

Counterfeit – Week 1

Congregation Notes

Use these notes to follow along and write your own observations during the teaching.

- One of Satan's greatest weapons has never been an outright denial of God's truth - it has been imitation. He is a counterfeit. He doesn't create anything original, instead he imitates what God has already made.
- Satan's goal is to produce something that looks enough like the real thing to deceive those who aren't paying close attention.

Real vs Fake: Know the Difference

- But I will continue doing what I have always done. This will undercut those who are looking for an opportunity to boast that their work is just like ours. These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light...
- 2 Corinthians 11:12-15
- So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve."
- 2 Corinthians 11:12-15
- You don't recognize a counterfeit by studying the fake - you recognize it by knowing the real thing.

The closer the lie, the more dangerous it is.

- "The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied...
- Genesis 3:1-5
- "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."
- Genesis 3:1-5
- "But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed."
- 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

Don't just listen, examine.

- “And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.”

- Acts 17:11

- Listen with open heart

- Compare message with scripture

- Accept what agrees with God’s word

- Reject what contradicts his word

- “Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.”

- 1 John 4:1

- “Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people...

- Jude 1:3-4

- I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

- Jude 1:3-4

Become a Bible expert, not a fake detector.

- “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- The answer is not becoming an expert on every false doctrine. It’s becoming an expert on God’s word.

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”

- Psalms 119:105

- ““So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out!

- Acts 20:28-31

Spend more time reading God’s word than reading books about God’s word.

- Every counterfeit shifts the focus from Christ.

The true gospel always brings us back to Jesus and what he did on the cross of Calvary.