

Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

“The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 8

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**

VIII. Eighth mark of false teachers: They promise liberty, but bring **bondage.** vs. 19-22

- A. Their followers are in bondage to a religious, man-made system of **good** works.
- B. What is the result? Peter says, "...the latter end is **worse** with them than the beginning." vs. 20
- C. Many people who get involved in false teaching are people who have **known** the way of righteousness and were raised in Christian homes.
- D. What should we do when false teachers attempt to bring us into bondage through sets of religious rules, ordinances, and laws?
 - 1. We should **refuse** to give in to such false doctrine. Galatians 2:5
 - 2. We should realize that those under the law are under a **curse**. Galatians 3:10
 - 3. We should stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us **free**. Galatians 5:1
- E. Remember these two principles:
 - 1. The outward works of the flesh = **BONDAGE**. Galatians 2:4, 4:9-10, 24
 - 2. An inward walk in the Spirit = **LIBERTY**. 2 Corinthians 3:17
- F. Peter gives two illustrations of these false teachers in verse 22.
 - 1. A **dog** that returns to its own vomit.
 - 2. A **pig** that returns to the mudhole.

- 1. Only Jesus Christ can **change** and transform us into new creatures.
- 2. No amount of **outward**, religious acts and ordinances can change us inwardly.