

# **SUNDAY MORNING (October 7<sup>th</sup>) • Counterfeit Gospels**

## **The Deadly Power of a Counterfeit**

Modern society lives in an age of terror. Unstable nations build weapons of mass destruction. Misguided religious extremists plant bombs and attack embassies. The threat of a nuclear attack constantly lurks in the background of our national consciousness.

But imagine a quieter weapon of mass destruction, a weapon that, when unleashed, can do as much damage to a nation as explosive acts of war. Did you know that for more than 2,000 years, countries have sought to destabilize their enemies by spreading counterfeit money? Just think of what would happen if counterfeit bills flooded America. There would be massive confusion. It would take millions of dollars to educate the populace in becoming experts at seeing the truth in order to spot the fakes. By imitating the genuine, the counterfeit money creates confusion and typically distorts the value of the real currency. The counterfeit works because it mimics the real deal so well that customers and businesses spread the fake money until even governments are affected.

In the same way, at even greater cost, Christians and non-Christians are often drawn to counterfeit gospels. Even those of us who have walked with the Lord for many years may be inclined to accept cheap imitations of the truth. In your own words, what are counterfeit gospels, and why do they attract the attention of so many?

Take the time to read Galatians 1:6-10, 1 John 4:1-6, Jude 1-4, and Revelation 2:12-17. What should we take away from these passages about the danger of counterfeit gospels?

Having read Acts 16:11-15, Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5, and Colossians 1:3-14, why is continued confidence in the power of the gospel vital?

Practically speaking, when there is a lack of clarity in understanding and applying the gospel, what dangers arise?

Devoid of gospel confidence and clarity, disciples of Christ can begin to lose their distinctiveness. Why and how do entire churches tend to lose their focus on the gospel and unite around other things?