Outline #4 The Bible—the authoritative source of our theology

1. Danger #1: Exalting religious tradition over the Bible
   a) All Christian churches accept the Bible to some degree. Unfortunately, some pick and choose what to believe and follow. Others accept church tradition over the authority of the Bible.
   b) Mark 7:1-13 How did Jesus react to those who placed human traditions above the Word of God?
   c) Not all religious traditions are bad. Notice Paul’s counsel to Christians in Corinth and Thessalonica: 1 Corinthians 11:2, 2 Thessalonians 3:6
   d) What traditions in your church are meaningful and in harmony with the Word of God?
   e) How can we discern when we need to let go of long-held religious traditions?

2. Danger #2: Trusting too much in our own experience
   a) Sometimes our personal experience can be helpful on our spiritual journey. Romans 2:4, Titus 3:4-5
   b) Share a time when the Holy Spirit used a personal experience to draw you closer to Jesus.
   c) What warnings do we find in the Bible about trusting in our human experience over the Word of God? Genesis 3:6 (see Genesis 2:16-17), Judges 14:1-3, 2 Corinthians 11:3, etc.

3. Danger #3: Being influenced negatively by our culture
   a) What are some positive aspects of your culture?
   b) What does the apostle John mean when he says, “Do not love the world or the things in the world”? 1 John 2:15
   c) What aspects of your culture are in complete opposition to the Word of God?
   d) How can we live in this sin-damaged world and yet avoid a worldly mindset? 1 John 2:16-17, Philippians 4:8, Psalm 16:8, Hebrews 12:1-2

4. Danger #4: Depending solely on human reason
   a) Proverbs 14:12
   b) Romans 1:18-23
   c) How can we avoid an unhealthy dependence on human reason? 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Proverbs 9:10
   d) How would you respond to a friend who says, “Believing in miracles like those recorded in the Bible is unreasonable”?

5. Safe source for our theology and practice: The Bible
   a) Psalm 19:7-11
   b) 2 Peter 1:19-21
   c) John 5:39, 46-47
   d) 2 Timothy 3:15-17
   e) How should we respond to a person who comes with a spiritual revelation that is out of harmony with the Bible? Isaiah 8:20, 1 John 5:14-15 (pray)