

Danger in the Church, Part 1

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 2 Timothy.
- B. The church faced false teachers all the time. Paul expected it. (Acts 20)
- C. The church is always under attack. (Matthew 7, Zechariah 13:3)
- D. The church at war is a normal thing.

II. Paul speaks of the “last days,” which must be determined by context. Paul’s last days refer to the days that Jesus initiated until the establishment of his coming kingdom. (Genesis 9, Daniel 2, Isaiah 2:2)

III. Paul says that the last days will be characterized by seasons of violent assaults.

- A. The season of wickedness will culminate with the coming of the Antichrist who arises from organized religion. (2 Thessalonians 2)
- B. There is always some battle.
- C. The battle will always be to guard the truth and to protect purity.

IV. There are characteristics to identify people dangerous to the church.

- A. They are self-lovers.
 - 1. Misdirected love always releases vice.
 - 2. People consumed with self love cannot make meaningful relationships.
 - 3. We are to do nothing from selfishness. (Philippians 2)

Application Questions:

1. What do the last days refer to in the Bible?

2. Why should the church always be on guard even when it is growing?

3. How can we take steps from freeing ourselves from self-love? Why might it be important to distinguish between an absence of self-love and self-hate? Explain.
