

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “False Teachers – A Real and Present Threat”

### 2 Peter 2

#### Introduction:

1. What is a false teacher, as referred to in the Bible?
  - A false teacher is a person who **instructs** others in unbiblical doctrine.
  - False prophets are dangerous, but false teachers are even **more** deceptive and threatening.
  - *“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” 2 Corinthians 2:17*
2. As a Christian, you will encounter false teachers. How do you identify them?
3. Let’s begin by examining four Biblical principles that will help us understand false teachers.

#### I. False teachers work within the walls of the **church**.

- A. *“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.” Acts 20:29-30*
- B. This is why pastors must labor in the Word and doctrine. One of their main responsibilities is to keep the church doctrinally sound and **protect** it from false teaching. cf. Titus 1:9, 1 Timothy 5:17, Acts 20:28

#### II. False teachers are **Satan’s** ministers.

- A. *“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.” 2 Corinthians 11:13-15*
- B. They **appear** as the most spiritual, righteous people in church.

### III. False teachers will ultimately be *destroyed*.

- False teachers may seem successful (2 Peter 2:2), but in the end, they will be condemned, and will be **revealed** for what they really are. Matthew 7:22-23

### IV. False teachers are exposed by the *truth* of God's Word.

A. False teachers claim to teach God's Word, but they do not teach it in **truth**.

B. False teachers:

1. **Corrupt** the Word of God – 2 Corinthians 2:17
2. Handle **deceitfully** the Word of God – 2 Corinthians 4:2
3. Fail to rightly **divide** the Word of God – 2 Timothy 2:15

C. So, a believer must be **rooted** and grounded in the absolute truth of God's Word.

- *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

D. Colossians 2:7 is the purpose and mission of this Bible Study series.

*“Rooted and built up in him (Christ), and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”*

**Colossians 2:7**