



GETTING IT RIGHT: AGAINST THE HERETICS

October 1 / 2, 2025

I Timothy 4, 6:1-16; II Timothy 4:1-5; Jude
Gonzalez, chapters 8-9

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:1–5. Paul warns of people “abandoning the faith” and following “deceiving spirits.” How do you see similar challenges to Christian truth today, both inside and outside the church?
2. Paul urges Timothy to “guard what has been entrusted” (1 Tim. 6:20). What do you think are the greatest treasures the church has been entrusted with, and how can we guard them faithfully?
3. In 2 Timothy 4:3–4, Paul describes people with “itching ears” seeking teachers who suit their own passions. How do we balance listening with compassion while also staying rooted in the truth of Scripture?
4. Jude urges believers to “contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). What does “contending” look like in practice—how can it be done without becoming quarrelsome?

5. Heresies like Gnosticism rejected the goodness of creation. Why is the doctrine of creation and incarnation essential to the Christian faith? How do we affirm the goodness of creation in our daily lives?
6. Marcion wanted to discard the Old Testament. Why is it important that Christians embrace the Old Testament as God's Word? How does it shape our understanding of Jesus?
7. The church wrestled deeply with Christ's divinity and humanity (Arianism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism). Why is it so important that Jesus is both fully God and fully human for our salvation?
8. Augustine argued against Pelagius that we cannot save ourselves but depend wholly on grace. Where do you see our culture promoting a "Pelagian" mindset, and how can we remind ourselves of God's grace?
9. Creeds like the Nicene Creed arose in response to heresies. Do you think creeds and confessions are still helpful for Christians today? Why or why not?
10. Looking back, how did the early church's struggle with heresy strengthen its identity and mission? What lessons can we take for how the church should respond to challenges in our own day?