

# Protectors of the Truth

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes*

*Based on the "Who God Wants Us To Be" Series of Matthew Rogers*

*09-07-2025*

## Summary of the Text

The sermon "Protectors of the Truth" from Romans 16:17-20 emphasizes the importance of safeguarding biblical truth against false teachings that create divisions and obstacles. Paul urges believers to be vigilant and discerning, warning against those who deceive with smooth talk and flattery, serving their own desires rather than Christ. The text highlights three reasons for sound doctrine: it enables obedience to God, brings His blessings, and ensures future generations can know and follow Jesus. Using the analogy of "Two Truths and a Lie," the sermon illustrates how false teachings mix truth with deception, requiring believers to actively protect the gospel by aligning beliefs with Scripture.

## Ice Breaker for Discussion

**Two Truths and a Lie:** Each group member shares three statements about themselves—two true and one false. Others guess the lie. Use this to transition into discussing how deception can subtly infiltrate spiritual truths, setting the stage for the sermon's focus.

## Point 1: Sound Doctrine Enables Obedience to God

**Scripture Reading:** (Someone), please read **Romans 16:17-19** aloud:

*"Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, because such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words. The report of your obedience has reached everyone. Therefore I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise about what is good, and yet innocent about what is evil."*

**Summary:** Sound doctrine is essential for obedience to God. False teachings lead to disobedience, as seen in the story of Josiah, where the rediscovery of God's Law led to a revival. When we know and apply God's Word, we align with His purposes, avoiding the risks of straying into error.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How can false teachings subtly influence our obedience to God, and what examples have you seen in modern contexts?
2. What practical steps can we take to ensure our beliefs align with biblical truth to maintain obedience?

## Point 2: Sound Doctrine Brings God's Blessings

**Scripture Reading:** (Someone), please read **Psalm 119:2** aloud:

*"Happy are those who keep his decrees and seek him with all their heart."*

**Summary:** Living according to sound doctrine positions us to receive God's blessings. A life misaligned with God's purposes, as seen when Israel turned to idolatry, misses out on His benefits. Scriptures like Psalm 119:2 and John 10:10 emphasize that obedience to truth leads to a blessed, abundant life, while false teachings deprive us of God's intended peace and glory.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How have you experienced or observed God's blessings when following biblical truth?
2. What are some ways false teachings might promise blessings but ultimately lead us away from God's true benefits?

## Point 3: Sound Doctrine Impacts Future Followers

**Scripture Reading:** (Someone), please read **Psalm 145:4** aloud:

*"One generation will declare your works to the next, and will proclaim your mighty acts."*

**Summary:** Holding fast to sound doctrine ensures future generations can know and follow Jesus. False teachings, as warned in Romans 1:16 and 2 Timothy 2:17-18, create divisions and risk leading others astray, as happened in Israel when truth was neglected. By protecting the truth, we pass down a legacy of faith that points to Jesus.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How can we actively pass down biblical truth to the next generation in our families or communities?
2. What challenges do you face in protecting the truth from distortions in today's culture?

## Recap of the Lesson

The sermon teaches that God calls us to be protectors of the truth, as outlined in Romans 16:17-20. Sound doctrine is vital because it fosters obedience, secures God's blessings, and preserves the gospel for future generations. Like the Bereans in Acts 17:11, we must be vigilant and discerning, testing teachings against Scripture to avoid deception. The promise of Romans 16:20 assures us that God will ultimately triumph over falsehood, empowering us to stand firm in His truth.

## Challenge

This week, practice being a protector of the truth by fact-checking one spiritual teaching you encounter (e.g., in a sermon, book, or online). Compare it to Scripture, discuss it with a trusted believer, and reflect on whether it aligns with God's Word. Share your findings with the group next week to encourage accountability and discernment.