

## Dealing with the Doubled-Edged Sword!

\*\*\* 2 Cor. 11:3-4 "But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ... You seem to believe whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach about a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed." [NLT]

\*\*\* Rev. 1:17-18 "He placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." [New International Version]

\*\*\* Rev. 1:16 "In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance." [NIV]

\*\*\* Rev. 2:12-13 "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>[13]</sup> I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city--where Satan lives." [NIV]

\*\*\* Acts 4:10, 12 "...know this, you and all the people...: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>[12]</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." [NIV]

\*\*\* Eph. 6:17 "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

\*\*\* Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are." [NLT]

\*\*\* Rev. 2:14-15 "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. <sup>[15]</sup> Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans." [NIV]

**"Since we're saved by grace, we can do whatever we want to do and we'll be covered by grace!" \_\_\_\_\_!**

\*\*\* 1 Peter 1:15-16 "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." [NIV]

\*\*\* 1 Cor. 6:20 "...you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." [NIV]

**Shame on these \_\_\_\_\_!**

\*\*\* Isaiah 5:20 "Destruction is certain for those who say that evil is good and good is evil; that dark is light and light is dark; that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter." [New Living Translation]

**Shame on these \_\_\_\_\_!**

\*\*\* Galatians 1:6-7 "I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who in his love and mercy called you to share the eternal life he gives through Christ. You are already following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ." [NLT]

**The Key to Avoiding Deception is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_!**

\*\*\* Rev. 2:16 "Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth." [NIV]

**Lets do a little evaluation:**

- ✎ How many minutes a day do you read your Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
- ✎ How many Bible verses do you memorize a month? \_\_\_\_\_
- ✎ How many what Bible book/letter did you last study? \_\_\_\_\_

Could you comfortably tell the story of:

- ✎ Abraham?  YES  NO
- ✎ Moses?  YES  NO
- ✎ Jesus?  YES  NO
- ✎ Paul?  YES  NO

**It's not enough to just believe – we must know \_\_\_\_\_ we believe and \_\_\_\_\_ we believe!**

**Let me give you some suggestions:**

- ✎ Get a chronological children's Bible storybook and read it
- ✎ Start a daily Bible Reading Plan (John...Acts...Philippians...Ephesians)
- ✎ Plug into a Maturity Study...Truth Project Group...
- ✎ Talk to some of our Pastors for suggested readings...
- ✎ **THINK!**

\*\*\* Rev. 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it." [NIV]

**Hidden Manna = \_\_\_\_\_ of God!**

**White Stone with a New Name = \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_!**

\*\*\* 2 Tim. 1:12 "That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." [NIV]