

The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the sun, creating a dramatic effect with orange, yellow, and blue hues. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the colors of the sky. The horizon line is visible in the middle of the image.

# the **History** and **Work** of the **Church**

## Dangers to the Church



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## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH





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### EPH 5:15

*“See that you walk  
circumspectly, not as  
fools, but as wise,  
redeeming the time,  
because the days are  
evil.”*



# the History and Work of the Church



## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

*“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” (2 Peter 2:1)*

**vs.2-3...**

*“...and many will follow their destructive ways”*

*“...they will exploit you with deceptive words”*

*“...their destruction does not slumber”*



# the History and Work of the Church



## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### The Dangers of Liberalism/Institutionalism

- Liberalism: *“a loose attitude regarding the authority of the scriptures”*
- We must have a pattern – Heb 8:5
- Liberalism appeals to the **silence** of the scripture
  - *“It doesn’t say that we can’t do this or that”*
  - False teachers were making circumcision a matter of salvation (v.1) by adding to the apostles’ teaching - *“Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “You must be circumcised and keep the law”—**to whom we gave no such commandment**—” (Acts 15:24)*
  - Liberalism looses where God has bound – Matt 16:19



# the History and Work of the Church



## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### The Dangers of Liberalism/Institutionalism – **Silence of Scriptures**

- Proverbs 30:5-6 – **every** word of God is pure, **do not add to** His words
- John 16:13 – Spirit will guide us into **all truth**
- Jude 3 – faith was **once for all** delivered to the saints
- 2 Pet 1:3 – He has given us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness
- 2 Tim 3:16-17– Scripture **complete** – **thoroughly** equipped for **every** good work
- 2 John 9 – if we transgress and do not abide **in** the Word, we do not have God
- Rev 22:18-19 – final warning in the entire Bible - **do not add to... Do not take away from** the Word.... Plagues/death
- Lev. 10:1 – Nadab & Abihu - offered profane fire before the Lord, “**which He had not commanded**”... devoured by fire before the Lord



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## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### The Dangers of Traditionalism

- The Pharisees were guilty of this
  - *‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Matthew 15:8–9)*
- The attitude that says:
- *“I’ve always done it this way so it must be right”*
- *“If we change the way we do things, we’re wrong”*
- *“We’ve always done it this way and we won’t even entertain the idea of doing it differently”*



# the History and Work of the Church

## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### The Dangers of Worldliness

- Causes of Worldliness –

- Loving the world

- “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15)

- The rich young ruler allowed **things** to stand in his way – Matt 19:16-22

- Friendship with the world

- “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

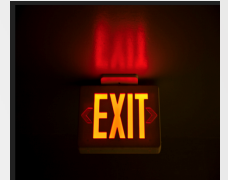
- Demas forsook Paul, “having loved this present world” (2 Tim 4:9)

- Conforming to the world (**Rom 12:2**)

- Becoming spotted by the world (**James 1:27**)

- Listening to worldly wisdom (**1 Cor 3:18-19**)

- Partaking in the works of the flesh (**Gal 5:19-21**)





# the History and Work of the Church

## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### The Dangers of Worldliness

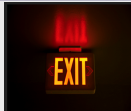


- Cures for Worldliness —

- make a conscious decision to not be squeezed into the mold of the world (**Rom 12:1-2**)
- use God's way of escape (**1 Cor 10:13**)
- increase our faith (**1 Jn 5:4**)
- deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (**Titus 2:12**)
- be separate (**2 Cor. 6:14-18**)
- **James 4:7-8**
  - Submit to God, Resist the devil, Draw near to God, Purify your heart



# the History and Work of the Church



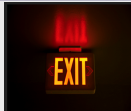
## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### The Dangers of Formalism and Emotionalism

- **Formalism:** worship becomes stale and stagnant
  - Just “*going through the motions*”
  - Without feeling or meaning – John 4:23-24
- **Emotionalism:** a misunderstanding of spiritual things
  - Seeks testimonies so faith rests in emotional stories
  - Believes in spiritual gifts like tongue-speaking
  - Showing **zeal** without **knowledge** - Rom 10:2
  - Spiritual gifts have ceased – 1 Cor 12-14



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## DANGERS TO THE CHURCH

### **The Dangers of Indifference**

- Something we can all struggle with – 1 Cor 10:12
- The **lukewarm** will be spit out – Rev 3:15-16
- Some are indifferent toward
  - **Worldliness** – 1 John 2:15
  - **False Teachers** – Matt 7:15
- **Preachers, elders, and all the members need to be on guard** – Acts 20:28