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 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 any ministry.
- 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 teachings of their prophet, Mohammed, and the Mormons following their "prophet," Joseph Smith. It is also seen in other religions and denominations worldwide.
- 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 they will not "judge" others, and we should not either. 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 tactics. 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 seeks to discredit the Gospel. If that does not work, he tries to invalidate the man who preaches the Gospel.

"You will NEVER be able to discern false religion, unless you know the truth from God's Word!"

The Bible View

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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 Corinthians 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 had done even to the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden.

Paul knew that the enemy of God would attempt to get the fledgling church to disobey and question God, just as he had done to many times previously. 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 completely halt discussion of the things of God, but to confuse people into believing different things about what is said in the Bible. The enemy of God is the originator of religiously correct confusion, which is similar to the secular politically correct confusion that 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 shows that He is not the same as described in the Word of God.

Although they may claim that Jesus is the only "begotten Son" of God, some also teach that Satan is Jesus' brother, which is not scriptural. Some flatly deny, although they claim Jesus was a good man, that he was God's son (which false teaching is prevalent in many modern "bibles"), or that 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 who came to Earth to save people from the wages of their sin. Many know of a "Jesus," but it is not the Holy Son of God taught 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 at work today, as 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, spirits of man. Some of those 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 (Galatians 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 that 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 writings are given greater 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 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 God has ensured we have after all these years. The pure Word of God has been kept for us within the pages of the King James Bible for English-speaking people (Other major languages have a copy in their language that comes from the same roots the KJV comes from.). 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 who believes and follows the wrong Jesus, wrong spirit, or wrong Gospel. Be wary! Read your Bible for yourselves. Learn, obey, and follow 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, some gentlemen in black gowns landed there, and the people asked why they had come. They said they had come to instruct them in the true faith.

The islanders said they should be glad to hear it, if their teaching was true and scriptural. A little diagram was exhibited to the natives after the similitude of a tree. That tree had many branches.

The twigs, which were farthest off from the trunk, were the different saints, the believers who do good works. The limbs, which were 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 from Christ.

The natives asked about all those 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 the root, and that will do to grow on." Soon. they ignored what those men tried to teach them that were contrary to the Bible. They had the Truth!

We can also 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 two types of religions: "do" or "done. It's either doing something to earn salvation, or it was all done already on the cross by Jesus."