

# Problems

- 1<sup>st</sup> century – had its share !
- Teaching –
  - warning of ‘change agents’

# Acts 20:29-30

- 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;
- 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them

# 1 Timothy 4:1

- 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

# 1 John 4:1

- 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

# Gal. 1:8-9

**1:8** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

**1:9** As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

# Judaism

- Killing of Jesus by leaders ...
- Persecution of the apostles/ leaders ..
  - 4:1-3 – arrested, warned
  - 5:17-18 – arrested,
  - 5:40 – re-arrested, beaten
  - 6 – 7, Stephen – stoned
  - 8:1 – great persecution – Saul
  - 9:1f – Saul, to Damascus

# Of Paul

- Acts 9:23-25 – plot to kill, flee
- 13:50 – Antioch - drove out of district
- 14:5 – Iconium – attempt to stone...
- 14:19 – Lystra – stoned
- 16:22f – beaten / imprisoned ...
- 17:5 – Thess. – mob – threaten
- 17:13 – at Berea – stirred up crowd
- 21:30-31 – seized – attempt to kill
- 23:15 – plot to kill

# Church - within

- Acts 15:1f – binding of Old Testament
- Mentioned in almost every NT book !



# Heathenism / Idolatry

- Greeks
  - mythology
    - (but not considered such !)
  - 14:12-13 – Zeus / Hermes
  - Athens – 17: idolatry
  - Ephesus – 19 – Diana of the Ephesians

# Heathenism / Idolatry

- Roman
  - Roman mythology –
    - counterparts to Greek
  - Emperor worship –
    - Backdrop to Revelation

# Heathen / Paganism

- ‘Atheists’ –
- 1 Cor. 8:5
  - ‘gods many’ – but ONE GOD
- Africa - ?
- India – Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.
- Europe – paganism -

# 1 Corinthians

- division 1-4
- immorality – 5
- lawsuits – 6
- idolatry – 8-9
- corruption of Lord's supper – 11
- abuse of gifts / division 12-14
- denial of resurrection 15

# Today ?

- Judaism and denial of Jesus
- Paganism / idolatry –
- Islam –
- Eastern religions – still here
  - The changes in them !
  - New Age adoptions of such

# Today ?

- Apostasy within “church”
  - Gnosticism
  - Catholicism
  - Greek Orthodox
  - Protestantism

# Today ?

- Apostasy within “church”
  - Adventist movement
  - Pentecostal movements
  - Jehovah Witness
  - Mormon

# Today ?

- Humanism –
- ‘Intellectualism’ –
  - out of church –
  - within ‘church’ --



# Same Problem

- One God –
- Jesus – son of God
  - Raised from the dead ...
  - ALL authority –
- Bible – revelation from God

# **Maintain Positive Outlook ?**

- **WILL** have to take a stand !
- **WILL** produce animosity, ill-will
- **YET** –
  - Eph. 4:4-6 -- still true !

# **KNOW .**

- God –
- Jesus –
- Bible –
- Salvation -

# Know

- What God Has Promised ...
  - NOT – ease / prosperity
  - Forgiveness – mercy –
  - Resurrection / glorification -

