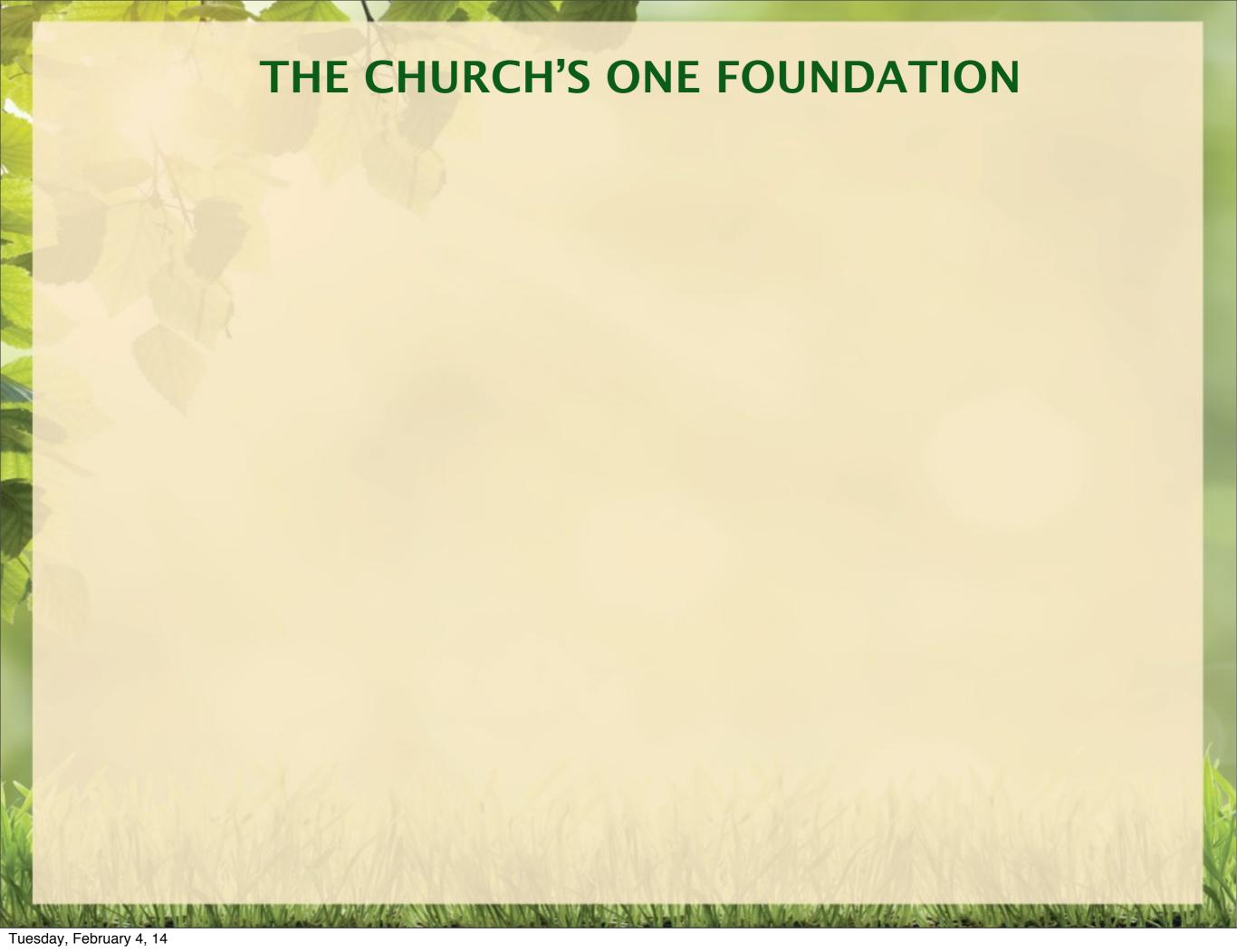
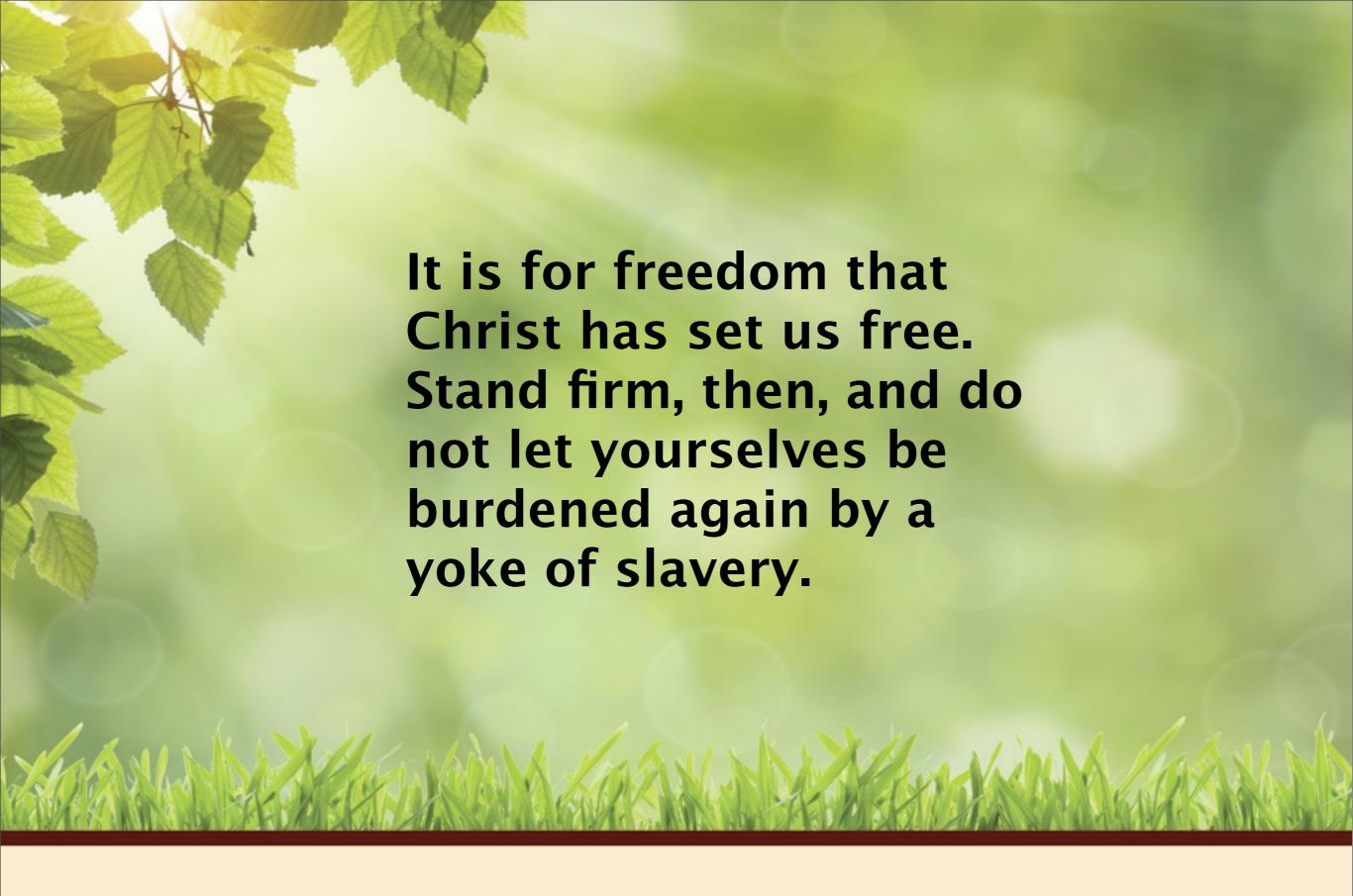


Lesson 17: The Gift of the Gospel







Memory Verse: Galatians 5: 1



WHEN?

That depends!

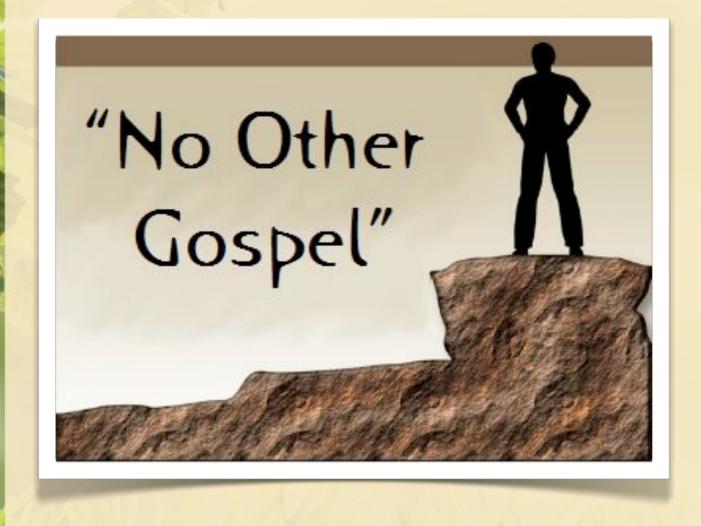
Paul and Barnabus visited southern Galatia during his first missionary journey (Acts 13:14-14:21) and during his second missionary journey visited northern Galatia (Acts 16:6, 18:23) during Paul's second and third missionary journeys.

Most scholars believe Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians in Antioch around 48–49 AD after his first missionary journey. If so, that would make this the earliest book of the New Testament.

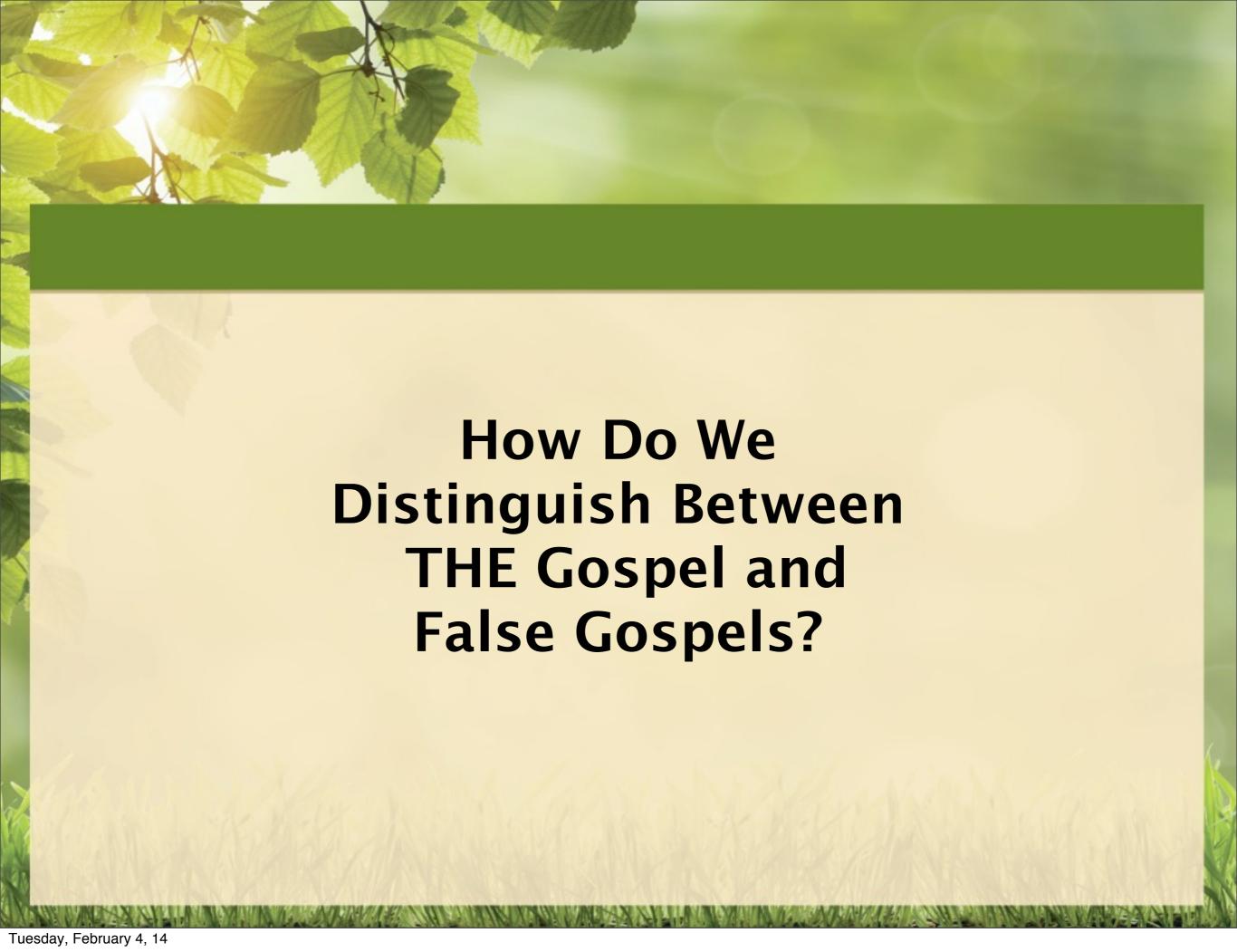
WHO? Following the theory that Paul is writing to Gentile believers in Galacia after his first missionary journey, the letter was probably received and read in churches in the cities of Pisidian, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.







Paul is "astonished" that these young Christians are following a false gospel. He is angry with those who are misleading them about the truth of the gospel.



Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

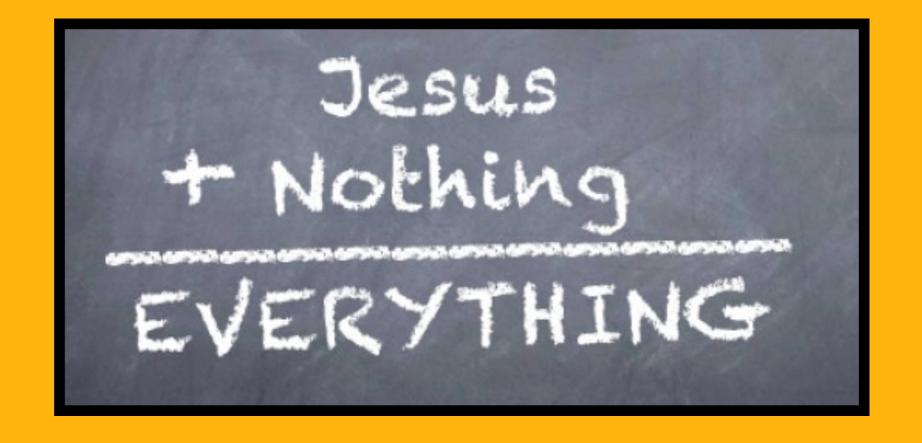
1 Corinthians 15: 1-5

Six Foundational Principles of the Gospel Without Which There is No Gospel from John Piper

- The gospel was planned by God beforehand (v. 3,4)
- ◆The gospel is an historical event (v. 3-5)
- The gospel is an objective accomplishment (v.3)
- The gospel is an offer made to all that may be had only by faith in Christ (v. 2)
- The gospel is an application through faith to specific people of what Christ accomplished (v. 2)
- ●The gospel is an eternal and infinitely happy future destiny: Good News (v. 1-3)

"If you add anything to Christ as a requirement for acceptance with God—if you start to say: To be saved I need the grace of Christ plus something else—you completely reverse the "order" of the gospel and make it null and void...Another gospel is **NOT** another gospel. it is **NO** gospel."

Tim Keller, Galatians For You



MODERN FALSE GOSPELS

Some modern false gospels add something to THE gospel and some take something away.

Paul condemns any teaching that is not based on the fact that:

- We are too sinful to contribute to our salvation
- We are saved by belief in Jesus' saving work, the grace of Christ, and nothing else

Inclusivism

Those who seek truth and follow it, even outside the gospel, obeying the witness of their own conscience, may be saved by the merciful application of the benefits of Christ.

"It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are a loving and good person."

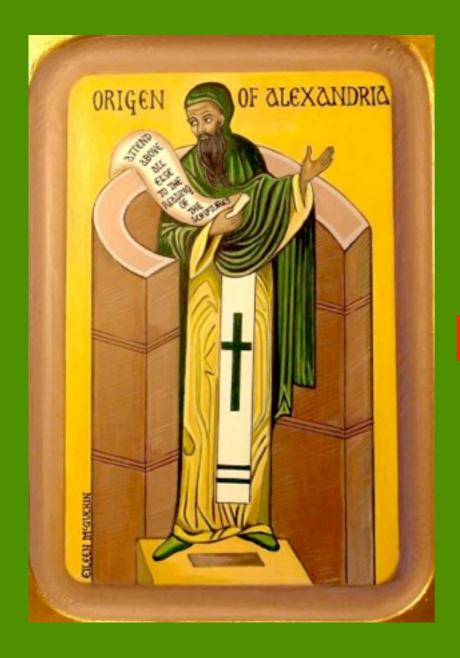
Not THE Gospel

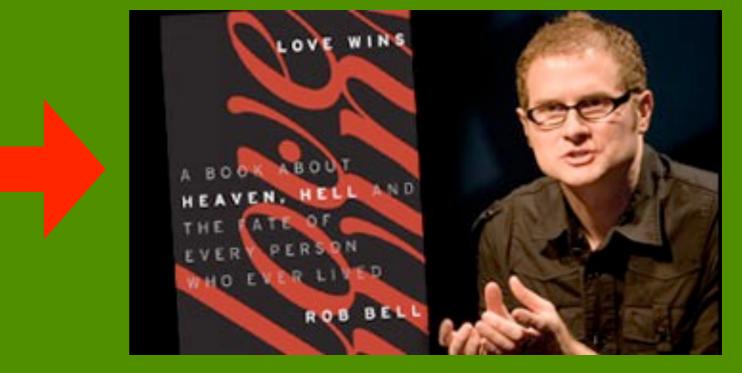
Teaches that good works are enough to get to God

This gospel is exclusive: only the good can enter the Kingdom while the bad are excluded.

Encourages the idea that if you are tolerant and open you are pleasing to God and don't need grace. -- Tim Keller

Universalism: Everyone will be saved.





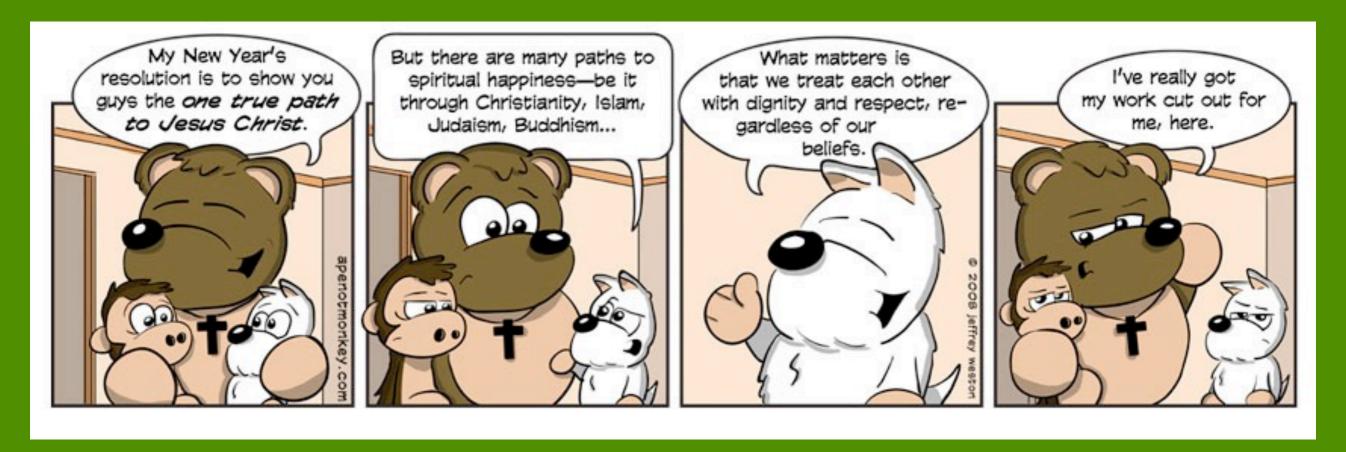
Rob Bell 2011

Origen 2nd Century AD

The gospel is an offer made to all that may be had only through faith in Christ. John Piper

Pluralism

Christ is one of many valid pathways to God, but not the only pathway.



Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways: He is the only way. ~A.W. Tozer

Modern Gnosticism

Asserts that there is a difference between the "Risen Christ" and the "historical Jesus". Denies the historical veracity of the incarnation, Virgin Birth and bodily resurrection accounts of the New Testament. Explains them as literary metaphor or mystical experience.

3/9/9

Scholars discount 80% of Jesus' sayings

By JOHN DART

LA Times-Washington Post Service

The provocative Jesus Seminar Sunday concluded six years of voting on what the Jesus of history most likely said, ruling out about 80 percent of words attributed to him in the gospels and emerging with the picture of a prophet-sage who told parables and made pithy comments.

Virtually all of Jesus's words in the Gospel of John were voted down by scholars meeting in Sonoma, Calif., including a pulpit favorite, 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son..."

Formed in part to counteract literalist views of the Bible, the Jesus Seminar, a 200-member group of mainline biblical scholars from all over the United States, has stirred controversy since its first meetings in 1985. "Televangelists on talk shows say it's the work of the devil," said founder Robert Funk, a New Testament scholar who has published widely in gospel studies.

The scholars have met twice a year examining either particular gospels or types of sayings, basing their discussions on earlier scholarship and their own studies.

Many academic colleagues have criticized.

among other things, the seminar's unconventional voting techniques — red and pink beads dropped into a ballot box for probable or possible authentic sayings; gray and black beads for sayings that allegedly reveal the theological bias of the gospel authors or the beliefs of beleaguered early Christians, but not necessarily the messages of Jesus.

Almost 200 scholars from universities and seminaries have participated; their conclusions are often the same as those taught outside of fundamentalist and evangelical circles, Funk said.

Seminar member Marcus Borg of Oregon State University, who also chairs the Historical Jesus Section of the large Society of Biblical Literature, said that his experience of teaching adults is that the findings will "feed a hunger" in the churches.

"Many mainstream Christians can no longer believe the picture of Jesus they got as children," Borg said.

Funk contended that most mainline scholars would agree with the Jesus Seminar that in the parallel Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, "Jesus speaks regularly in adages or aphorisms, or in parables, or in witticisms created as rebuff or retort in the context of dialogue or debate. It is clear he did not speak in long monologues of the type found in the Gospel of John."

The only saying in John that received a pink vote was one (4:44) which has parallels in the other gospels — that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

Funk had not tallied full results, but he said that in all, 31 sayings in the four biblical gospels and several apocryphal sources fell into the "red" category of authentic sayings (only 15 of which are actually different, due to parallel versions in more than one gospel). They included the good Samaritan and mustard seed parables, the advice to love your enemies and some Sermon on the Mount pronouncements such as, "Blessed are you poor, for you shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Another 200 sayings were accorded pink votes, meaning that Jesus said something similar to the recorded words. Together, the red and pink sayings totaled about 20 percent of the total; another 30 percent fell into the gray class. "A gray vote meant that some of the ideas may have gone back to Jesus, but not those words," Funk said.



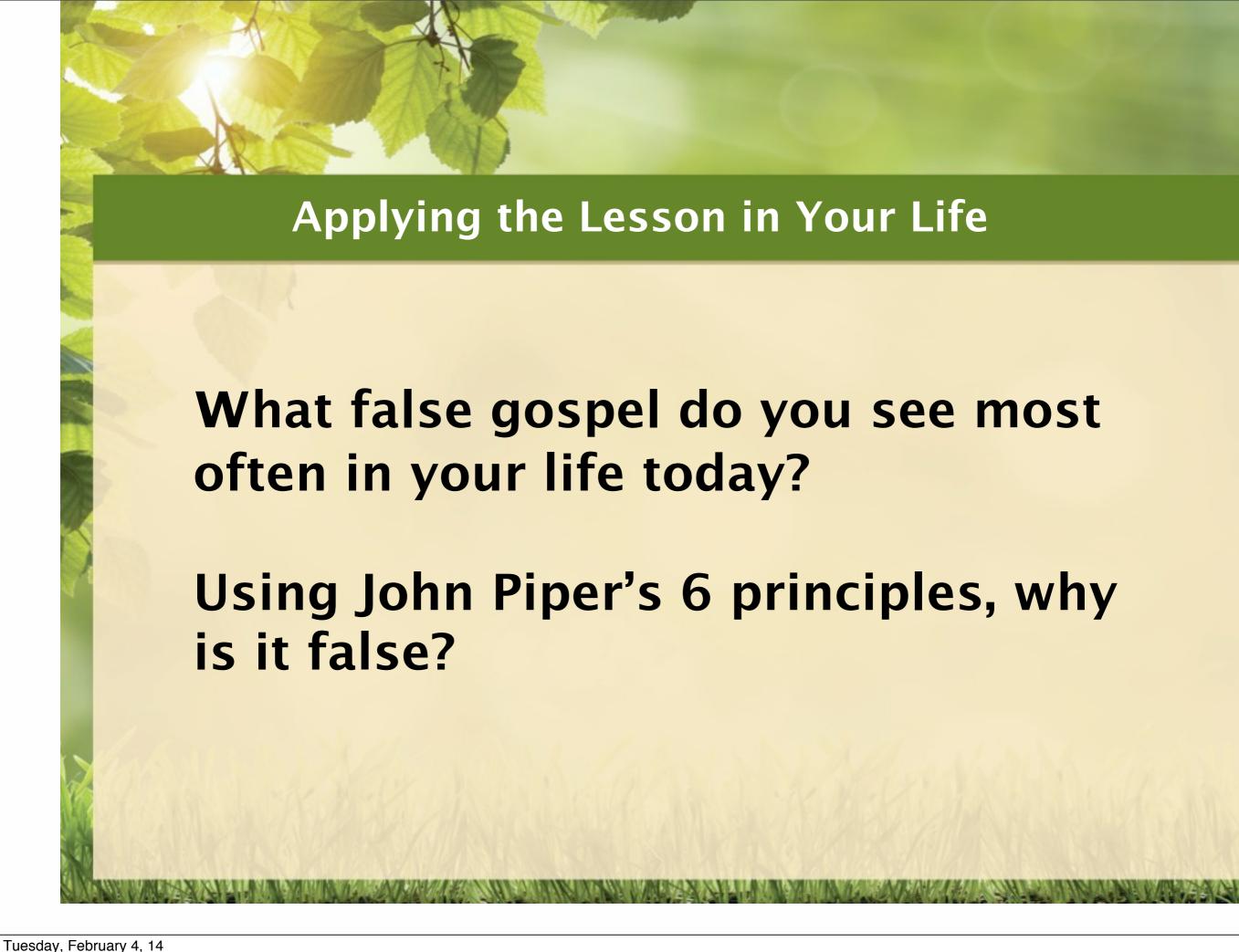
BORG

Oregonian - March 9, 1991

Summing up the teaching of the false gospels:

A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.

~H. Richard Niebuhr



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