



Are there deceivers in this world who try and make us believe in their faith, product, philosophies or worldly principles that contradicts God’s Word? Not only did Jesus warn us against them, but Paul also added: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Col 2:8)

Deceitfulness isn’t new as it always existed, its leader being Satan himself. Additionally, with today’s technologies, the speed at which information is spread out, we must always be on our guard against such false prophets. They come through religions, politics, education, and in whatever form they find to try to even deceive Christian believers.

That’s why Jesus said in Mat 24:24, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Paul, in Eph 5:6 added, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

We find warnings after warnings throughout the Word of God against the deceptions of the world. How do we recognize them and how can we avoid them?

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RECOGNIZING FALSE PROPHETS

2 John 7...

“For many deceivers
have gone out into the world
who do not confess Jesus Christ
as coming in the flesh.
This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”

(Message 2 of 4)

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Deceivers use religion, education, traditions or whatever else and have one thing in common; they deny Christ as God and man, and His sacrifice as the only way to God. That's why the apostle John said, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." (2 John 7)

Paul added this deception in 2Cor 11:13: "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." In essence, there are those who openly deny Christ as the only way to God, as well there are those who profess to believe in Christ as such, yet their hearts and actions are in complete opposition to the teachings of Christ. That's why Paul in Rom 16:18 said, "For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."

So, how do we recognize false prophets? The first test is obviously, do their teachings, ideologies, philosophies or even commandments line up with the Word of God? Then, as for those who do profess to believe in Christ, do their preaching and life cater to the flesh, material prosperity and pride of life?

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HOW TO AVOID FALSE PROPHETS

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” 1 Cor 15:33

(Message 3 of 4)

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How do we avoid false prophets trying to deceive and ensnare us into the lies of this world? The two featured scriptures give us simple answers that require dedication and determination to put our beliefs into action.

To be doers of the Word requires we know God’s Word, and therefore we must steadfastly study it. As well, avoiding the company of evil people or places of sin helps us to keep our hearts fixated on Christ. Peter adds: “Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:1-2)

Paul warned us this way: “But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the Word of God deceitfully.” (2Cor 4:2) In other words, let’s not be deceived nor deceive people by perverting the Word of God to make it say what it doesn’t, for profit or evil intent. He also said: “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2Tim 3:13)

Deceivers use religion, education, traditions and lies to try and pervert even the elect. Let’s be steadfast in our commitment to Christ and avoid them at all cost! Are we prepared and equipped?

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FALSE PROPHETS WARNINGS

“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.” Prov 12:22

(Message 4 of 4)

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Are there any warnings given for and about false teachers, prophets, deceivers? Rev 21:8 gives us a clear picture of what will happen to such liars and deceivers this way: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

This scripture leaves no doubt as to the seriousness we should give to both avail ourselves in the knowledge of God’s Word, and as importantly live as the Word of God teaches us. Can we be so fooled as to think that Christ died in vain? Can we be so deceived into thinking we can get away with sin, hypocrisy and immorality with God? Can we be so duped as to believe false prophets whose only desire is to profit to fulfill their sinful and immoral behaviors? Are we going to believe God, or will we be fooled by Satan’s messengers on this earth?

Prov 6:16 & 19 says: “These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him;” (19) “A false witness *who* speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.” Let’s heed God’s warnings about liars and deceivers and keep our ears tuned to God’s Word and will for our lives.

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