

Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

“The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 3

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 _____ and have many followers. vs. 2

A. _____ warned of this. Acts 20:30

B. _____ warned of this. Matthew 24:24

C. Crowds, finances, and buildings do not determine whether someone is right or wrong – the _____ is the determiner.

D. People, by and large, are much more apt to believe a _____ than to believe the _____.

- *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

- *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because*

there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.” **John 8:44-45**

- E. Remember, “the _____” can be wrong. Matthew 27:20
- *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.”* **Exodus 23:2**
 - *“Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.”* **Proverbs 11:21**

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

- A. Jesus and His apostles were not affluent and wealthy men. God met their _____ as they ministered to others. cf. Matthew 10:8
- B. The apostle Paul was a great example. 1 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:8, 1 Corinthians 9:18
- *“The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us.”*
Micah 3:11
- C. Who do these false teachers prey on? vs. 14
1. They prey on people who do not _____ their Bible.
 2. This is why it is crucial that believers get _____ and grounded in the truth of God’s Word. Ephesians 4:14