

A “True or False” Test for Teachers

2 Peter 2

November 01, 2020

False prophets and false teachers distort God’s Word and destroy lives. They’ve been around a long time (Deut. 13:1-5). Peter tells us that false teachers are doomed but the righteous will be saved.

To recognize and avoid them, look for someone who is . . .

1. Bearing bad **fruit** by their lives (Matt. 7:15-20)
2. **Distorting** the truth to gain followers (Acts 20:29-30)
3. Teaching the gospel + **legalism** (Gal. 1:6-9; 2:16)
4. Teaching the gospel - **personal holiness** (1 Pet. 1:13-16)
5. Promoting controversy (1 Tim. 6:3-5)
6. Being **greedy** for financial gain (2 Pet. 2:3; 14-15)
7. Despising **authority** (2 Pet. 2:10-11)
8. Unthinking, dominated by **desire** (2 Pet. 2:2; 12-14a)
9. Promising freedom, but enslaved to corruption (2 Pet. 2:18-19)

On Your Own (better with others)

- 1) READ 2 Peter chapter 2. Write below a headline or a title for this chapter of the Bible.
-

- 2) What is the connection between true OR false teaching and right OR wrong behavior. Does one lead to the other?

- 3) READ Luke 12:15 and 2 Cor. 2:17 and 1 Thes. 2:5. Both Jesus and Paul were careful to not confuse the gospel by amassing personal wealth. Not so some preachers today!

What does this tell you about his character? His teaching?

Because of the success of his book sales, in 2005 Pastor Rick Warren returned his 25 years of salary to the church and discontinued taking a salary. He says he and his wife became "reverse tithers", giving away 90% of their income and living off 10%. In an interview from 2013, Warren said that he’s lived in the same house for 22 years, drives a 12 year old car, bought his watch at Walmart and doesn’t own a boat or a private jet.

- 4) Legalism is the gospel plus manmade rules and licentiousness is the gospel without personal holiness. Neither can prevent corruption of the soul. Who or what can keep you in Christ? (see 1 Thes. 5:23-24)

- 5) READ Genesis 19:14-16 and Titus 3:5. Peter calls Lot “a *righteous man*” (2 Peter 2:7-8). Was Lot eager to be saved? How did God save Lot? How did God save you?