

ARE THERE FALSE TEACHERS TODAY?

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Recent article in brotherhood paper:
1. "I am concerned with the judgment some use against others"
 - a. Does this mean that it is his judgment that it is a problem or wrong for brethren to judge certain matters. If so which matters can be judged?
 - b. How does one judge that it is wrong to judge?
 2. Again: "Certainly, we are not to be divisive...."
 - a. Have you noticed that one who introduces a new, strange or wrong practice, doctrine, is not divisive.
 - b. But if one objects to it...He is divisive.
- B. HIS STATEMENT: "However the only New Testament examples I can find of a 'false teacher' is one who teaches 'falsely' about Jesus, including that (1)Jesus was not who he said he was,(2) that he was not resurrected,(3) that he would not come again."
- C. I do not question that the above mentioned doctrines, or teachings are false. I do question and deny that they are the only false teachings or teachers mentioned in the New Testament.
- D. If we can find any teaching, or teacher in the New Testament who are described as be "false teachers" because they presented something other than that which he gave, then his conclusion is wrong. Let us turn to the New Testament and see what it says about false teachers.
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What This Teaching Implies

- A. That one can teach a false doctrine, yet not be a false teacher...**OR**
1. There is no other false doctrine (other than the three mentioned).
 2. That the only false doctrine is to deny Jesus, His resurrection and return.
- B. Second in implies that there are Important teaching and Unimportant.
1. There are teachings we must respect and obey (his list of 3)
 2. The other teachings are incidental...does not matter whether we obey or disobey. Teach or not teach. (How to become a Christian; Worship; Live; Morals, etc.)
 3. We can choose to reject any or all other teachings of the N.T. (Except those which he gave).
- C. This teaching implies that whatever one teaches that is contrary to the New Testament (other than these three) are not really false...**OR** Being False Does Not Matter!
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Terms For New Testament Message

- A. Biblical Terms For The Message Of The New Testament.
1. Word of God (I Thess. 2:13)
 2. Doctrine (II Tim. 4:1)
 3. Teachings (repeatedly)
 4. Gospel (Gal. 1; Rom. 1:16; etc)
 5. Traditions (II Thess. 2:14)
 6. Truth (John 17:17)
- B. On the negative side they are referred to as:
1. Unsound (II Tim. 4:1)
 2. Different Doctrine (I Tim. 6:3)
 3. Perverted Gospel (Gal. 1)
 4. The commandments of men (Titus 1:9-16).
 5. Perverse things (Acts 20:29)
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Terms Used Interchangeably

- A. Notice the terms in I and II Thessalonians that refer to the message of God.
- A. "And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God" (I Thess. 2:13). (John 17:17).
 - B. "whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 2:14).
 - C. "So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye were taught, whether by word, or by epistle of ours" (II Thess. 2:15).
 - D. "And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command." (II Thess. 3:4)
 - E. "Now we command you, brethren in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the traditions which they received of us." (II Thess. 3:6)
 - F. "and if any man obeyeth not our word by this epistle note that man that ye have no company with him.." (II Thess. 3:14).
- B. Word of God....Gospel Tradition....Epistles....Apostolic Command
.....Tradition....word....Epistle.
- C. If God's Word is truth (John 17:17) What does this make of the teaching that is contrary—Or the teacher of that which is contrary to God's Word?
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Scriptures To Consider

A. To Timothy:

1. "As I exhorted thee to tarry at Ephesus, when I was going into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine, neither to give heed to fables and endless genealogies, (I, 1:3).
2. "But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth." (I, 4:1-3).
3. "If any man teacheth a different doctrine, and consenteth not to sound words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is puffed up, knowing nothing, but doting about questionings and disputes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings...." (I, 6:3-4).
4. "I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word: be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables." (II, 4:1-4).

B. To Titus:

1. "holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers. For there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped; men who overthrow whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, idle gluttons. This testimony is true. For which cause reprove them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men who turn away from the truth." (1:9-14).
 2. What should we do?
 3. Exhort in the sound doctrine,
 4. Reprove them sharply
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- D. "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works." (II John 9-11).
- E. To The Galatians:
1. "I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another gospel only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we have said before, so say I now again, *if any man preach unto you any gospel other than that which ye received*, let him be anathema." (1:6-9)
 2. "But not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: and that because of the false brethren privily brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: to whom we gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." (2:3=5).
 3. "Ye were running well; who hindered you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion came not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (5:7-9).
- F. All of II Peter 2.

CONCLUSION

- A. THE BIBLE TEACHES:
1. That there are many false teachers (I John 4:1; II Peter 2:1ff).
 2. If there are false teachers there must of necessity be false teachings, doctrines, perverted gospels.
 3. There is 'sound doctrine' I Timothy; Then there is 'unsound'.
- B. Doctrine, Teaching, Tradition, Gospel, Commandments that are different, contrary to the New Testament, the Word of God is **false doctrine...those who teach it are false teachers!**
- C. Revelations 20:10.
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