

## Beware the False Prophet - 2 Peter 2:1-3

### The Characteristics of a false teacher

The first point that Peter makes concerning false teachers is that their presence is inevitable.

This is an issue that we must deal with, we cannot pretend that everything that is presented as truth really is truth and, "Can't we all just get along?"

The second point that Peter makes is that these individuals are in our midst.

Of course the Lord Jesus Christ warns us of the same thing in Matthew 7:15,

The point is, they are within the professing church. The casual observer will not be able to tell the difference.

The next thing that Peter points out is that, once they are in the church they introduce infectious doctrines into the.

Let's be very clear about this point, there is objective truth that we can know and we can say, "This is right and whatever does not conform to this is wrong!"

These doctrines are not only false, but they are destructive.

Not only do false teachers introduce false doctrines but they do so insidiously that is secretly

### The Results of a False Teacher

The first fruit that Peter mentions is Multitudes of followers

One of the grossest distortions of reality that Satan has pushed on us is the idea that the mark of success for a church is size, volume, big crowds.

It is a distortion because we all want to see more and more people saved. But never at the expense of truth.

A false teacher will object to truth that he believes people will object to.

John 6:53-70 The Lord Jesus always was trying to cull the unbelievers from the crowds that followed Him.

That is the most gracious thing we can do for a false professor. We must communicate to such that their profession of faith is faulty. How cruel it is to allow someone to think they are saved when they are on their way to hell.

Lets be reminded of this fact, we as humans are in utter rebellion against God. All our natural reactions are to reject God and His truth. As a result every single person in this world will reject truth until God graciously works that truth into their soul. Therefore never think that true Christianity will be in the majority; or even very popular.

Not only do false teachers seek multitudes at the expense of truth, they also malign the truth.

You can be guaranteed that if you stand up for truth in our world you will be the object of continual derision, hatred and strife, just like the true prophets in the OT; just like the Lord Jesus Himself.

### How can I tell who they are, and that I am not one of them?

How do we know a false teacher from a true teacher?

There is a body of truth that is developed from the Word of God. Whoever teaches contrary to that body of truth is a false teacher.

In our church we use a "Normal interpretation" of Scripture. Without getting into a technical description of the hermeneutic we employ, it is best summed up by this old saying, "If the plain sense of the passage makes common sense, seek no other sense, but take the plain meaning of every word."

2D) Do not let any say we take a "Literal" interpretation of Scripture. We do not! There is plenty of room for literary device in scripture. We do not believe that the trees of the field have hands to clap (Isaiah 55:12) or that Pharisees swallowed camels whole (Matthew 23:24)

4C) Whenever you hear a teacher saying something that is contrary to what you have heard from other trusted preachers previously, it should raise your eyebrows and you need to get into the Word and be an Acts 17:11 Christian.

5C) "But that means I have to read and even study my Bible." It takes diligence, it takes effort, it takes a conscious choice to re-evaluate the priorities of my life; turn away from activities that do not profit for eternity to activities that do.

2B) But that is the only way that you will ever assure yourself before the Lord God of heaven that you were His servant, doing His will in His way at His time for His glory.

## Lessons for our Lives

1. Understand that there are false teachers throughout our world and inside our churches so that we are bombarded by lies continuously.
2. Never be judgmental the size of one congregation compared to another. The size of a church is irrelevant.
3. Have a healthy skepticism of every message that you hear, including the ones from this pulpit and this mouth.
4. That standard is, and always must be the plain, straightforward understanding of the Word of God.
5. Maybe you are here today and never come to the point where you have trusted Christ as your Savior.