

## I Corinthians 15 Battling for the Truth notes

### **I Corinthians 3:18-20**

**We are currently in a great war, not overseas but at home in our own cities and culture and even in our churches.**

--A war for the truth: **I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 4:7; Ephesians 6:11-12; 19; I John 5:19**

--Satan is controlling the world through false information/false truth.

Let's consider Jesus' words on this: **Luke 12:1** --Jesus has this opportunity; possibly the largest crowd that ever assembled to hear Him speak

--**V. 12a** --"**so many thousands**" is just one word in the Greek: Muriadon which is where we get our word "Myriad" from.

--"**many thousands**" means some countless number over 10 thousand.

--With countless thousands stepping on each other to hear Jesus, what does He say? **V. 12b**

### **1. Our greatest danger in the world is false religion that hides behind hypocrisy. This is where the real war is.**

--"Hypocrite" was the ancient word for an actor in a play -- they hid behind a mask; what they were in real life was something very different.

--Spiritual hypocrites are those that appear on the surface to be real but inside they are fakes.

Satan rules the world through false religion—it is the largest existential threat on the planet.

--If you asked the average person what was the greatest threat on our planet today, you would get answers like: human trafficking, racism, global economy, communism, capitalism, republicans, democrats.

--But Jesus doesn't warn us about any of those things; He warns us of false teaching that is protected by hypocrisy.

False religion is the most predominant destructive force on the planet: more than 1 billion are under the deception of Islam; another billion under the deception of Hinduism and their demon worship; ¾ billion in the deception of Buddhism; a billion + in false Christianity—Christians by default "I'm not Muslim or Hindu, I'm Christian" but they don't believe the Bible and have no visible evidence of faith in Jesus.

These that do not believe and do not teach the entire counsel of Scripture and do not hold to a biblical Jesus are the most dangerous people on the planet.

--They are soul terrorist, plunderers of eternity. **Colossians 2:8**

--The Bible has a lot to say about people like them: "Unreasoning animals, stains and blemishes, eyes full of adultery, never cease from sin, trained in greed, accursed children, springs without water, mists driven by a storm, whose condemnation was written about long ago, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever."

excerpts from **II Peter and Jude**

--**Luke 12:1**--"Beware of the yeast" = "Beware of their way of thinking"—very little of this stuff is required to spread throughout an entire lump of dough.

--It's not just them, it's their influence and teachings: beware of their

writings, their philosophies, their influence.

--Beware – Satan knows how it works and he's battling for the mind; he want to think for you.

Just because we have a Bible doesn't mean we have the truth yet.

--All the Jews who killed Jesus, did it while having copies of the Bible and while thinking that they were upholding the Bible.

--We don't have Scripture until we have the correct interpretation of it.

I write you a letter and, in the letter, I am giving simple and clear directions to all my buried treasure. I say go to this certain tree and turn left and then walk exactly 200 feet toward a large rock and dig right there. But someone interprets it this way: go to that certain tree and turn right. "He said turn left, but what he really meant was turn right..." Will you ever find my buried treasure? You hold the truth about the treasure but you do not have the truth until you correctly interpret it.

## **2. This war for the truth is mostly an internal war:**

### **I Corinthians 3:18**

Self-deception is a very real threat.

1. We fight back by realizing we are prone to it – if you think that you can't be self-deceived, then you already are because the Scriptures are always true. **I John 1:8; James 1:22; Galatians 6:3**

2. We fight back by understanding that we aren't free thinkers – We either think like our Shepherd or we think like the Wolf.

**Ephesians 2:1;3; I Corinthians 3:3**

3. We fight back by becoming fools – **V. 18**

--Technically, we already were fools – when we start thinking right, we realize it. **VV. 19-20;**

--**Philippians 3:7-8**

--**I Corinthians 1:20-21** – Remember: the world and all its wisdom cannot help us. They can split an atom and tell us how many feet between the earth and the sun, they trace our DNA and send probes beyond our solar system.

--Nevertheless, **Ephesians 4:18** "darkened in their understanding"

We are so impressed by knowledge and science—the thinking is that surely those who can discern and describe such wonders will know how to fix our human condition, but they cannot.

--They cannot change our character, fix our brokenness, make us right with the One who created us.