

False Teachers Part Two

Due to the length of this topic the lesson begun in False Teachers Part One will now continue and conclude as the lesson False Teachers Part Two.

Methods of a false teacher

Matthew 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” This verse teaches us both that some forms of worship are unacceptable to God, as well as, that some teachings are. God has told us in the Bible how to worship Him, and no other way is acceptable to Him. God has told us in the Bible what His teaching are, and all other teachings are false, and therefore not acceptable to Him. We must ask ourselves do we want to please God or man? We can follow God or man, but not both.

Matthew 24:4-5 “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” How many times in the history of mankind has some claimed to be bring us the teachings of God, and yet what these people teach can not be found in His Word. If anyone is claiming to teach things that are acceptable to God, but it is not in the Bible, or it is contrary to the Bible, they are false teachers. Sadly this includes the Pope, Muhammad, and anyone else that teaches things that are not in God’s Word. They have deceived so many people it is truly sad.

Romans 16:17-18 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” Paul warns us false teachers will come among the faithful and try to turn them away from God. False teachers are not servants of God. No matter how smooth or eloquent they are false teachers do not care about you, or saving your soul. False teachers serve themselves, not God. If false teachings of God’s Scriptures was not dangerous, why did Paul warn us about them? If it made no difference to God what we teach or what we do, why did God give us His Word?

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.” and **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” Most of the time false teachers will not come right out and say what they are. They will often be cunning and wrap up their false teaching in a pretty package that is very tempting to believe. Many people believe all you need is faith, yet this is not found in the Bible. Many people believe in once saved always saved, but this is not found in the Bible. Many people believe it does not matter how you worship God, as long as it is from your heart, but the Bible does not teach that. False doctrine will often sound really good but any teaching not found in the Bible is false and

will not lead you to Heaven. We must be guided by God's Bible not by any human. False teaching spreads because people do not check what is being taught to see if it is in the Bible.

Galatians 1:6-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Any gospel that is not Christ's gospel is false. Paul told us anyone that teaches something other than Christ's gospel no matter who they are, is a false teacher. Sadly, so many false teachers would be stopped in their tracks if we would only listen to Paul, and therefore listen to God. No matter where a false teacher claims to get their doctrine, if we only check them against the Bible, we could easily reject them. Islam claims Muhammad got his teachings from an angel. Muhammad's teaching are contrary to the Bible. What does that say about Islam? We can use this same test against so many false teachers, why don't we?

Ephesians 4:14 "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" Faithful Christians will likely not have the entire Bible memorized and probably not know all the answers to all Bible questions. However, they do over time need to grow in their knowledge so that every false doctrine that comes along does not easily fool them. Over time, growing wisdom should make a Christian harder to deceive with false teachings.

Colossians 2:4-8 "And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." and **Colossians 2:18** "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind" Paul, through the inspiration of God, again and again warns us to not let ourselves be fooled by false teachers no matter how good their doctrine might sound. To prepare against false teachers we must all strive to know God's Word, so we know if the teacher is teaching rightly or falsely. It is a Christian's responsibility to grow, so they will be harder to fool. Sadly, there are countless false doctrines being taught, Christians have to strive to become wise to them.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." Paul tells us that some people will leave Jesus's teachings and fall for false teachers and false doctrines. In fact Paul specifically points out some false teaching that

would be taught years later by Catholics for years. He is trying to warn us to not lose our souls by listening to teachings that are not found in the Bible.

Titus 1:9-14 “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.” Paul tells us we need to know sound doctrine so we can challenge false teachers. We need to know the Bible so we don't fall for their unsound false teachings. False teachers will have many reasons for teaching their false doctrine, but it does not matter, it is false. When Christians do challenge a false teacher, let us be sure we have the proper attitude. Teaching anyone the gospel, even a false teacher, is to be done with the goal of trying to convert them to the one true gospel, so they do not lose their souls.

2 Peter 2:1-3 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.” Even in Peter's day there were false teachers trying to pervert the gospel. False teachers already existed in the first century and they are abundant today in our world. Following a false teacher, and not Jesus, will cost you your soul. When we follow the teachings of the Bible, we follow Jesus.

2 Peter 2:18-19 “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” False teachers will often tell us what we want to hear or what we find appealing. However, what you and me may want to hear is irrelevant. The only saving doctrine is in the Bible. Any teaching not of the Bible is false and will not lead you to Heaven.

Jude 4 “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Christians must be on guard because false teachers usually try to be subtle and sneaky in their efforts to spread corrupt doctrine. Stopping a false teacher as quickly as possible is to the advantage of any congregation that wants to remain sound in God's eyes.

A faithful Christian's attitude toward false teachers

Acts 20:28-31 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with

his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” Christians that are Elders have a specific duty to watch over their particular congregation, to be sure no false teachers try to come in and turn people away from God. However, all Christians should be striving to know God’s Word, and understand when they are hearing false teaching, or sound teaching. All Christians have the responsibility to fight against false teachings to keep their congregations sound in Jesus’s teachings.

Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” and **Titus 3:10-11** “A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” All Christians have the responsibility, when they hear false teaching, to try and correct it. If the false teacher will not correct their sinful doctrine, than faithful Christians should not allow the false teacher to continue teaching in their congregation, or show any support for the false doctrine.

2 John 1-11 “The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” If we love God, we will be obedient to His teachings, not false teaching that are contrary to God’s Word. John warns us that false teachers will come and they will try to lead us, by their false teachings, away from Heaven. (Note John teaches of anyone opposing God as an antichrist. So there are many antichrists not one. Also antichrists are just ordinary people that oppose God not something supernatural.) Christians must abide in Christ’s teaching to go to Heaven not false teaching that will lead to Hell.

Conclusion

In this two-part lesson we have explored what false teaching is and how dangerous it is. Hopefully, this will help all of us better understand, we need to be studying our Bibles so we can be sure we are on the path that leads to Heaven. False teaching by accident or on purpose is sinful and will cost people their souls, if they do not study God’s Word that He has given us.

Ultimately, we are all responsible to get ourselves into Heaven by obeying God. Hopefully, we will all be more aware of the dangers of false teaching.