

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (The Way of the False Teacher)

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

“Impostors” are false teachers who pretend to represent God and His truth. They will grow increasingly worse and worse towards the end of the Church Age. We are THERE!

The Traits of the False Teacher

1. They are very deceptive. They “secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2 Pet. 2:1). They prey on the weak and vulnerable - “enticing unstable souls” (v. 14) and those who are just escaping from those who live in error (v. 18). The false teacher in 2 Peter 2 is a person who is very acquainted with orthodox Christianity. They have the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ (cf. 2:20-21). These people are in the “know” about the Lord and yet their lives and teaching are in complete contradiction to His Lordship. However, they subtly bring their destructive ways and teachings into the midst of God’s people. They are “slick”.

2. They are flesh-governed. Often this is in ways that relate to sexual immorality and moral perversion. They are “those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness” (2 Pet. 2:10). They “count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime” (v. 13). They have “eyes full of adultery” (v. 14) and “allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness” (v. 18). The false teacher and immorality consistently go together. It is amazing how people can claim to be “Christian” and embrace homosexuality or overlook fornication and adultery. Today many liberal false teachers are very accepting of open immorality – even advocating the ordaining of homosexuals, etc.

3. They are full of arrogance and daring pride. They “despise authority” and are “presumptuous” and “self-willed” (2 Pet. 2:10). “They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries” (v. 10) which I would take as probably referring to the angelic realm of evil angels (cf. the parallel passage of Jude 8-10). They “speak evil of things they do not understand” (v. 12). Many

hyper-Charismatic types and “spiritual warfare” advocates would fit into this category.

4. They are covetous and greedy for illicit personal gain. “By covetousness they will exploit you” (2 Peter 2: 3). “They have a heart trained in covetous practices” (v. 14). They follow the way of Balaam who “loved the wages of unrighteousness” (v. 15). In short: They are in it for the money, for personal advantage and gain. “Greed” and “Self” is what defines and motivates them.

5. They are “Lordless Antinomians”. In other words, they reject Christ’s Lordship and are self-willed and self-governed. They are a law unto themselves. They deny the Lord who bought them (2 Peter 2:1). They “despise authority” (v. 10). They have “known the way of righteousness” and then turned from it (v. 21). **Note:** They “walk according to the flesh” (v. 10) and yet at the same time they promise liberty (v. 19).

They in effect promote a brand of Christianity that says a Christian does not have to live under Christ’s Lordship. They claim one is FREE to do as the flesh pleases. This to them is “liberty”. In fact, they are flesh-governed antinomians (lawless) and in bondage to sin (see 2 Peter 2:19). They have known the facts of Christ as Lord and Savior – evidently quite intimately (cf. Heb. 6:4-6, 10:26-29) and yet they have never really personally known Christ as Lord and Savior (cf. Matt. 7:21-23).

It is possible to KNOW the “holy commandment” of gospel truth quite well intellectually and to some degree experientially (cf. Balaam) and yet not really know Christ in a **LIFE- CHANGING** way.

These people are like the sow that returns to the mire – proving they have never really had a change of **NATURE** (2 Pt. 2:22). They have never become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pt. 1:4). Their coming judgment is just as certain as that which befell Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Pet. 2:6).

̄ Many who have tons of RELIGION don’t have one ounce of SALVATION!