

WORD 2022

Fathers

Atmosphere – Awareness - Anticipation

Mothers

Investment – Involvement - Interaction

Look Around!

You

ATMOSPHERE AND AWARENESS



What do believe?

- **Luke 13:22-23** Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" NLT
- **Luke 13:23-28** He replied, 24 "Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. 25 When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' 26 Then you will say, 'But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 27 And he will reply, 'I tell you, I don't know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.' 28 "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. NLT
- **Matthew 7:13-14** "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

- **Ideologies** - the body of doctrine, myth, belief, etc., that guides an individual, social movement, institution, class, or large group.
- **Progressive Christianity**
 - Progressive Christianity interprets the Bible through the lens of culture; it does not critique the culture through the lens of the Bible.
- **We Know Better....**
 - This is a battle and strategy from the enemy of our soul from the very beginning!
 - The mindset that we know better than God, that the plain sense of the words of the Bible cannot be trusted.
- **Paul's Admonition**
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 We do live in the world, but we do not fight in the same way the world fights. 4 We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God that can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments 5 and every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ. NCV

- Our battle is both spiritual and intellectual as we engage in spiritual warfare with demons and their ideologies.
- **1 Timothy 4:1-2** Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. NLT
 - It is not only the temptation of sin that pulls people away from God; it is also the deception of error.
- **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. 4 You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed. NLT
 - His greatest concern, then, was not that they would completely deny Jesus but that they would believe in a different Jesus. He was not only concerned with their moral integrity; he was also concerned with their doctrinal purity.

Nothing New Under the Sun

- What, exactly, was the nature of Satan's lie to Eve? His opening words said it all: "*Has God really said ... ?*"
- To paraphrase, "Eve, can you really trust His words? Does He really mean what He says? He is lying to you! He said you will die if you eat from this tree, but you most certainly will not die. *That means that your first step to enlightenment is to recognize that this God is not who He seems to be and that His intentions are questionable. I know better!*" (Genesis 3:1-5).
- The mindset that we know better than God, that the plain sense of the words of the Bible cannot be trusted, that the old, proven paths are not proven at all, that the very God of the Bible must be recreated if He is to live up to our enlightened standards. **We know better!**
- What we are left with is simply **our religion**—a faith and a bible and a god that we have created in our image, based on our values.
- Augustine summed it up nicely: "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, **it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.**"

- This is not merely an intellectual battle. At root, this is a spiritual battle!
- The spirit of the age will be against us (“You are so old-fashioned and outdated!”).
- The spirit of the flesh will be against us (“You are such boring legalists!”).
- The spirit of that ancient serpent will be against us (“If you want to be on the right side of history, you need to abandon your inflexible, fundamentalist mindset!”).

