



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

A Series on False Teachers



Words of Jesus Matthew 7:15-16,20

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ...Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

Profile of false teachers

- False teachers will come – not a question of if but rather when.
- False teachers will appear like someone following Jesus but do not have a heart for Him.
- False teachers will show their real self in the way they live and by the fruit of their lives



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

Paul to Ephesian church leaders Acts 20:28-30

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Profile of false teachers

- “Fierce wolves” – attitude of ravenous; desiring followers for themselves
- “Not sparing the flock” – giving heavy burdens; freedom, peace and joy vs bondage, expectations and restrictions



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

Difference between fallen leaders and false leaders

- Due to character flaws true teachers of the gospel will fall into Satan's traps and disqualify themselves from ministry. That does not make them a false teacher.
- False teachers inherently do not accept Jesus as their Lord of their life and want their own followers rather than focus everyone's attention on Jesus.



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:3-6

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain..

Profile of false teachers

- Love to debate and quarrel over minor issues that become major issues.
- No desire for connection with God to be sufficient but need something more than God.



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Profile of false teachers

- Focus on issues that people feel are necessary but outside of the gospel.
- End result is being far from the gospel and the whole counsel of God and end up chasing lies.



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

Peter in his writings says in his second letter

2:1-3 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Profile of false teachers

- “Destructive heresies” – the gospel is not enough for them – you must do or be something more.
- Sensuality – emphasis on the human body that will make you believe you are in control.
- Exploitation – they will seek to benefit from you for their own purposes.



WHO IS THE REAL DEAL?

Jesus has the last word on false teachers...

“bringing upon themselves swift destruction”

“Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

Jesus has the last word on false teachers...

“bringing upon themselves swift destruction”

“Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

So, who has your ear?