



# *Standing Our Ground*

*A New Year of Faithfulness in a World of Apostasy*  
Jeremiah 23:23-32

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • December 27 & 28, 2014 • Msg. 14-42 • Social Media: #StandingOurGround

1. Beware of \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv.25-27; 30-32)

2. Prefer \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv.28-29)

3. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.23-24)

**Jeremiah 23:23** "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? **24** Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. **25** I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' **26** How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, **27** who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? **28** Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. **29** Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? **30** Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another. **31** Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.' **32** Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.  
(ESV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Matthew 7:15** and **2 Peter 2:1**. Describe how this promised reality changes the way we must live as Christians. What are some of the practical differences between living with this warning in view versus believing that anyone who claims a relationship with Christ is our "brother" or "sister" who speaks truthfully about God?
2. Read **Acts 17:10-12** and **1 Thessalonians 2:13**. Describe the kind of distorted vigilance or "discernment" that would prevent one from ever responding "eagerly" or submissively to the word the way the Bereans and Thessalonians did.
3. Read **Romans 11:22**. Why is it critical that we equally take "note" of the severity and the kindness of God as taught in the Bible?
4. Read **2 Peter 3:15-17**. What are some of the "hard to understand" topics in the Bible that are often launching points for a compromised form of Christianity?
5. Read **2 Timothy 4:1-4** and **Hebrews 4:12-13**. Why is it so important to keep God's presence, coming, and knowledge of our lives in mind when we read, study, or communicate the truths of God's word?

## This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

**December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
*Zech. 7-9 & Rev. 19*  
**December 29<sup>th</sup>**  
*Zech. 10-12 & Rev. 20*  
**December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Zech. 13-14 & Rev. 21*  
**December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
*Mal. 1-4 & Rev. 22*  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
*Gen. 1-2 & Mt. 1*  
**January 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Gen. 3-5 & Mt. 2*  
**January 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Gen. 6-8 & Mt. 3*  
**January 4<sup>th</sup>**  
*Gen. 9-11 & Mt. 4*

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website ([FocalPointMinistries.org](http://FocalPointMinistries.org)).

Msg. 14-22 – **The Hard Work of Fruitful Hearing**  
Msg. 14-21 – **The Chronic Noise of Worldliness**  
Msg. 13-30 – **Apostasy & Stumbling Saints**  
Msg. 14-18 – **Christ on Hearing God**  
Msg. 98-39 – **The Berean Balance: How to be Discerning without Being Paranoid**  
Msg. 11-27 – **The Centrality of Scripture & Expository Preaching**  
Msg. 12-32 – **Luke: God's Diligent Student**

## This Week's Social Media Hashtag

**#StandingOurGround**

For users of Twitter, Facebook, or other social media sites for the grouping of sermon quotes, helpful insights, or your sharable applications drawn from today's sermon.

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Adams, Jay E. **A Consumer's Guide to Preaching**. Victor Books, 1991.  
Carson, D. A. and John D. Woodbridge, eds. **Scripture and Truth**. Baker Books, 1983.  
Carty, Jay. **Counter Attack: Taking Back Ground Lost to Sin**. Third Edition. Yes Ministries, 1988.  
Fabarez, Mike. **Preaching that Changes Lives**. Wipf & Stock, 2005.  
Hillerstrom P. Roger. **Intimate Deception: Escaping the Trap of Sexual Impurity**. Multnomah Press, 1989.  
Love, Christopher. **The Mortified Christian**. Reprint. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1998.  
Mahaney, C. J., et al. **Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World**. Crossway, 2008.  
Morgan, Christopher A. and Robert A. Peterson, eds. **Fallen: A Theology of Sin**. Crossway, 2013.  
Packer, J. I. **A Quest for Godliness**. Crossway Books, 1994.  
Pache, Rene. **The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**. Moody Press, 1969.  
Ramey, Ken. **Expository Listening: A Handbook for Hearing and Doing God's Word**. Kress, 2010.  
Reed, Gerard. **C. S. Lewis Explores Vice and Virtue**. Beacon Hill Press, 2001.  
Saucy, Robert. **Scripture: Its Power, Authority, and Relevance**. Word Publishing, 2001.  
Sire, James W. **Scripture Twisting: Twenty Ways the Cults Misread the Bible**. InterVarsity Press, 1980.