



## [7] How do we identify and deal with false beliefs? | November 9, 2014

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**Recap:** so far we've looked at:

- 1) Ways that we can know what is true and the truth claims of God
- 2) How God reveals Himself to us, by "general" revelation and "special" revelation
- 3) What God is like from Scripture, His attributes that we share and those that belong to Him alone
- 4) The nature of mankind: created in God's image, guilty with sin, redeemable by Jesus – who is the "second Adam"
- 5) How God's written Word, the Bible, is authoritative and everything we need for a relationship with God
- 6) Who Jesus is, His deity, humanity and His functions of prophet, priest and king.

### Discuss the weekend message.

From the weekend message:

"...people end up in cults from 'the unpaid bills of the church.' The church has a bill, a responsibility to teach the 'whole counsel of God,' all that Jesus commanded us. If a church doesn't do that or if a church is disobedient in reaching out to unsaved people with the grace and mercy of Christ, people's needs will go unmet and they will start searching for some other place to meet their needs or give them answers. The resulting loss of people to these cults or false religions is the outcome of an 'unpaid bill' of Christians, not teaching all that Christ commanded or not doing what He did."

[Q] What do you think? Have you ever seen this happen? What can we do better as a church family?

From the weekend message:

"We should examine what each religion or leader believes about seven categories of truth. Those categories are: God, Jesus, people, sin, salvation, scripture and the afterlife."

[Q] Why are these categories of truth particularly important? In what ways do these truths get skewed?

<p><b>C</b> – Conversion by works, not faith. <b>U</b> – Unorthodox/unbiblical theology. <b>L</b> – Leaders and founders other than Jesus. <b>T</b> – Teachings that lead people away from the truth of Scripture. <b>S</b> – Scriptures "in addition to" the Bible (usually written by the founder).</p>
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Check out the chart comparing six major religions to Christianity: [valleycommunity.cc/resources/comparisons](http://valleycommunity.cc/resources/comparisons)

## Study 1 Timothy 4:1-16.

The letter of 1 Timothy contains Paul's guidance for his young co-worker, Timothy.

[Q] Read [1 Timothy 4:1-5](#). What are some general ways we can identify false teaching?

[Q] Read [1 Timothy 4:6-16](#). From this passage, what is role of truth, teaching and doctrine?

[Q] What words does Paul use to stress the importance of what he is recommending?

[Q] Why does Paul command Timothy to watch *both* his life and his doctrine (teaching) closely (v. 16)?

[Q] What area of Biblical truth that you need to pay attention to and learn more about? If so, how will you do that?

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,  
a worker who has no need to be ashamed,  
rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)*

## Pray

From the weekend message: "three biblical actions we can take when we meet someone from another religion:"

1. pray for them
2. have a meal, invite them over for dinner, ask them about their faith story
3. love them

Spend some time praying for

- Our Mormon and Muslim neighbors
- Co-workers who don't know Christ
- Friends and family members who need Christ

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Family resources related to this week's sermon: [valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomebelieve](http://valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomebelieve)

Valley Community Baptist Church | [valleycommunity.cc/growthgroup](http://valleycommunity.cc/growthgroup)