

LOCAL CHURCH THREATS

Acts 20:28-32

We should consider the things that could threaten local churches like ours and seek to protect ourselves from their potentially destructive influences

I. FALSE DOCTRINE

- A. SAVAGE WOLVES - Acts 20:28-32
- B. REBELLIOUS MEN - Titus 1:10-16
- C. FALSE PROPHETS - II Peter 2:1-3
- D. CREEPS - Jude 3-4

II. FAULTY LEADERSHIP - I Timothy

A. UNQUALIFIED LEADERS

- 1. Women pastors - I Timothy 2:11-14
- 2. Woeful officers - I Timothy 3:1-13
 - Pastors and Deacons not being held to biblical standards of integrity and maturity

B. UNEDUCATED PASTORS

- 1. Who lack understanding - I Timothy 1:5-7
- 2. Who don't "take pains" - I Timothy 13-16

III. A KINGDOM CONCENTRATION - Acts 1:6-7

A. THE TOPIC

- Lots of talk about the Kingdom, seeking God's Kingdom and working in God's Kingdom

B. THE TENDANCY

- 1. Kingdom talk is somewhat mystical and ethereal
- 2. Kingdom talk and teaching lends itself to King-only accountability
- 3. The "Kingdom Concentrated" can disregard Scriptures commands to submit ...
 - a. To one another - Eph. 5:15-21
 - b. And to church leaders - Heb. 13:17

Over please >

C. THE TRUTH

1. Christ is not currently building a Kingdom on earth - Matthew 12:20-24
2. Christ is currently building His church, not His kingdom - Matthew 16:13-18
3. The resurrected Christ says He would not soon be restoring the Kingdom - Acts 1:6-7
4. Christ's Kingdom is a future promise, not a current reality. - See Rev. 19:11-20:15

IV. PARA-CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

A. THE PROBLEM

- Though designed to come alongside or complement the church they sometimes compete with it

B. SOME PARTICULARS

1. Potentially competing in missions - Acts 13:1-3 and 14:26-27
2. Potentially competing for money - Acts 16:1-4
3. Potentially competing with ministers - Eph. 4:11-13
4. Potentially competing for members - Hebrews 10:25
5. Potentially competing with majesty - I Timothy 3:14-15

CONCLUSION:

We're always happy when the storm misses us ...

**But another one will develop making it absolutely necessary that we remain
diligently aware and prepared**

See Ephesians 4:14-16