



#36

Theme: “False Prophets - False Teachers!”

Scripture: (2 Peter 2:1-3 NIV) *“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping”.*

A Thought: It’s been an interesting week! One day I am reading about a group of Christians responding to the question “What is a an Evangelical?” The following day I’m reviewing information for a project and during the research I came across an article of a very popular and in-vogue (New Thought) church located in the Los Angeles area. First, let’s start with the Evangelical question...some folks in and out of the church have maligned and have misrepresented the movement. Especially print and broadcasting news outlets. The Fourth Estate has characterized the religious movement as one bunch of crazies and political right-ringers. So what? Some are... most are not! What upsets me is the fact that a group of Evangelicals are buying into the media’s version of who we are. It does not help when one respondent was told (by fellow believers) that she should stop reading the Old Testament, Paul, Epistles - and just read Jesus verses. Huh? Let’s go on to the fashionable “new thought” church. It teaches “that Jesus was not the great exception, but rather the great example.” Christians are welcomed to this church and many, many do attend. Ergo...some folks are at peace with a trendy “koochie koo” spiritual vehicles. Time out! Note Saint Peter’s admonition! *“Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.”* (2 Peter 2:2 NIV)

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- What steps do you have to take to ensure you are not taken in by false teaching? Have you started?
- Are you concerned about false teachers from the outside or from within the church? How do you distinguish the difference?
- Beware of family members enticing you to follow false teaching and or introducing you to false teachers?
- Remember the mother of all wayward pulpits....social media and television.

Scriptures to read: Verses on false prophets and false teachers: Old Testament, 1 King 22:1-12; Isaiah 9:15, 28:7; Jeremiah 5:31, 6:13, 23:1-30; Ezekiel 13:3-4; Jesus and Apostles' warnings: Matthew 7:15-23, 24:11-28; Acts 20:28-35; 2 Cor. 11:3-12;13; Galatians 1:6-9; Philippians 3:1-2; 1Timothy 1:3-7;6:3-5; 2Timothy 2:14-26; Titus 1:10-16; 1 John 2:18-29; 2 John 7:11; 3 John 9-10

Quote: C.S. Lewis, Christian Writer

“Christianity, if false, is of not importance, and if true of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

Bottom Line: Look. We live in a wonderful country. It is also a pluralistic society, and that's good. As a consequence we have the luxury to attend any church on any given day. Though as Christians we should be mindful of religious and or spiritual fads and heed to the warnings of our Christian forefathers. *“Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them - so be on guard”* (Acts 20:30-31a NIV). Hebrew prophet and lawgiver Moses tells us very succinctly in (Deuteronomy 13:4 NKJ) *“You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments.”* Listen to His voice, serve him, and cling to Him. Gents, now that's good advice!

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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