

# **“RECOGNIZING FALSE PROPHETS”**

**(2Corinthians 11:1-15)**

*July 30, 2017*

**The prophet had to be tested and speaking falsehood brought a HARSH penalty:**  
*But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.*

*Deuteronomy 18:20*

## **How were the people to KNOW?**

*You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?” If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.*

*Deuteronomy 18:21–22*

**As long as SATAN is alive and has influence on this Earth, there will be false teachers.**

## **7 MARKS OF A FALSE TEACHER**

### **I. False teachers are MAN pleasers**

**False teaching is meant to please the ear more than profit the heart.**

*On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.*

***We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.*** *1Thessalonians 2:4*

### **II. False teachers teach their OWN wisdom and vision**

**Unfortunately, there are ALWAYS people willing to listen:**

*For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to **say what their itching ears want to hear.***

*2 Timothy 4:3*

**Be careful about seeking exciting or thrilling teaching that is not SCRIPTURAL.**

**“Don't interpret God's Word through the lens of your experience. Interpret your experience through the lens of God's Word.”**

**-John Van Dinther, New Life Churches, Stockholm**

### **III. False teachers hide their false doctrine behind ELOQUENT speech and impressive, but FALSE logic**

**It may appear beautiful and valuable, but it is still DEADLY.**

**Would we rather receive TRUTH, spoken in simple language, or falsehoods, spoken eloquently?**

#### **IV. False teachers EXPLOIT their followers**

Paul received support from the existing churches in order to carry the gospel forward. Peter warned:

*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 shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. **In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.*** 2Peter 2: 1-3

False teachers are concerned with your goods, not your GOOD: they want to serve themselves more than save the LOST; they are content for Satan to have your soul as long as they can have your STUFF.

**V. False teachers use their harshest criticism for God's FAITHFUL servants Why? Satan hates it! And he hates those GODLY teachers.**

**VI. False teachers are more concerned with winning others to their IOUBUIBS than in helping and bettering them**

**They don't want you to read the Bible for yourself or pray for God's will to be done. They want you to serve THEIR agenda and THEIR bank accounts. Jesus:**

*Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.* Matthew 23:15

**VII. False teachers miss what is of CENTRAL importance and focus instead on the SMALL details. Jesus said:**

*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! **You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.*** Matthew 23:23-24

**God is a God of justice, mercy and faithfulness and he wants followers and teachers who are the SAME.**

Some believers and some teachers spend incredible energy and time arguing over minute details, especially ones with no clear answer, yet they are convinced **THEY** know it all. Paul warned: *He has an **unhealthy interest** in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.* 1Timothy 6:4-5

**Sadly, we have many such teachers in the world today. But, we ALSO have many faithful teachers, who strive to teach the word of God clearly and truthfully, with a HUMBLE approach that we all see through a glass darkly.**