

Look Out for False ...

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Paul's warnings to Titus can help us identify some of the false preaching and teaching that goes on in pulpits today. Some of the telltale signs of "false preachers" include:

✿ They are preaching things that should not be preached or taught. Perhaps some of what came from the pulpit was not even biblical, as happens too often in many pulpits today. Somehow what was said was often motivated by the preacher's desire just to make more money for himself (Titus 1:11)

✿ Much of what was said ruined families. Perhaps unwise preaching brought division, rather than unity in families and caused problems (Titus 1:11). It may also have been doctrines that encouraged families to leave their church, and the result was that they stopped attending church all together.

✿ Their having their own prophets (Titus 1:12) that supposedly got a "new message from God" and added their own thoughts and philosophies. We see this today with Muslims following the teaching of their prophet, Mohammed, and the Mormon's following their "prophet," Joseph Smith. It also is seen in other religions and denominations across the world.

✿ Their teaching of "fables, and commandments of men" (Titus 1:14). Instead of "thus saith the

Lord," it was "thus saith the preacher" or "thus saith our religion." We see this today with many false religions having their own religious books and teachings that get more credence than the Word of God.

✿ Their works proved they were not from God (Titus 1:16). With their mouth, they claimed they were from God, but their involvement in sin and ungodly actions were contrary to their profession.

Many claim that they will not "judge" others, and we should not. However, we are to discern right from wrong, and keep far away from what God does not approve of. False religion is one danger we need to recognize as not being of God, and avoid it before damage is done to our thinking, testimony, and our Christian walk.

Satan's Successful Tactic

J. Vernon McGee

When the Devil saw that persecution would not stop the church, he changed to a different tactic. He joined the church. He began to hurt the church from the inside.

He still does that today. He attacks the validity of the Word of God, and he tries to discredit the gospel. If that does not work, he tries to discredit the man who preaches the gospel.



Another Jesus, Spirit, and Gospel

Bill Brinkworth

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." II Cor. 11:3-4

The Apostle Paul was concerned about the early church in Corinth. He knew the devil would attempt to attack, weaken, and destroy the ministry there as he has done even to the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden. Paul knew that the subtle enemy of God would attempt to get the fledgling church to disobey and question God just as he did to Adam and Eve in the garden. The evangelist knew Satan's tactics and how he often attacked and weakened God's people.

Satan's attack on God's people today is not much different from the one on the early church. One of his tactics is not to totally halt talk about the things of God, but to confuse people into believing different things about what is spoken about in the Bible. The enemy of God is the originator of religiously correct confusion, which is similar to the secular politically correct confusion, which is being forced on many today.

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Look Out for False Religion

Bill Brinkworth



In giving pastoral advice to another preacher, Titus, Paul shows us that today we often face what the early church had to be careful of. Early churches had to be careful of false teachers undermining the real

work of God.

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Another Jesus, Spirit, and Gospel

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One of the enemy's techniques of confusion is the "religious" acceptance of another Jesus. This Jesus is spoken of much in modern churches. He was born in a manger. He died on the cross, but close examination of their religious teachings show that He is not same as spoken of in the Word of God.

Although they may claim that Jesus is the only "begotten son" of God, they also teach that Satan is Jesus' brother, which is not scriptural. Some flatly deny, although they say Jesus was a good man, that he was God's son (which false teaching is prevalent in the modern "bibles"), or He was just a prophet or "God's messenger." Others deny his virgin birth, which is the way He was born sinless in the body of a man, and this unvirgin birth would make him a sinner.

Many believe another Jesus, and not the one that came to this earth to save people from the wages of their sin. Many know of a "Jesus," but it is not the Holy Son of God spoken of in God's Word.

Another confusing ploy of the enemy is to make men believe and follow another spirit, rather than the Holy Spirit. This false

spirit is alive and being followed today when people decide to do what they think is right and good. Rather than obey the Holy Spirit's leading which is always in accordance with the Word of God, they follow the false, often unholy spirit of man. Some of these unholy spirits lead people and do not convict them of their dishonesty, drunkenness, deceitfulness, immodesty, lewdness, unholy lifestyle, or other sins. Their religion and philosophies justify the sin they are committing. It is another spirit they are following, as the Spirit of God would not permit any iniquity.

Another gospel is also believed and obeyed (Gal. 1:7-8). It is not the good news that Jesus died on the cross for sinners, and that His death is the only payment God will accept for any person's sin. Today many teach obeying church rules, and doctrines will get one to heaven. It is also preached from some pulpits that good works, religious rites, or deeds will get one to heaven, even though the Bible clearly teaches otherwise. Often a religion's man-made religious writings have higher importance than the preserved Word of God.

Some even teach the false gospel that there are many different ways to heaven, while the true Gospel says there is only

one way to Heaven and that is through Jesus (John 14:6). Others unbiblically teach that praying to dead Christians of the past can get prayers answered and sins forgiven. Man-made religion has added to or removed from the real Gospel that Jesus brought to mankind.

The true Gospel is the one that God has made sure we would have after all these years. The pure Word of God has been kept for us within the pages of the King James Bible. That Bible should be the only source of knowing the will and way of God.

There is a real, unseen spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12) occurring everywhere. The enemy's goal is to send as many souls as possible to Hell or to weaken believers beyond usefulness to the cause of Christ. The battle can be lost by any that believe and follow the wrong Jesus, the wrong spirit, or the wrong Gospel. Be wary! Read your Bible for yourselves. Learn, obey, and follow only the genuine.

Christ, the Root

C. H. Spurgeon

The Sandwich Islanders had been converted by our missionaries, and the Gospel had been preached to them for years. One day, two or three gentlemen in long black gowns landed there, and the people asked why they had come. They said they had come to instruct them in the true faith, and to teach them.

The islanders said they should be glad to hear it, if their teaching was true and scriptural. By and by, a little diagram was exhibited to the natives after the similitude of a tree. This tree had many branches. The twigs, which were farthest off from the trunk, were the different saints, the believers; those who do good works. The limbs, which were a little larger, were the priests; the bigger boughs were bishops; the biggest boughs were the cardinals; and, at last, these all joined on to the trunk, which was the Pope, and that went all the way down to the bottom, until it came to Peter, who was the root, deriving his authority immediately from Christ.

The natives asked about all these twigs, and branches, and especially about certain rotten branches that were tumbling off into a fire. What were they? They were Luther, and Calvin, and other heretics who had been cut off from the true tree of the church, the men in black robes claimed.

One of the islanders asked, "What is the root of the tree?"

That was allowed to be Jesus Christ. They clapped their hands at once for joy, and said, "Never mind about the branches, and stems, and twigs. We have never heard of them, but we have got the root, and that will do to grow on."

In like manner, brethren, we can still say, if we have Christ, we have "the root out of the dry ground (Isa. 53:2)." We have the root of salvation.

"There are only two types of religions: "do" or "done. It's either doing something to earn salvation to get God's approval, or it was all done already on the cross by Jesus."