

# FALSE PROPHETS, TEACHERS AND TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION

## Thoughts:

### 1. There **are** false prophets<sup>+</sup> (+ = False prophets, teachers, & teaching)

**Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **Acts 20:29 For I know this**, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Acts 20:30** Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. **Acts 20:31** Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. **2 Peter 2:2** And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. **2 Peter 2:3** And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

**1 John 4:1** Beloved, believe **not** every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

### 2. There are **always** false prophets<sup>+</sup>

Truth → error

True → false

Good → evil

Health → disease

Gospel → false gospel

Truths → lies

What do we find?

### 3. False prophets<sup>+</sup> are especially common today!

**2 Timothy 3:13** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

**From the early church era:**

- **False... everything**
- **Especially, gospels, christs, & “scripture”**
- **Then gradually a corrupt, dominant “church”**

Traditions obscured the gospel and truth of Christianity.

- **Opposition from without/unsaved people**
- **Reformation left us with 3 broad wings of “Christianity” in the west:**

RC – Formal, liturgical, and usually state churches – Evangelical churches

- **Enlightenment started with ideals**
- **1870s → 1930s Fundamentalists vs Liberals / Modernists controversy**

**Rooted in rejection of the truth (What FS called true truth)**

**2 Timothy 3:7** Ever learning, **and never** able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**Rooted in a rejection of authority**

Premodern man: God

Modern man: reason (1789 – 1989)

Postmodern man: experience / self

