

For Discussion:

1. Read Philippians 4:15-18. Paul was given “gifts” for his living and care. In what ways does Paul differ from the false teachers who “exploit” in 2 Peter 2:1-3?
2. Read Galatians 1:8-9 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Why is “grace alone” such a critical line that should never be crossed when considering the gospel?
3. Consider Colossians 1:15-20 and 1 John 4:1-3. Why is it so important to have a right understanding of who Jesus is?
4. Read 1 Timothy 4:15-16 and Proverbs 4:23. Discuss the importance of guarding one’s self from false teachers and false teachings. Share examples in your life when you needed to guard yourself against them.
5. Drifting from truth can often happen very gradually before you even realize it. Most often this drifting happens with such minute concerns that are well-intentioned. How has this happened in your life and what was the result?
6. Read 1 Timothy 4:1, Romans 12:2, and Colossians 2:8. Where do you see subtle false messages influencing your thinking or culture in your life?

For Response and Application:

1. What fears keep you from pointing out falsehoods and pointing people to truth in your life?
2. Read Hebrews 5:12-14 and Psalm 119:11, 18. How often are you in God’s Word spending time in study and in prayer? What is keeping you from spending more time with God?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Do you train yourself spiritually in faith as “runners in a stadium all race”? In what way other than Bible study and prayer can you apply a spiritual discipline in your life today?
4. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul challenges Timothy to set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. Do you feel you are a good example of Christ to others? Of these ways Paul mentions to set an example of Christ for others, which do you need to ask the Lord to help you grow in? How can you strive towards that?