

# 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**

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “The Importance of Sound Doctrine”

### Introduction:

1. The subject of “doctrine” is mentioned **55** times in the Bible.
2. Truly, one of the absolute keys in detecting false teachers is sound doctrine.
3. But, what is doctrine? Where do we derive it from? Why is it so important?
4. We will explain these questions and more in this lesson.

### I. What is doctrine?

- A. In a general sense, doctrine is “whatever is **taught**.”
- B. The principles Jesus taught constituted His **doctrine**. Matthew 7:28, Mark 1:22, 27; 4:2
- C. The doctrines of Daytona Beach Baptist Church form our **belief** system and guide us in our preaching and teaching.

### II. Where do we derive our doctrine from?

- We derive our doctrine from one source - **God’s Word**, also referred to as the **Scriptures**. John 7:16, 2 Timothy 3:16; 4:2, Titus 1:9

### III. Why is doctrine so important?

- A. Because our doctrine determines our eternal **destiny**.
  - *“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” 2 John 1:9*
- B. Because our doctrine determines our **actions**. 1 Timothy 1:10, 2 Timothy 3:10
- C. Because sound doctrine is essential for Christian **growth**. Ephesians 4:14

#### IV. Where does false doctrine come from?

- A. Ultimately, it comes from **Satan**. John 8:44
- B. It comes from **extra** - Biblical revelation. John 17:17
- C. It comes from **corrupting** God's Word. 2 Corinthians 2:17
  - 1. Misinterpreting it - 2 Peter 1:20
  - 2. Taking it out of **context** - 2 Peter 3:16
  - 3. Failing to rightly **divide** it - 2 Timothy 2:15
  - 4. Believing only **portions** of it - 2 Timothy 3:16

#### V. Some final thoughts about doctrine.

- A. Doctrine is a **divider**, and God meant it to be.
  - 1. It was in Jesus' day.
    - *"And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine."* **Mark 11:18**
  - 2. It always will be. 2 Timothy 4:3, 2 John 1:10
    - *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."* **Romans 16:17**
- B. **Changed** lives are rooted in sound doctrine. Romans 6:17-18
  - *"Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord."* **Acts 13:12**
- C. Sound doctrine should be accompanied with a **godly** life. Titus 2:10

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “Rightly Dividing God’s Word”-Part 1

### Introduction:

1. Here in 2 Timothy 2:14-18, we see that a failure to rightly divide results in:
  - Unprofitable **bickering** - vs. 14, 16a
  - The destruction of **people** - vs. 14, 17a
  - False **teachers** - vs. 17
  - False **doctrine** - vs. 18
2. In this lesson, we will share four guiding principles that will enable the Christian to rightly divide God’s Word.

### I. You must carefully examine *who* God is addressing.

- A. The Bible divides humanity into three groups in 1 Corinthians 10:32.
  - **Jews**, the Gentiles, and the **church** of God
- B. God’s Word is always directly addressing one of these groups or individuals within one of these groups.
- C. All of the Bible is written **for** us, but it’s not all written **to** us.
- D. Every passage has a **doctrinal** application for the group addressed and a **practical** application for people of all ages.

### II. You must always place Scripture in its proper *context*.

- A. God commands us to “rightly divide,” teaching us that there are distinct **divisions** in the Bible that must be distinguished.
  - Many times, these divisions are referred to as dispensations.
  - It is a stewardship arrangement between God and man. Mankind is given a responsibility and God’s requirements **differ** in each dispensation.
- B. Today, we live in the dispensation of **grace**. Ephesians 3:2
  - Our doctrine is found in **Paul’s** epistles to the church. Romans – Philemon
- C. Most false doctrine is derived from taking Scriptures out of their **context**.

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “Rightly Dividing God’s Word”- Part 2

### Introduction:

1. Here in 2 Timothy 2:14-18, we see that a failure to rightly divide results in:
  - Unprofitable **bickering** - vs. 14, 16a
  - The destruction of **people** - vs. 14, 17a
  - False **teachers** - vs. 17
  - False **doctrine** - vs. 18
2. In this lesson, we will share four guiding principles that will enable the Christian to rightly divide God’s Word.

**I. You must carefully examine *who* God is addressing.**

**II. You must always place Scripture in its proper *context*.**

**III. You must hold to a *literal* interpretation of God’s Word.**

- A. This means to explain the original sense of the speaker or writer, according to the normal, customary, and proper usage of **words** and language.
- B. Wrong methods of interpretation:
  1. The allegorical method – words have **hidden** spiritual meaning.
  2. The figurative method – words are used in a **different** sense from that in which they are ordinarily used.
  3. The problem with these approaches? The Bible could be made to say one thing to one person and something else to another. This takes away the **objective** approach to the interpretation of Scripture.
- C. When we do not allow the words of the Bible to speak for themselves in a literal sense:
  1. We end up with a person’s **private** interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20
  2. We end up adding to or taking **away** from Scripture. Proverbs 30:5-6, Revelation 22:18-19
  3. People’s **faith** in God’s Word is undermined. 2 Timothy 2:17-18

- D. Are any Scriptures symbolic in their meaning? The answer is yes, but here are some rules to guide you in your study:
1. When a Scripture is symbolic, the meaning will be very clear from the **context**. Example: Matthew 13:15
  2. When a Scripture is symbolic, God will give the **clear** interpretation in His Word. Example: Revelation 1:12-16, cf. Revelation 1:20
  3. Remember, there is no better interpreter of the Bible than the **Bible** itself.  
1 Corinthians 2:13
- E. When you take the Bible literally, you only allow **one** interpretation per passage.
1. Ask yourself, "What was truly intended to be taught in this text of Scripture?"
  2. After the proper interpretation is made, there can be several **applications**.

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “Rightly Dividing God’s Word”- Part 3

### Introduction:

1. Here in 2 Timothy 2:14-18, we see that a failure to rightly divide results in:
  - Unprofitable **bickering** - vs. 14, 16a
  - The destruction of **people** - vs. 14, 17a
  - False **teachers** - vs. 17
  - False **doctrine** - vs. 18
2. In this lesson, we will share four guiding principles that will enable the Christian to rightly divide God’s Word.

I. You must carefully examine *who* God is addressing.

II. You must always place Scripture in its proper *context*.

III. You must hold to a *literal* interpretation of God’s Word.

IV. You must understand the division between *prophecy* and the *mystery*.

A. The first hint to the most crucial division in the Bible is found in Genesis 1:1.

- God would have two very distinct programs and purposes for both the heaven and the earth.

B. What are these two distinct purposes?

1. The earth would involve the subject of **prophecy**, that is, Christ one day ruling and reigning over a visible kingdom on the literal earth in Jerusalem.  
2 Peter 1:16-19

2. The heaven would involve the subject of the **mystery**, that is, a people whose citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), raised with Christ and seated in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6), and blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3).

C. The Bible is basically divided into these two great subjects.

D. Although prophecy is extremely interesting to study and can be of much value, one must keep in mind that prophecy deals directly with **Israel** and the nations and has nothing to do with the body of Christ.

1. Prophecy deals with God's promises of an **earthly** kingdom to the nation of Israel.
2. The mystery deals with God's promises of **heavenly** blessings to the body of Christ, the church.

E. Here is a chart that will help you understand the important division between prophecy and the mystery age we live in today.

<u><b>Prophecy</b></u>	<u><b>Mystery</b></u>
1. Concerned with an earthly kingdom, a political organization. Daniel 2:44, Matthew 6:10	1. Concerned with a heavenly body, a living organism. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27, Ephesians 4:12-16
2. Reaches its culmination on <b>earth</b> . Jeremiah 23:5, Matthew 6:10	2. Reaches its culmination in <b>heaven</b> . Ephesians 1:3, 2:5-6, Philippians 3:20-21
3. Christ is <b>king</b> over an earthly kingdom. Jeremiah 23:5, Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 14:9, Revelation 20:4-6	3. Christ is <b>head</b> over a heavenly body. Ephesians 1:19-23, Colossians 1:18
4. Prophesied since the world began. Luke 1:68-70, Acts 3:21, 2 Peter 1:20-21	4. Kept <b>secret</b> since the world began. Romans 16:25, Ephesians 3:3-6
5. Israel enjoys supremacy over Gentile nations. Isaiah 60:10-12, 4:2-3, 11:12	5. No <b>difference</b> between Jew or Gentile. Romans 10:12, 11:32, Ephesians 2:16-17, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:28
6. Gentile nations are blessed through Israel's <b>rise</b> . Psalm 72:17, Isaiah 2:2-3, 60:1-3, Zechariah 8:22-23	6. Gentile nations are blessed through Israel's <b>fall</b> . Acts 28:27-28, Romans 11:11, 12, 15
7. Concerned with Christ's rule on <b>Earth</b> . Isaiah 59:20, Zechariah 14:4	7. Concerned with Christ's position in <b>heaven</b> . Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20-23, Colossians 3:1-3
8. The gospel of the kingdom committed to the <b>twelve</b> apostles. Matthew 10:5-7, Acts 1:6-8, 3:19-26	8. The gospel of the grace of God committed to primarily one man, <b>Paul</b> . Ephesians 3:1-3, 8-9, Colossians 1:24-27

# 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**.

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 2

### 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**

- A. The Bible is God's final and complete Word of **truth**. John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 4:2,4, Titus 1:9,14
  - False teachers do not completely **deny** God's Word, but they add to it or take away from it.
- B. God is not dispensing any new revelation. God's Word is complete and final and is found in the Bible.
  1. We cannot add to God's **law**. Deuteronomy 4:2
  2. We cannot add to **prophecy**. Revelation 22:18-19
  3. We cannot add to **church**-age doctrine. Colossians 1:25
- C. How did Satan deceive Eve?
  1. He **questioned** God's Word. Genesis 3:1
  2. He **denied** God's Word. Genesis 3:4
  3. He **substituted** his own lie. Genesis 3:5

# 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 *crowds* and have many followers. vs. 2**

A. **Paul** warned of this. Acts 20:30

B. **Jesus** warned of this. Matthew 24:24

C. Crowds, finances, and buildings do not determine whether someone is right or wrong – the **Word of God** is the determiner.

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

- *“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 **crowd**’ 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**

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 4

### 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**

A. Jesus and His apostles were not affluent and wealthy men. God met their **needs** 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 **know** their Bible.
2. This is why it is crucial that believers get **rooted** and grounded in the truth of God's Word. Ephesians 4:14

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 5

### 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**

A. Peter uses three examples of God's judgment.

1. The fallen **angels**. vs. 4
2. The old **world**. vs. 5
3. Sodom and Gomorrah. vs. 6

B. There are over **162** references to hell in the New Testament, with over **70** spoken by Jesus.

C. There are many things we learn about hell in Revelation 14:9-11.

1. Hell is a place of God's **wrath**. vs. 10a
2. Hell is a place of torment and **fire**. vs. 10b
3. Hell is a place of **rebellion**. vs. 10c
4. Hell is a place that's **eternal**. vs. 11a
5. Hell is a place of **weariness**. vs. 11b

D. Why was hell created?

- *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

**Matthew 25:41**

- God doesn't want **anyone** to go to hell.

E. God, in His love, sent Jesus as our substitute to pay sin's price for us so we could escape God's **wrath**, but if man rejects God's love he is **choosing** to incur God's judgment.

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 6

### 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**

A. A false teacher will not understand or live by God's principle of authority.

1. The authority of **Jesus Christ** Colossians 1:16-19, Ephesians 1:20-23
2. The authority of **God's Word** 1 Thessalonians 2:13
3. The authority of the local **church** Acts 14:23, 20:17-31, 1 Corinthians 6:4

- *“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”*

**1 Peter 5:2**

- Each local church should have its own **leadership** which takes the oversight and responsibility of feeding the flock and ruling over the affairs of the church.

4. The authority of human **government** Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, 1 Peter 2:13-14

B. When we violate authority, we are operating under the principle of **Satan**.

- *“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”* **1 Samuel 15:23**

C. Satan doesn't even care if we **do right** as long as we operate under Satan's principle of rebellion.

D. Lawlessness and rebellion are an attitude of the **heart**.

# 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

# **Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers**

## **“The Marks of False Teachers”- Part 8**

### **2 Peter 2**

#### **Introduction:**

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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.

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “Overcoming False Teachers” Parts 1 and 2

### 1 John 4:1-6

In our text, we see four key principles in overcoming false teachers.

#### I. First, believe not every *spirit*. vs. 1

A. It's very evident from verse 1 that there are **lying** spirits in the world.

- *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”*

##### 1 Timothy 4:1

- Another term we would use for those lying spirits would be **demons**.
- This is who we are battling against.
- *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12*

B. Just as we are ambassadors for Christ, Satan and his demons have their ambassadors called false **prophets**.

- *“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*

#### II. Second, test every spirit by the indwelling Holy Spirit. vs. 1, 4

A. *“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.” Philippians 1:9*

- This word “**judgment**” means perception, discernment.

B. *“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”*

##### 1 Corinthians 2:15

- The Holy Spirit is your **teacher**. John 14:26, 16:13

### III. Third, examine their *beliefs* concerning Jesus Christ. vs. 2-3

A. Here in our text, John gives us three good questions to ask when wondering if someone is a true or false teacher.

B. Question #1 – Is he ***talking*** about Jesus Christ?

- Does Jesus Christ saturate his preaching and teaching? Is his main business proclaiming Him and His work? Is he magnifying and exalting Christ?
- If he is not doing this, then he is not of **God**.
- *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” John 16:13-14*

C. Question #2 – What is he ***teaching*** about Jesus Christ?

- John says if someone does not teach that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, then he is not of God. John is referring to the fact that Jesus Christ was **God** manifested in a body of flesh.
- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.**” John 1:1*
- *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*
- *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*  
**1 Timothy 3:16**

D. Question #3 – Is he substituting other things in ***place*** of Christ?

### IV. Fourth, feed yourself on the *truth* of God’s Word. vs. 5-6

- If you feed yourself on the truth, then you will be able to discern **error**.

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