

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

Recently I was watching a preacher on T.V. This guy was one of the sharpest looking guys I've ever seen in my life. He was impeccably dressed. Every hair was in place, and boy, could he ever preach! He had me mesmerized, but then I caught something. I couldn't believe what I had just heard. I leaned forward, and then he said it several times again. I said to myself, “Not only is he pulling these verses out of context, but what he's saying is not true. It's not right.” In fact, he was manipulating his audience.

We need to check things out before we buy into someone's teachings. We need to ask the right questions. If we're not diligent about the study of the Scriptures (and I'm not talking about professional Christians here, I'm talking about everybody), then we open up ourselves to be pulled into stuff that's really not right.

Listen to these sobering words in Romans chapter 16 verses 17 and 18; “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”

Did you get that last line? By their smooth talk and flattery. It sounds so good. Hey, it's all in the Bible; it must be right. He's quoting the Scriptures, so his conclusion must be accurate.” Smooth, flattering, nice-sounding speech deceives the hearts of the naïve—the unsuspecting.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Not everybody who preaches and teaches the Scriptures can be trusted. That's sad but true. We need to be men and women of the Word. Don't make assumptions. Commit yourself to being a lifelong student of the Word of God.