

Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

“The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 1

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**

A. “...even denying the Lord that bought them...” This refers to Christ's **sacrifice** on the cross.

- Christ gave Himself as a ransom for **all**. 1 Timothy 2:6
- He paid sin's price for the entire **world**. 1 John 2:2
- He made it possible for everyone to be **reconciled** and redeemed back to God. 2 Corinthians 5:19, Colossians 1:20

B. A false teacher rejects the sufficiency of Christ's work, thereby denying the Lord who paid for their sins on the cross.

- They refuse to appropriate God's gift of righteousness by **faith**.
Romans 10:3-4, cf. Romans 5:17

C. The false teacher not only rejects the gospel of Christ, but teaches **others** to deny it also.

- Not that they completely reject Christ, but they deny the sufficiency of Christ's work by mingling faith and human **works**.
- This is a denial of Christ's sufficiency and a trampling of God's **grace**.
Romans 4:3-4, 13-16, 9:30-32, 5:1-2, Galatians 2:21

D. There are a multitude of man-made religious systems, but they all share one common denominator – they teach faith **alone** in the finished work of Christ is not sufficient to **save**.