

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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The False Teacher

**A study of Peter's use of the word "False Teacher"
(2 Peter 2:1)**

The word "false Teacher" is found only one time in the Bible at 2 Peter 2:1. The apostle Peter wrote, "*But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers...*" Unsuspecting brethren are often amazed that the subject of false teachers is taught from the pulpit with regularity when it is only found this one time in the Bible. The objective of this article will be instructive regarding the actual frequency of this subject in both the Old and New Testament. The very words "false teacher" suggest a standard of teaching that is violated. Let us consider the identity, work, effects and the faithful Christian's responsibility toward false teachers. Preventative measures are ordained of God that we be not infected with their error (2 Timothy 2:17).

Identity of False Teachers

The Greek word representing "false teacher" is *pseudodidaskaloi* which is defined as "a false teacher, one who inculcates (to teach by frequent repetition; to instill...) false doctrines" (Moulton's Greek English Lexicon pp. 441). One who teaches or instills doctrines that oppose divine revelation is a false teacher. There are few books in our Bibles that do not deal with this subject in some form or fashion. To illustrate this point let us connect some associated words. Peter refers to false teachers as those who "*deny the master*" (2 Peter 1). The apostle John identifies those who deny the master as liars and antichrist who "*hath not God*" (2 John 2:22-23). Those who "*hath not God*" are those who teach doctrines that are opposed to divine revelation (2 John 9ff). Paul warned the Galatians (Galatians 1:6ff) and Timothy (1 Timothy 6:3ff) of those who would teach a different doctrine. Due to the frequent attacks against God's divine revelation Paul pleaded with

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Our **new directories** are now available. Be sure to pick one up on your way in or out today!

Robert Noris is still recovering from bronchitis.

Joe Smarr's brother Jason has recently broken his collar bone in a motorcycle accident. The Smarrs have been out of town with Joe's brother.

Erin Mixon continues on crutches due to a broken ankle.

Pat Robertson was taken to the hospital Wednesday evening with another bout of atrial fibrillation.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
(at home but request no calls at this time).

Timothy to guard the purity of truth (1 Timothy 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:12-13). These verses are all interconnected and reveal the actual frequency that the subject is dealt with in our Bibles.

Jesus warned against false prophets saying that you would know them by their fruit (Matthew 7:15). Paul said that they "*pervert the right ways of truth*" (Acts 13:6-10), "*beguile the hearts of the innocent*" (Romans 16:18), and teach fleshly wisdom as opposed to divine revelation (2 Corinthians 1:12-14). A clear identifying characteristic of the false teacher is that they "*despise dominion and rail at dignities*" (2 Peter 2:10). Those who do not honor people in positions of authority have the germ of a false teacher working within them. The word of God commands us to honor Jehovah (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15-16), our parents (Eph. 6:1ff), elders in the church (1 Timothy 5:17), our employers (1 Timothy 6:1), and government officials (Romans 13:7; 1 Peter 2:17).

During Bible days there were false teachers who had gained a religious following. Luke identifies the sect of the Pharisees that believed in Jesus yet taught the binding necessity of circumcision and Mosaic Law keeping (Acts 15:1ff). Paul spoke of the ascetics who bound "*the precepts and doctrines of men*" (Colossians 2:20ff). John exposed the Gnostics (those who supposed that they had special knowledge) (1 John 2:20-21, 27). The apostle John also exposed those who were obviously teaching a once saved always saved doctrine (1 John 1:8-10), that not all God's commands were binding (1 John 2:4), and the idea that man could sin and somehow remain in fellowship with God (1 John 1:5-7). The book of Revelation speaks of the erring "*teachings of Balaam*" (Revelation 2:14) and "*the Nicolaitans*" (Revelation 2:15).

Peter equates the false teachers to false prophets at 2 Peter 2:1. A study of false prophets in the Old Testament reveals people who taught religious doctrines that had not been revealed by the Holy Spirit (see Deuteronomy 13:1ff). Jeremiah warned against the false prophets of his day saying that such men have no shame about themselves as they mislead people with their erring doctrines (Jeremiah 6:13-15 etc.). Ezekiel said that the false prophets follow their own spirit when they teach things that God had not revealed (Ezekiel 13:1-7). Habakkuk said that the false prophets spoke lies (Habakkuk 2:18-20) and Zechariah said that they would be made to feel the sting of their shame when the gospel of the kingdom of God was revealed (Zechariah 13:4-6). - Continued next week.

John C. Robertson

The Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

Introduction:

No one can say that Jesus does not understand man's temptations and trials of life. The author of Hebrews writes, "*For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*" (Heb. 4:15). The one recorded time of Christ's temptation is found in all three of the synoptic gospels (see Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13). A study of this event will help us all in our hour of temptation.

I. Jesus said, "It is written" (Matt. 4:4ff):

A. Jesus replied to all of Satan's temptations with a "it is written."

B. With great discipline of mind the wise child of God may do the same in all areas of our temptation.

II. Satan test Jesus' state of being:

A. Satan ask the Lord to prove that he was the Son of God.

B. Jesus answered, "*Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God*" (Matt. 4:4).

III. Satan twist God's word to tempt Jesus (Matt. 4:5-6):

A. Satan challenges the word of God.

B. Jesus replied to Satan that it was not lawful to put God to the test.

IV. Satan tempts Jesus with Worldliness (Matt 4:8-9):

A. Satan tempts Jesus with the glory of this world and material greatness.

B. Jesus was not interested in the glory of men (see Jn. 12) and neither was he interested in gaining the whole world (see Matt. 16:26).

C. Jesus commanded that Satan "*Get thee hence... on with you... be gone*" (Matt. 10:10).

Conclusion:

Temptation can enter into our lives at moments we least expect. The elect of God must always be on their guard. When armed with the gospel of Jesus Christ we can surely succeed in the most intense times of trials. We must realize that all that is in the world will pass away and nothing but eternity awaits (see I John 2:15-17).