

Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

“The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 7

2 Peter 2

Introduction:

1. False teachers are just as prevalent today as they were in Peter's day. In fact, Paul told us they would become increasingly **worse**. 2 Timothy 3:13
2. False teachers will appear as ministers of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:13-15), so how does the Christian identify a false teacher? What are the characteristics of a false teacher? 2 Peter 2 answers these questions.

I. First mark of false teachers: They reject the sufficiency of Christ's *work*. vs. 1

II. Second mark of false teachers: They do not accept God's Word as the *final* and ultimate authority. vs 2

III. Third mark of false teachers: They may attract big *crowds* and have many followers. vs. 2

IV. Fourth mark of false teachers: They are full of *greed*. vs. 3

V. Fifth mark of false teachers: They deny the doctrine of *hell* and judgment. vs. 3-9

VI. Sixth mark of false teachers: They have an unsubmitive attitude towards *authority*. vs. 10-12

VII. Seventh mark of false teachers: They are outwardly religious, but inwardly *empty*. vs. 17-18

- A. The false teachers put a lot of emphasis on outward religious **acts**, thinking that these things gain them **acceptance** before God.

- B. True Christian faith begins **inwardly** and works its way outward creating marvelous changes.
- C. Peter gives a few illustrations of this in verse 17.
1. *“These (false teachers) are wells without **water**.”*
 - Jesus is the only One who can give inner **peace**, satisfaction, and quench our spiritual thirst.
 - The false teacher offers substitutes.
 - The Pharisees were outwardly **religious**, but inwardly **empty**.
Matthew 23:23-28
 2. They are like *“**clouds** that are carried with a tempest.”*
 3. *“The mist of **darkness** is reserved for ever”* for these false teachers.
 - False teachers profess to be the only carriers of the true **light**, but in reality, they are **leading** people to the very depths of blackness, gloom, and darkness.
- D. How do false teachers attract people to follow them? Verse 18 has the answer.
1. They are eloquent **promoters** of their doctrines.
 2. They appeal to the **fleshly** nature.
 3. They prey on people who have recently *“clean **escaped**”* from their old ways. cf. vs. 14