

Enemy or Soldier of the Cross?

Philippians 3:19

2 Corinthians 2:11: “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs (devices).”

Philippians 3:19: You recognize them by what they teach (war strategy).

What do false teachers teach?

1. “god” is your belly-Appetite

Romans 1:18-32: Change the truth of God for a lie

2 Timothy 3:1: “But understand that in the last days, there come times of difficulty (perilous, fierce times). For people will be lovers of self.

Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (v.4)

Paul uses the word “Belly”: The inner self, heart. The root desire, appetite! What you want, desire and pursue in the mind!

2 Peter 2:1-3

Peter clearly identifies false teachers: Enemies of the Cross

- Secretly bring in destructive heresies (v.1) (wolves in sheep clothing)
- Many will follow sensuality- (v.2) (fleshly lusts-Money, immorality, un-restrained living)
- Way of truth (God’s Word) will be blasphemed (v.2)
 - The text is not honored because man’s philosophy has been added.
 - Eisegesis (reading into the text what I want it to say) becomes primary
 - Preaching becomes topical discussions or inspirational talks vs accurate exposition of scripture within the text.

Peter then goes on to say:

- Motivated by greed, they will exploit you with lies (v.3)
- They are not asleep in their destruction (fully aware of what they are doing) (v.3)

2 Peter 2:9-22: What they do:

- Indulge in defiling passions (v.10)
- Despise authority (Authority of Lord Jesus, God’s Word, the church, Pastor)
- Irrational animals who blaspheme against things they do not understand (v.12)
- Count it a pleasure to do their sin in the daytime for all to see (v.13)
- Full of adultery (false teachers live in sexual immorality and entice others to follow)

Jesus told those who came to be saved, “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11)

John 5:14 “Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”

Proverbs 28:13: “He who covers his sins will not prosper but whoever confesses and **forsakes** them shall have mercy.”

God **always** call people out of darkness into light! Out of sin and into obedience. They must die to sin.

Peter says the false teachers excuse, justify and even rejoice in sins of immorality.

Peter gives even more description of false teachers:

- Follow the way of Balaam (false prophet) **(v.15)**-love money & gain over obedience to God
- Waterless springs (Empty) **(v.17)**-**Words sound good but are worthless**
- Promise freedom but they enslave others because they are slaves themselves **(v.19)**-**Control them emotionally**
- Profess to be Christian but live contrary to scripture **(v.21)**
- Dog returns to vomit and pig to the slop **(v.22)**

John 14:17: “even the Spirit of truth, whom **the world cannot receive**, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

“He will lead you into all truth.” **John 16:13**

Some good questions to ask?

- Are you more concerned about keeping your friends or following truth?
- Are you willing to follow truth regardless of what it cost you?

Important: False teachers always **lower** the holiness of God and **raise** their own righteousness.

2. **Glory in their shame: (Philippians 3:19):** celebrate and glorify sin

Romans 1:32 (READ) “not only do but give approval of those who practice them”.

God never gives approval to any sin and neither should we!

Romans 2:8: “He will render to each one according to his works”

- Those who seek well doing (living Biblically)-receive eternal life
- Those who are self-seeking and DO NOT OBEY TRUTH-receive WRATH and FURY!!

3. **Mind is set on **earthly** things (Philippians 3:19)**

The unsaved are self-seekers and live only for earthly things. They focus is on the now! Living in and for the moment.

Luke 12:16-21: Notice how many times he references him self (I, my, mine)

- False teachers focus on entertaining, controlling and convincing you to live for the now!
- True teachers focus on the Word which is eternal! Calling you to repent and be ready to meet God?

Ephesians 4:14-15: Not tossed around with false doctrine but grow up in Christ.