

WHO IS YOUR TEACHER?

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. ²Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. ³In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed. (2 Peter 2:1-3 NLT)

1. **BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS**

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. (2 Peter 2:1a)

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says to his people: "Do not listen to these prophets when they prophesy to you, filling you with futile hopes. They are making up everything they say. They do not speak for the LORD!" (Jeremiah 23:16)

They tell the seers, "Stop seeing visions!" They tell the prophets, "Don't tell us what is right. Tell us nice things. Tell us lies." (Isaiah 30:10)

I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. ³⁰Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. (Acts 20:29-30)

2. **BEWARE OF FAULTY BEHAVIOR**

Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. (2 Peter 2:2)

And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. ¹²Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. (Matthew 24:11-12)

3. **BEWARE OF FAKE BENEFITS**

In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. (2 Peter 2:3)

4. **GOD KNOWS HOW TO RESPOND**

For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. ⁵And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. ⁶Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. ⁷But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. ⁸Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. ⁹So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. (2 Peter 2:4b-9)

a. **DESTROY THE FALSE PROPHETS**

b. **RESCUE THE BELIEVERS**

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

ACTION STEPS

1. **BE CAREFUL AND CAUTIOUS WHAT YOU LET INFLUENCE YOU**

MEMORY VERSE

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. (1 John 4:1)

Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps. (Proverbs 14:15)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

2. **COMPARE EVERYTHING TO SCRIPTURE**

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. (Acts 17:11)

3. **DON'T BE SPIRITUALLY SLEEPY**

This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. (Romans 13:11-12)

GOING DEEPER

1. Have you ever fallen for a sales pitch and regretted it later?
2. Why are we so easily convinced by falsehoods?
3. What is most helpful for you to discern truth?
4. Who is your teacher?

