You're there.

This is why we teach the Bible here. Because we have to know the word of God. And because so many southerners are going to hell because they believe in God country and they believe in this whole thing of this western churchianity stuff. And they're going there. Why? Because they have never been born again. They've never been born again. Sin will receive its earned wages for those who are not in Christ. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." It's death. All men have sinned according to Romans 3:23 and are separated from God, and the wages of their sin is death. Hebrews 9:27. And it and just as it's appointed unto man once to die, and after that comes the judgment of God.

People don't fear God anymore. That's the problem. I'll tell you one reason no one fears God anymore. because no one preaches about hell anymore. And very few pastors even preach about sin. It's all psychology. It's all philosophy. It's all self-help stuff. That's not what we supposed to do as pastors. We're supposed to preach the word of God because that's where the power comes from. Matthew 13:41-42, "The Son of Man will send his angels, and they'll gather out of his kingdom all all causes of sin and lawb breakakers and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and nashing of teeth."

I want to say this, and this is needs to be something that's shared. I hear people talk about, you know, hey, there's even those country songs out there, you know, um that speak about how I if if they don't get this, just just just let me let me when I die. How was that song? When I die, I may not go to heaven, but what's it go on? Do you guys know that song? >> Do what now? >> Yeah. >> But I don't know if they let cowboys in. In other words, if they don't let cowboys in, don't care if I go to heaven. Do you see how that is? You're not selected on heaven based on your occupation >> and the mindset that heaven I don't really care to go. If cowboys aren't there, I got no interest.

Here we learn in scripture that what we're talking about is hellfire. We're talking about a place of darkness. Utter total separation from God, his goodness, his grace, and his mercy. This is going to be a place of weeping, gnashing of teeth. You're not going to be down there doing the old twostep down there with the Cowboys. No, it's serious, Christian. This is real. This is where people go when they die that don't know Jesus. This is it. You're not going to play poker with your buddies down there and drink a bruski and hang out and smoke cigars. That's all cute and you see this a lot. It's not happening, man. It is going to be left there in utter darkness and pain and suffering and thinking about a man who stood and preached the gospel time and time again. Then Jesus will remind you of how many times he came and preached the gospel to you and you rejected it. And in America, this this country that is so infiltrated with the gospel and churches in every community, people cannot say they haven't had the opportunity to hear the gospel. The truth is they don't want the gospel because they think hell is a figment of imagination. But it's not. It's real.

I don't know how many funerals I've done in 20 years, but I've lost count a long time ago. And I go to some funerals and I am utterly embarrassed. Let me share with why with you. I'll meet with the family. I don't know the people. When you have big churches, sometimes you don't know all the people. And then people who have family, they want you to do the it just gets going. and you sat down with the family. So, tell me a little bit about so- and so. And did they believe? Were they followers? Were they Were they in Christ? Oh, yes. Oh, yes, they were. Yes, they they were Christian. They believed. They were baptized when they were an infant. They were baptized when they were whatever. And then you go on and you you you you you prepare some stuff to talk about the the joy of what it means to die in Christ as a believer and the hope that we have in Christ. And then you watch the video and then you listen to the stories and what you find is this person was no more a believer than an aunt is. But they lived in the south and everybody in the south is a Christian. Do you know how frustrating that is? They act like it means nothing. Everybody goes to heaven. They think they believe. They don't though. It's not so and so. Bubba's in a better place. No. If he died outside of Jesus, he went to hell. He didn't go to a better place. And just because you're born in Texas doesn't put you in heaven. You must understand what I'm saying, Christian. And if you're here and you're just a Sunday morning gatherer, thank you for coming. But don't just come. Come to Jesus. >> Please come to Jesus. >> There is no hope in religion, man. You're wasting your time.

There's 52 Sundays a year. You start adding those up over 10 years. 10 years at 52 Sundays a year, that's 520 days. Then you start multiplying that by 20 and even 30. There are some people who have spent now I want you to think about this years in accumulation of time in a Sunday morning service who will die and not know Jesus. years. Why, man? If I didn't want Jesus, do you think I would come waste a day on a Sunday when I could be out there doing something else? Are you crazy? People do it all the time. We're going to give God an hour. Going to do a religious wink to God. No, we come here. Why? Because scripture says to gather. We come here because we need the body of Christ. We come here because we encourage one another in the Lord. One time a week after the battle we've been in all week, living in this dark world, shining the light of Christ, living for the hope of glory, we gather one time to have a group come and lead us as we worship the one true God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We actually set aside everything and give God the first of our week, which is Sunday. And we say, God, here we are. We're offering to you our bodies as a sacrificial offering to you. And we are worshiping you as the redeemer of the Lord. And we've come today to encourage and to pray and to hear the word of God and to be challenged and to be equipped for what we'll face this next week. It's not religion, man. Religion comes to do a whole bunch of

activity. That's not why we come. We come because we know Jesus. And we want people to come that don't know Jesus. Why? so that maybe they'll hear the gospel and they'll understand that in their sin they are headed to hell because the wages of their sin is death and scripture teaches that they'll all go to hell. Everyone who doesn't know Christ and everybody says well let's just we need no listen you need Jesus because without him you have no hope in this world. He's not just a piece of the pie that's a small sliver like your portfolio. No, he is the portfolio. He is everything. And everything in your life now will be defined by Jesus Christ because of who he is and what he did in your life. That's it.

No wonder Paul was so frustrated by this false gospel. Revelation 20 11-15. I think I am going to do a a sermon or two on hell. Like like literally what the scriptures teach about hell. Not because we as Christians are going there, but so that maybe we can have a true understanding of what this is actually going to be. And by the way, hell is not the last place that the that the unrighteous will spend eternity in. It is a waiting place, the abode of the dead. As we're going to see here in Revelation 20, there's going to be a resurrection of the dead. They're going to stand before God. See, you have to give an account before God. Period. It's appointed a man wants to die, face the judgment. Here is when this will happen for the unbelievers. those who die outside of Christ. Revelation 20 11-15. Here it is. Then I saw a great white throne and him who seated on it. From his presence, earth and sky fled away. And no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. What happened? They were resurrected from the dead. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. You understand that? That cemetery right over here that's not that far away, that is a temporary spot for the bodies that are there. Everyone, the righteous and the righteous will be resurrected. Everyone. And the unrighteous at this time, which this takes place after the millennial kingdom, they're going to stand before the great white throne called the great white throne judgment. Notice this. This doesn't give us joy. Not at all. John says, 'I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. Oh man, if your name is written in the book of life, Christian, oh, that's something to praise God for. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books.

It's amazing to me how people have no fear of God. They don't think there's going to be any retribution for anything that's ever done. They boldly just in the face of God just rebel like Pride Month and all that we have going on. It's just in the face of God, no big deal. No, there's coming a day of judgment. And it doesn't bring us joy for those who are there. And notice the sea gave up the dead that were in it. Death and Hades, that's hell, by the way, gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then death in Hades was thrown into where? The lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And here's the clincher. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire, which is the second death. This is a reality. And what really concerns me is we're so much into the artificial. We're into the artificial realm now. But this is reality. This is real. And we're getting so caught up in everything that's so artificial that we're not able to even see the real things anymore. This is a reality.

This is why Christian, we live a life of holiness before God and before others and before men. Why do we do this? Because men are looking at you. Men are watching our lives. I mean men and women. I'm talking about mankind. If you lift up and profess the name Christian, people are watching how you live. And we don't want to be guilty of living in such a way that we cause those unbelieving people to look at us and say, "Hey, dude, there ain't no difference here. You do everything I do. You talk like me. You walk like me. You do everything I do on the weekends.

And you're telling me you're a Christian?" I tell you what, it's better for you to have a millstone tied around your neck than for you to cause one of the little ones to stumble. There's certain things we have to understand and that we have responsibility here because people are watching us. And I'm telling you, Jesus Christ hasn't been walking around here for 2,000 years, but he lives inside of his people. And how is the world going to see Jesus? I'll tell you how they see Jesus. by watching those whom claim to be born again in Christ. Now, we do it imperfectly, but our life is to be pointing people to Jesus. That's why we tell people, listen, if you're living in a lifestyle of sin, you need to repent of that and make that right. Why? Because you have no testimony before man. None. None whatsoever. And so, we have to take this reality real because it's it's true and it's going to happen. I don't have time today to finish up the rest of this, but we may have to get in some more of this this next week.

See, this is part of the deception. Part of the deception that Satan has deceived the masses with this mentality of what we view Christianity to be. So many are deceived because they're, hey, they're religious. Pretty good boy. try to do the right thing. It's not about what we do. It's about whether or not you accept and believe and trust in what Jesus Christ did. That's why the gospel matters. That's why Paul made such a big deal of it. That's why we don't want to put up with people preaching a different Christ by a different spirit with a different through a different gospel. The reason the gospel is so important is because it's the good news. Christian, do you have the good news? Do you know the good news? If you're in Jesus Christ, you know the good news. You're experiencing it. You're living it. But there's a world out there of people that we know and that we love who do not know Christ. So, I'm going to I'm going to ask something of you this week and as you move through here, ask that God would give you boldness this week and courage to do what? when that opportunity comes up to address something or to talk to someone in love about these things. And I love how God brings those opportunities up for us in the confidence of knowing who you are in Christ. Step into that opportunity and share in love the truth about Jesus Christ to this person. That's really what we need to focus on and do, right? Also be careful of these false gospels that are prevalent in our time. Do not fall sway to it. I didn't even get into the preaching. I was going to go through the whole thing about the gospel. Just every scripture that we can go through, but we'll maybe do that another week.

So, this is where we are. This is the time we're living in. It's really concerning in some ways. Um, but it's an joyous time to be a Christian. To me, it's the greatest time in the history of the world to be alive. And I'm just saying this and it's just Realville. It's not like I'm a doomsdayer. But I'm telling you, things are getting ready to change, folks. And they're not going to change. They're not They're not going to change in a way that we would like. No one's even asked us if we want this stuff. Do you want this stuff? Do you want what's actually coming? I don't want it, but it's here and it's going to move forward. Why is this all happening? because it's part of what God will use to bring about the fulfillment of his perfect plan. It'll play a role in all that. So, it's just another another telltale sign of the last days and the days that we're living in. But the deception is everywhere. So, Christian, please listen to me. Stay in the Bible. Love this, know this, study it, and live it. This is life, babe. This is life right here, by the way. This is it.



## Answers to the Study questions:

Q: What are the concerns regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) mentioned in the sermon?

A: The sermon highlights the rapid advancement of AI, its potential to lead to superintelligence, and the ethical concerns surrounding its development. There's a worry that AI will play a role in a 'new world order' and the tribulation. Additionally, the speaker notes the concerning trend of people forming emotional attachments and relationships with AI, and the potential for AI to be used by pastors to generate sermons without proper study.

Q: What does it mean to 'contend for the faith'?

A: To 'contend for the faith,' as mentioned in Jude 1:3, means to actively defend the truth of the Christian faith as delivered through scripture against false teachers and their deceptive doctrines. This involves discerning between true and false teachings, even when false doctrines are popular or presented by growing churches.

Q: Why is it important to be wary of teachings that suggest multiple paths to God?

A: The sermon strongly refutes the idea that there are many paths to God, calling it a 'lie from the pit of hell.' It emphasizes that scripture, particularly John 14:6, teaches that Jesus Christ is the only way, truth, and life, and that salvation is exclusively through Him. Accepting multiple paths is seen as a perversion of the true gospel and a dangerous deception.

Q: What is the significance of a 'digital you' in relation to AI?

A: The concept of a 'digital you' refers to the online persona and data profile that exists for each individual, created by their interactions with technology and the internet. AI systems collect and utilize this data, knowing personal preferences, spending habits, and interests. The sermon suggests that this digital existence is already deeply integrated with AI, often without oversight or regulation.

Q: Why is AI technology mentioned in relation to the gospel?

A: The speaker briefly mentions AI and free services like 'Gro 4' as an example of how technology is advancing and learning. This is presented as a backdrop to the discussion about the increasing prevalence of information and the need for discernment, rather than a direct theological link to the gospel itself.

Q: What does it mean to 'pervert the gospel'?

A: Perverting the gospel means distorting or corrupting the true message of salvation through Jesus Christ. This can happen by insinuating there are many paths to God, by adding human regulations or works to faith as requirements for salvation, or by subtracting essential elements of the gospel message. Such distortions are seen as a pollution of the true gospel.

Q: Why are false gospels so popular?

A: False gospels are popular because they often appeal to worldly desires, sociology, and psychology, making them more palatable and less challenging than the true gospel. They can be 'worldly' in nature, focusing on self-improvement or societal acceptance rather than repentance and faith in Christ. Their popularity is also fueled by widespread consumption through media.

Q: What is the difference between the 'bad news' and the 'good news' of the gospel?

A: The 'bad news' is the reality of humanity's sinful state: separated from God, guilty, meriting His wrath, and facing death, judgment, and eternal damnation. The 'good news' of the gospel is how, through Christ, lost and sinful people can be justified (declared righteous before God), reconciled to God, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and adopted into God's family, receiving eternal life by grace through faith.

Q: What does it mean to be 'dead in your trespasses and sins'?

A: Being 'dead in your trespasses and sins' (Ephesians 2:1) means being spiritually lifeless and separated from God before accepting Christ. It describes a state of being without spiritual life, following the course of the world, and under the influence of Satan, alienated from God and deserving of His wrath.

Q: Why should Christians not judge those outside the body of Christ?

A: Christians are not to judge those outside the body of Christ because they are already condemned and judged by God due to their sin. The role of Christians is to bring the gospel to them. Judgment within the body of Christ, however, is necessary for maintaining purity and order.

Q: What is 'sensuality' in the context of false gospels?

A: Sensuality, in this context, refers to appealing to the base desires and inclinations of human nature (lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life) rather than calling people to the standard of scripture, holiness, and obedience to Christ. It feeds the flesh of man and is a characteristic of many false teachings.

Q: What is the greatest problem facing mankind?

A: According to the speaker, the greatest problem facing mankind is not global warming, social injustice, or political systems, but sin. Sin is the root problem, inherited from Adam, which separates humanity from God and leads to all other issues.

Q: What are the 'wages of sin'?

A: The 'wages of sin' is death, both spiritual and physical, leading to eternal separation from God. Romans 6:23 states, 'The wages of sin is death.' This is the consequence of humanity's sin nature and individual sinful acts.

Q: What is the difference between true Christianity and 'churchianity'?

A: 'Churchianity' refers to a superficial adherence to religious activities and cultural norms associated with Christianity without a genuine, transformative relationship with Jesus Christ. True Christianity involves repentance from sin, faith in Christ's finished work, and a life that reflects His presence, not just attending services or holding certain beliefs.

Q: What is the Great White Throne Judgment?

A: The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) is the final judgment for unbelievers. The dead, both great and small, will be resurrected and stand before God. They will be judged according to their deeds and the books opened. Those whose names are not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death.

Q: Why is it important for Christians to live a life of holiness?

A: Christians are called to live a life of holiness because their lives are a testimony to Christ. Unbelievers are watching, and if there is no discernible difference between a Christian's life and

the world's, it negates their testimony and can cause others to stumble. The lives of believers should point people to Jesus.

Q: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation?

A: The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in salvation by convicting individuals of sin, righteousness, and judgment. For those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit regenerates them, making them 'born again' and enabling them to live a new life in Christ.

Q: What should Christians do when encountering popular media or teachings?

A: Christians should not believe everything they hear or see but should 'prove it by scripture.' They need to study God's word, live it, and use it as the standard to evaluate all teachings and media, ensuring they are not deceived by false gospels or worldly philosophies.