

SEVEN STANDARDS TO JUDGE MEN, CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS BY

***How to separate the true from the false, the wheat from the tares and
the sheep from the wolves***

By Pastor Art Watkins

In 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 Paul wrote: ***But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.***

In these verses Paul warned the Corinthians and us about men who preached a Jesus, a gospel and a spirit that he did not preach.

In verses 13-15 he identifies these men:

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

What you read in these verses is a warning about religious subterfuge. Subterfuge is something a person does, or says, or becomes to conceal their true identity. It's a ploy they use to prevent people from detecting who they really are. The men who preached the other Jesus, gospel and spirit were ministers of Satan who masqueraded themselves as ministers of righteousness. They were the forerunners of the modern ministers of Satan we now see and hear. Today there are 1000's of false teachers and preachers who stand behind pulpits and appear on countless TV channels and the ploy they use to deceive people to believe them is the same one these men used. They preach about a Jesus, a spirit and a gospel, but they are all counterfeits. This makes them sound true and this is why so many people, saved and lost, are deceived by them.

So how can we separate the true from the false? It's not easy because Satan and his ministers never appear to be who they really are. They are masters of disguise. In the Bible:

*They appear as ministers of righteousness, when in truth they are ministers of Satan according to 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

*In Matthew 23:27-28 they appear as beautiful whited sepulchres when in truth they are graves full off dead men's bones.

*In Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 they appear as wheat when they are really tares which look like wheat.

*In Matthew 7:15 they appear as harmless innocent sheep when in truth they are mean vicious wolves.

False teachers and false prophets are masters of disguise. Their outward appearance disguises their true identity and their poisonous doctrine.

During WW2 the Germans dropped 1000's of beautiful bouquets of flowers from airplanes on France. Inside of each bouquet was a tiny balloon designed to pop when someone picked the flowers up. Inside the balloon was poisonous gas that killed instantly. As soon as the bouquets began to fall, French soldiers were sent out with gas masks to destroy the flowers and to warn the people not to touch them. But in spite of their warnings many people couldn't resist the urge to pick them up and the moment they did, they died of the poisonous gas inside the flowers.

False teachers are like those beautiful bouquets of flowers. They appear outwardly beautiful, so innocent, so harmless, so helpful, so kind, so righteous, so much like the real thing, that in spite of all the warnings to stay away from them, millions of people have been taken in by these evil men and have been destroyed by their false and poisonous doctrine.

This shows us that we should never judge a man by his outward appearance; if you do you will be deceived. Some of the biggest devils I have ever met were highly religious men and women who were soft spoken, always smiling, courteous, good mannered, and never offended anyone. But their gospel sends millions to hell.

How do we detect them? How can we know for sure who is true and who is false? How can we separate the tares from the wheat, the sheep from the wolves, the righteous from the unrighteous and the ministers of God from the ministers of Satan?

God has not left us in the dark. There are many ways we can detect false teachers and apostate churches. In these messages you will see 7 ways to detect them and you need to know these things lest you end up being deceived as so many are. Deception was wide spread in the days of the apostles and will increase even more in the last days before the second coming of Christ. This is why there are so many warnings throughout the New Testament about being deceived by false teachers and their corrupt doctrines and churches

We can separate the wolves from the sheep and the true from the false by the following seven standards

By the Gospel They Preach

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul wrote: ***I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

Every false teacher and cult in America professes to believe a gospel today, but they are still lost. Why? They believe the wrong one. You can believe in a gospel and still be lost, if the gospel you believe is the wrong one. The devil has a gospel for every taste, appeal, appetite, ego, religion and pocketbook. If you can't find a gospel you like, he will customize one especially for you.

There is only **one Gospel** that has the power to save you from sin and hell today and it's the one Paul and the apostles preached. All other Gospels are false and those who preach them are accursed according to these verses.

The gospel that Paul preached is called the Gospel of the Grace of God in Acts 20:24. There are four outstanding facts about the Gospel of Grace.

(A.) It declares that men are saved by faith alone in the death and shed blood of Christ.

See Rom. 4:5, Eph. 2:8-9, Tit. 3:5

(B.) It declares that God forgives all sins and all sinners. This means there is no unpardonable sins or sinners today. See Acts 13:39-39

(C.) It declares that salvation is a present possession, not a future attainment.

See 2 Tim. 1:9, Eph. 2:8, Tit. 3:5, Rom. 5:11.

(D.) It declares that all believers are unconditionally and eternally secure in Christ.

See Eph.1:13, 4:40, 1 Cor.1:8, 2 Cor. 5:5, Philp.1:6

These are four of the most important facts about the Gospel of the Grace of God. If you have believed this gospel you will believe these four facts. And if you do not believe them, you have not believed the true gospel, and you are either lost, or you are deceived like the Galatians.

The Gospel of Grace is the standard to judge men and churches by

This means:

*Any man who preaches works are necessary to gain or to keep salvation is a false teacher.

*Any man who preaches that there are unpardonable sins or sinners God cannot save today is a false teacher.

*Any man who preaches that salvation is a future reward and not a present possession is a false teacher.

*Any man, who preaches you can lose your salvation and must do certain works to keep it, is a false teacher.

The true gospel of grace is made up of the sum total of its parts. It declares these four facts and any man or church that preaches a gospel that contradicts them is preaching a false gospel. The man that does not preach the Gospel of Grace is cursed and a church that does not preach it is apostate and God said to stay away from them.

Paul's Gospel versus Satan's Gospel

Galatians 1:6 says; ***I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.***

The other gospel Paul warned about is Satan's and it is a perversion of Paul's. What is the difference between Paul's gospel and Satan's ?

- (a) Paul's gospel declares that all men are totally corrupt before God and unable to please God in the flesh. Satan's gospel declares that there is good in every man.
- (b) Paul's gospel declares that without the shedding of blood God cannot forgive any sin. Satan's gospel is a bloodless gospel. It offers forgiveness without a sacrifice.
- (c) Paul's gospel declares that because man is totally ruined what he needs is a new birth. Satan's declares that what man needs is education, cultivation, refinement and reform.
- (d) Paul's gospel declares that salvation cannot be earned by works. Satan's gospel is a gospel of works such as; sacraments, baptism, tithing, law keeping, charitable works, reform, and self improvement.
- (e) Paul's gospel declares that Christ is God and that salvation is only in the death and shed blood of Christ. Satan's gospel emphasizes his deeds of compassion and works of mercy and the beauty of His character and teaching. Satan's gospel eulogizes his life, but it ignores his death for sin. His atoning work on the cross is never mentioned. It is a bloodless gospel and cross less Christ.
- (f) Paul's declares that without salvation men will spend eternity suffering in the fires of hell. Satan's gospel declares that hell is a myth and a superstition and that a loving God would never create such a place, much less cast anyone into it.
- (g) Paul's gospel declares that God saves bad people by his grace. Satan's gospel declares that God saves good people by their works.
- (h) Paul's gospel offers men a "know so" salvation. Satan's gospel offers men a "hope so" salvation.
- (i) Paul's gospel declares that Jesus Christ is the only way to God. Satan's declares there are many ways and one is as good as the other.

Whose gospel have you believed? When it comes to salvation sincerity does not count but accuracy does. There are many people who sincerely believe in a gospel today but are still lost because they have believed the wrong one. For 20 years my wife sincerely believed the gospel preached to her by the Catholic Church but she was lost because she had believed the wrong gospel. The gospel they taught her is the same one you hear in many so called Protestant churches also. It's the gospel that says that even though Christ died for your sins, his death and shed blood is not sufficient by itself to save you, but that you must do certain works along with believing to be saved. That's a deadly gospel and if you believe it you will end up in hell. It does not matter how sincere a person is or how devoted they are or how many good works they have done, if you believe the wrong gospel you will end up in hell.

You need to exam the gospel you have believed today. Make sure it is the right one. The right one is the one Paul preached. He said that Christ died for all your sins and by faith and faith alone in his death and shed blood God will save you eternally from sin, hell and the lake of fire.

We do not have to be in dark concerning false teachers and apostate churches. We can separate the tares from wheat, the sheep from the wolves, and the true from the false by the gospel they preach.

By the Man They Follow

In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul wrote: ***Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*** God has a man for his people to follow in every age and those who follow that man follow Christ who sent him. In time past God gave his people Moses to follow and then the Prophets and then John the Baptist and then the apostles and the man God gave us to follow today is one of the apostles, the apostle Paul. By following him we follow Christ who sent him. This agrees with what the Lord said in John 13:20: ***Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.***

The saints and churches Paul founded followed him. The Thessalonian church followed Paul and the Lord. In 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6 he wrote:

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

Notice that they followed the Lord by following Paul and by following Paul they followed Christ. Why did God single out Paul for us to follow? The following two verses will tell you why.

Romans 11:13 says: **For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:**

1 Timothy 2:7 says: **Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.**

The gentiles have an apostle today and it's Paul. Prior to Paul gentiles like us did not have an apostle. (See Matthew 10:5-6) Peter was actually the first apostle to go to gentiles like us in Acts 10, but God sent Paul to open the door of faith and salvation to all gentiles in Acts 13-14 without distention and he ordained him and him alone to be the apostle of the gentiles.

This does not mean that he and Peter preached different gospels. They both preached the death and shed blood of Christ for salvation (1 Peter 3:18) and salvation by grace (Acts 15:11). But the people they were sent to had totally different spiritual and religious backgrounds. Paul wrote and was sent to gentiles like us who had no relationship to Israel and were strangers from the covenants of promise. Peter wrote to and was sent to the Jews to whom the promises were made.

Ephesians 2:11-13 says:

(11) Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

(12) That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

(13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

In these verses is found the two groups of people that Peter and Paul were sent to. Peter was the apostle of the Jews who are called the circumcision in verse 11 and the commonwealth of Israel in verse 12. They were the people to whom all the promises such as; Christ, the covenants of promise, the hope of resurrection and God were made.

The gentiles Paul was sent to were aliens of Israel in verse 11-12. Because they were aliens of Israel, they were without Christ, strangers from the covenants of promise, without hope and God.

Verse 12 was never true of the Jews Peter went to, but they were of the gentiles Paul was sent to. These two groups are now one body in Christ according to Ephesians 2:16, 3:6. We are fellow citizens with them in Ephesians 2:19, fellowheirs with them and partakers of their spiritual promise and promises in Ephesians 3:6.

Paul was called to teach the gentiles that now that they are in Christ what was true of them in time past is no longer true. In verse 13 he said:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

All the blessings and promises we were afar from in verse 12, we have now been made nigh to according to verse 13. You can almost say this verse sums up Paul's ministry to the gentiles.

Here is the point I want to make about Paul and all the men God told his people to follow. All the men God told his people to follow have one thing in common that other men do not have. What they preached or wrote was infallible. Why? 2 Peter 1:21 says: ***Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.***

These verses tell us that what the prophets in the Old Testament wrote and what the apostles in the New Testament wrote was written under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. God moved them and led them and inspired them to write what they wrote, which means that what they wrote and preached was infallible.

This means that what Paul preached, was preached under the inspiration of God. What he wrote was written under the inspiration of God. This means that what he preached was infallible and what he wrote was infallible. Therefore, when we follow Paul's preaching we are following the preaching of a man who never made a mistake or error in what he said. When we follow what he wrote, we are following the words of a man who never made a mistake or one error in what he wrote. He was infallible in his preaching and his writings. There is not a man alive today who can make this claim even if he is saved.

Therefore, we should judge preachers, and churches by the man they follow. If a church is a sound church they will tell you to follow Paul. If a man is a true man of God and a true teacher he will tell you to follow Paul because Paul was infallible in his preaching and writing. But false teachers will never tell you to follow Paul. They tell you to follow them and would have you to think they are infallible. There are many false teachers in

the charismatic movement today who teach that God has re-established the offices of prophets and apostles. And that these apostles and prophets receive direct messages from God for the church and that they have divine authority over the church. These men are the false apostles and prophets God warned us about in 2 Corinthians 11:13. (This is true of the Pope and Catholicism also. See my booklet: The Dangers of the Charismatic Movement.)

These men are deceivers and one thing they all have in common is how their preaching and writings contradict much of what Paul preached and wrote. All you have to do is compare their preaching with Paul's and their writings with Paul's and you will see they are false. If you follow the teachings or writings of any man or church or religious group that contradicts Paul, you are following the wrong man and you are in the wrong church. Someone may say well about you Brother Art? How can we tell if you are preaching the truth or not? There is a simple test that will show you. Notice what Paul says in these verses about those who follow his example and the ones who don't.

Philippians 3:17-19 says: ***Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)***

There are two people God told us to follow and one man to avoid. He said to follow him and those who follow his example and to mark and avoid those who don't follow him. He said follow the man who follows his example and shun the ones who don't, because they are enemies of Christ and the cross. My challenge is: Compare what I preach and write with Paul. He is infallible and I am not. If you hear me preach something or write something that contradicts what Paul preached or wrote don't believe it for a second. But if what I preach or write agrees with him then you should believe it and obey it.

By the Doctrine They Teach

In Romans 6:17 Paul wrote: ***But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.***

In Romans 16:17-18 he wrote: ***Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.***

God has told us to preach Paul's gospel, to follow Paul's apostleship, and in these verses to teach Paul's doctrine. We have seen that if a church or a man is true and godly they will preach Paul's gospel and they will follow Paul's apostleship. Now we are told to obey his doctrine and to judge men by the doctrine they teach. If their doctrine opposes Paul's, we are to mark them, expose them and avoid them.

This is another way we can separate the wheat from the tares and the sheep from the wolves. If a church or a man is true and godly their doctrine will agree with Paul's. And one thing that all false teachers and apostate churches have in common; their doctrine always opposes Paul's. When it comes to doctrine they are enemies of Paul and of God.

The following are examples of how the doctrines of false teachers and apostate churches contradict Paul's doctrine. Every example in this list is taken from their preaching and writings. These things are not made up; it's from their own mouth or books

Paul's doctrine versus their doctrine

The first statement is what Paul's doctrine says and the second statement is what the false teachers say.

*A true man of God will tell you that salvation is a free gift, and a present possession. They say it's not free and it's a future reward.

*All believers are secure eternally and cannot ever lose their salvation. They say you can lose it because of sin or a failure to maintain good works.

*The sign gifts have vanished and ceased and what we see today are counterfeits. They say they are still in operation and if you don't have them you are either lost or a second class Christian.

*Christ died to save you from sin and hell and the wrath of God. They say Christ died to make you healthy, wealthy and prosperous and to "improve your self esteem".

*That women are not to teach nor usurp authority over men in the church or home. They say she is equal to the man in the home and they ordain them to be pastors in the church.

*There is only one source of authority in the church, the word of God. They say there are many sources of authority that are equal to and above the Bible.

*That man is basically evil and deserves the wrath of God. That man is not bad, and with enough religion and culture he can become better and good enough to go to heaven.

*That God will punish sinners in hell forever who are not saved. That God is love and he will not send sinners to hell or punish them in wrath.

*That man's greatest need is regeneration and a Saviour to save his body, soul and spirit. That what man needs is reformation and his self esteem built up.

*That sodomites are reprobates and an abomination to God and we should purge them out of the church. That they should be accepted in society and in church.

*That the Bible is the infallible inspired and preserved word of God. That the Bible may have mistakes and errors in it for it was written by men.

*That truth is more important than unity. That truth should be sacrificed for unity.

*That sound doctrine is more important than love. That all that is important is love.

*That God speaks to men through the scriptures only. That God speaks to men in visions, dreams and impulses and new revelations.

*That we should come out of apostate churches that preach false gospels and doctrines. That we should stay in them and fellowship with them.

*To beware of false prophets and churches who work signs and wonders to deceive. They say we should accept and believe any one who works signs wonders and miracles.

*That there should be order and peace in the church so all can hear and be edified by the word of God. That it's OK to scream, holler, roll on the floor, shout, yell, run, and speak in satanic tongues in the church.

*That Christians should be separated from the world and keep the world out of the church. That we should conform to the world and be like the world and bring its music, dress, entertainment into the church.

*That God expects our conduct and behavior to be totally changed by what we believe. That God is not interested in how we behave just in what we believe.

*That Satan is the god of this world and the prince and power of the air and that we must put on the whole armour of God to resist him. That the devil is already defeated and we can bind him, stomp on him and kick him out the door.

*That gentile believers are now partakers of Israel's spiritual blessings and promises. That gentiles have no claim to them.

*That we are grafted into the good olive tree along with the Jews and partake of its root and fatness. That we are not grafted into the good olive tree for God cut it down!

*That we partake of the blessings and benefits of the New Covenant. That we do not partake of its blessings and are not under the New Covenant.

*That he and Peter preached the same gospel. That Peter and Paul preached different and opposing gospels.

*That he and Peter were justified by faith without the works of the law. That Peter was justified by the works of the law and not by faith.

*That the inheritance of the church is in the Kingdom of God. That the church has no inheritance in the kingdom of God.

*That God will chastise us for our sins. That God does not chastise us for our sins.

*That we should judge and confess our sins to escape chastisement. That we should not judge or confess our sins and confessing sin is sin!

*That many church doctrines are based upon the Old Testament. That doctrine for the church is not found in the Old Testament.

This is a sampling of how the doctrines of deceived believers, false teachers and apostate churches differ from Paul. If you want to know what church you should go to take a long look at their doctrine. If it agrees with Paul's you are in the right church. If it does not agree with Paul's leave today. If you are not sure of the soundness of someone's preaching look at his doctrine. If it agrees with Paul's listen to him. If his doctrine contradicts Paul's he is either deceived or a false teacher and you should avoid him and mark him so that others will not be deceived by him. (If he is a believer who is deceived make an attempt to show him the truth. You may win him, but if not avoid him. 2 John 1:9-11)

By the Jesus They Preach

In 2 Corinthians 11:4 Paul warns us about men who preach about a Jesus that he did not preach. He identifies them as ministers of Satan in verse 13. Why would a minister of Satan preach about Jesus? To deceive you into believing they are true apostles and prophets. They use the name of Jesus to make you think they are credible. They also use his name so that if you expose them they can accuse you of attacking Jesus. But do they preach the true one? Of course not. How could they, for the true Jesus condemns false apostles and teachers like them. The Jesus they preach is a false Jesus who promotes their false doctrines, but the average person sitting in the pew today doesn't know the difference. There are people sitting in the pews that believe in Jesus, but their Jesus is the wrong one. They believe in the Jesus preached by the false apostles and teachers. This is the ultimate deception.

The way we expose false teachers and apostate churches is by comparing the true Jesus with the false Jesus they preach. Banks teach their tellers to spot counterfeit money by first teaching them what real money looks and feels like. Once they know what real money looks like and feels like it's easy for them to spot counterfeit money. If you know who the real Jesus is, it's easy to spot the false Jesus. When you hear a man preaching the false Jesus then you know he is false teacher and a liar.

The wolves have created a Jesus to fit their false doctrines. Their Jesus promotes the false doctrines and the false gospels they preach. The wolves are found in many different kinds of churches, but they all have a false Jesus and their Jesus is like them, he is a counterfeit.

The difference between the true and false Jesus.

*The death and shed blood of the real Jesus is all that is necessary to save you and keep you saved forever. The death and shed blood of the false Jesus they preach is not sufficient, but you must do your part like taking the sacraments, keeping the commandments, living a good life to be saved.

*The real Jesus is God manifest in the flesh. The false Jesus is a great teacher, prophet, angel, or enlightened one, but not God.

*The real Jesus is eternal, never having a beginning or end. The false Jesus is a created being.

*The real Jesus is the beginning of the church because he is the head of the church. The false Jesus is not the beginning or head of their churches. The heads of their churches are men like the Pope, Joe Smith, Charles Russell, Helen White and Mary Baker Eddy.

*The real Jesus is the creator of heaven and earth. The false Jesus did not create heaven and earth, for they are the results of evolution not creation.

*The real Jesus abolished the law and its animal sacrifices forever by his death on the cross. The death and shed blood of the false Jesus they preach did not abolish the Law, because they say God will re-establish the Law of Moses again in the future including animal sacrifices.

*The real Jesus said he alone has all power in heaven and earth. The wolves say they have the same power as their Jesus and even more.

*The real Jesus said he came to die to save sinners from hell and the wrath of God. Their Jesus died to make them healthy, wealthy, prosperous and to secure their "self esteem".

*The real Jesus said he will come again in flaming fire to take vengeance against those who do not believe in him. The false Jesus does not take vengeance on anyone, even those who do not believe on him.

*The real Jesus said he will cast sinners into the lake of fire. The false Jesus will not cast anyone into such a place for many say that such a place does not exist.

*The real Jesus has a Father in heaven he prayed to. The false Jesus does not have a Father, but they say he is the Father, Son and Spirit!

*The real Jesus suffered poverty throughout his life on earth. Their Jesus wore designer clothes and lived like a king and they say we should also.

*The real Jesus descended into hell to preach judgment to fallen angels and sinners. Their Jesus went to hell to be tortured by Satan because his crucifixion did not fully atone for sins.

*The real Jesus is so awesome and big that heaven is his throne and earth is his footstool. Their Jesus is a small cracker that you can eat, chew up, digest in the stomach and flush down the toilet.

*The real Jesus condemned false religion. Their Jesus does not say anything bad about any one's religion. He "respects them all".

*The real Jesus called false teachers names like; serpents, vipers, hypocrites, whited sepulchers, wolves, and children of the devil. Their Jesus would never call people by such names. He is very politically correct.

*The real Jesus warned us that he will chastise us for our sins. The false Jesus does not chastise anyone for sin.

*The real Jesus asked us to remember his death on the cross by observing his supper. The false Jesus tells them not to observe any supper to commemorate his death.

*The real Jesus says that all believers are members of his body for he dwells in them and they in him. Their Jesus says some believers are not members of his body even though he dwells in them and they in him.

*The real Jesus said that he would curse any man and even an angel from heaven who preached a gospel different from Paul's. Their Jesus sends men to preach a gospel that contradicted Paul's.

*The real Jesus says his blood forgives and removes the sins of all believers forever. The blood of the false Jesus does not remove or forgive the sins of all believers; it merely covers them up and hides them temporarily.

*The real Jesus secures the salvation of all believers. Their Jesus does not secure the salvation of all believers.

*The real Jesus frees all men from the law when they believe on him. Their Jesus does not free all men from the law who believe on him.

*The real Jesus saves sinners by faith alone without works. Their Jesus saves men by faith and works.

*The real Jesus tells us that when sinners believe on him they will never come into condemnation. Their Jesus tells believers they can come into condemnation after they believe on him.

*The real Jesus tells us over and over again to follow what he said and did while on earth. The false Jesus says don't you dare preach what I preached on earth and don't you dare follow what I did on earth. Just ignore it.

*The real Jesus said he is our Great High Priest. Their Jesus says he is not our great high priest.

*The real Jesus says that if you will repent and call on me, I will save you. The false Jesus says you don't have to repent or call on me or confess me to be saved.

*The real Jesus says I have prepared a place for you in the kingdom of God. The false Jesus says we don't have a place in the kingdom of God.

*The real Jesus says we can expect to suffer tribulation in this world just like he did, until he comes again. The false Jesus says we will not suffer tribulation, but we are exempt from it even though millions of saints have suffered it throughout history.

*The real Jesus says when he comes again the whole world will know it for he will come with millions of saints and angels, with the blowing of the last trumpet, with a loud shout, with the voice of the archangel, and dead people being raised up from their graves. The false Jesus says no one will know when he comes because it will be "secret and silent".

*The real Jesus said I have placed in the Old Testament many promises and blessings for you to claim and enjoy today, especially the ones concerning me. The false Jesus says there is nothing in the Old Testament for you. That's not written to you, even though Paul quotes it 200 times and based at least 60 major church doctrines on it.

*The real Jesus says I died to institute the New Covenant and in the New Covenant you will find a once for all sacrifice for your sins. The false Jesus says the New Covenant is not yours to claim, even though Paul was a minister of the New Covenant.

*The real Jesus says you must be born again to get into the kingdom of God. The false Jesus says you do not have to be born again to get into the kingdom of God.

*The real Jesus says we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present evil world. The false Jesus says he is not interested in the way we live.

*The real Jesus offers us rewards, crowns and blessings that are based on our service to him in this life. The false Jesus says everything is free under grace and nothing is based upon your works and service to him in this life.

*The real Jesus promised us a mansion in his Father's house. The false Jesus says those mansions are not yours to claim.

*The real Jesus told us we should not expect the world to treat us better than him. The false one says we should expect the world to treat us better than him.

*The real Jesus says the closer you get to God the more the world will hate you. The false Jesus says the closer you get to God the more the world will love you.

When a man, any man, says he preaches Jesus, ask him which one? When someone tells you they believe in Jesus, ask them which one? There is a false Jesus who is the opposite of the true. Christ warned us about the coming of false Christ's and they are

here, not only in the flesh, but in the preaching and doctrines of false teachers, apostate churches and deceived believers. They have created a “jesus” in people’s minds today who bears no resemblance to the real Jesus found in the Bible. That is why we must judge men and churches by the Jesus they preach and believe in. The true one is found throughout the New Testament.

(The ultimate deception and horror is when people find themselves in hell after believing in a false jesus. And the sad fact is many will.)

By the Spirit That Leads Them

Every false teacher and apostate church will tell you they are led by the Spirit. But, the question is which one? We have seen there is a false jesus and a false gospel and according to 2 Corinthians 11:4 there is also a false spirit. The men who preach the false jesus and false gospel are the ones led by the false spirit. Therefore, a man could preach a gospel, a Jesus and be led by a spirit and be demon possessed.

There are many false spirits in the world today, but only one Holy Spirit. How can we separate the true Spirit from the false ones? If we are to judge men and churches by the spirit that leads them, how can we tell which spirit they are following? The answer is; by comparing what the Bible says about the true Spirit of God with the spirits men say they are being led by. Once you know who and what the true Spirit of God is like, it’s easy to spot the false lying spirits.

Many Christians, including preachers, are so carnal or blind that they can’t tell the difference between the two. Many times the spirit that leads them or influences them is in fact a satanic spirit. I have had Christians and preachers tell me that the Holy Spirit was leading them and influencing them to do and say certain things, when in fact I knew it was a lying seducing spirit masquerading as the true Spirit of God. They didn’t know the difference between the two. Do you know the difference?

The difference between the Holy Spirit and the unholy spirits

*The Holy Spirit leads believers to honor and glorify Christ, especially his death on the cross. The unholy spirit leads believers to glorify him (the false spirit) first and foremost.

*The Holy Spirit maintains self control of the flesh and the emotions of believers. The unholy spirit places no control or restrictions on the flesh or the emotions of people.

*The Holy Spirit always draws men's attention to Christ. The unholy spirit causes men to draw attention to him or to them selves.

*The Holy Spirit directs us to prove all things by the word of God. The unholy spirit leads men to follow their heart, their impulses, theories, ideas or the impressions of their canal minds.

*The Holy Spirit speaks to men through the word of God. The unholy spirit speaks to men through impulses, dreams, so called visions or thoughts, or imaginations or fake revelations he places in their minds.

*The Holy Spirit leads men to Christ with their sins and problems and needs. The unholy spirit leads men to objects, men, relics, images, religion with their sins, problems and needs.

*The Holy Spirit gives men and women a quiet and peaceable spirit. The unholy spirit gives them a loud, boisterous and **restless** spirit.

*The Holy Spirit never distracts men's attention from the preaching of the word of God when it is being preached in truth. The unholy spirit draws men's attention away from the word of God. He leads them to stay away from it when it is preached in truth.

*The Holy Spirit never glories and revels in the accomplishments of men. The unholy spirit glories in the accomplishments of men.

*The Holy Spirit leads men to worship God in spirit, not the flesh. The unholy spirit leads men to worship God in the flesh while they think they are worshipping him in spirit.

*The Holy Spirit does not limit the worship of God to a certain building on a certain day. The unholy spirit leads men to believe that God dwells in buildings and must be worshipped in that building with their so called "worship leaders".

*The Holy Spirit defines the worship of God as honoring, praising, and serving God in your body and spirit 7 days a week. The unholy spirit defines worship as shouting, running, rolling, foaming, jerking, howling, babbling, grunting, laughing, clapping and being "slain in the spirit".

*The Holy Spirit leads men to interpret their feelings and experiences by the word of God. The unholy spirit leads men to interpret the word of God by their feelings and experiences.

*The Holy Spirit constrains men to serve the Lord with a pure motive out of love. The unholy spirit constrains men to serve with a selfish motive and out of fear and threats.

*The Holy Spirit leads believers to use their minds and understanding when serving God. The unholy spirit leads men to park their brains outside the church and become passive and submissive to any suggestion they hear in the church without question.

*The unity the Holy Spirit produces is never at the expense of the truth. The unity that the unholy spirit produces is union of the flesh at the expense of truth and sound doctrine.

*The Holy Spirit does not condone sin, false doctrine or unbelief for the sake of unity. The unholy spirit leads people to condone sin, excuse it and compromise with evil and false doctrine for the sake of unity.

*The Holy Spirit edifies the saints with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs that exalt Christ, edify the Church and humble the flesh. The unholy spirit entertains the saints with carnal rock, rap, country and "contemporary" music that appeals to the flesh and dishonors God. (7-11 music)

*The zeal the Holy Spirit produces causes believers to renounce sin, live godly, witness, pray and abstain from all appearance of evil. The unholy spirit provokes zeal that causes people to act in a foolish manner that dishonors God and is a stumbling block to men.

*The Holy Spirit always leads men to pray according to the will of God found in the word of God. The unholy spirit leads men to demand God to give them what he never promised or to demand him to do for them what he never promised.

*The Holy Spirit teaches sound doctrine to God's people. The unholy spirit teaches the doctrines of devils to God's people.

*The Holy Spirit always leads believers to base what they believe on sound doctrine. The unholy spirit treats sound doctrine as if it were a hindrance instead of a help to the believer. Its frowned upon.

*The fruits of the Holy Spirit are genuine and real. The fruits of the unholy spirit are artificial, false, fake and staged.

*The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin before they get saved. The unholy spirit "converts" men without conviction of sin.

*The Holy Spirit bases his prophecies of the future on the scriptures of the apostles and prophets and disregards what men may feel about them. The unholy spirit bases his prophecies of the future on the predictions and prophecies of men that are the most appealing to the flesh of men.

*The Holy Spirit quickens and regenerates man's dead spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. The unholy spirit reforms man's morals to make him think he will enter into the kingdom of God.

*The Holy Spirit sanctifies and makes believers holy and righteous when they believe the gospel. The unholy spirit teaches men that they must strive, work, agonize to become sanctified, holy and righteous and only a select few gain it.

*The Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the believer the moment he believes the gospel. The unholy spirit teaches men that receiving the Spirit is subsequent to salvation and that a man can be a believer and not possess the Holy Spirit.

*The Holy Spirit teaches men that all they need is Christ. The unholy spirit teaches men that Christ is not enough, what they need is "power".

*The Holy Spirit is Omni present, He is everywhere.: ***Psa.139 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.***

The unholy spirit must be prayed down, sought after, invited in. He comes and goes at the commands of men.

*The gifts of the Holy Spirit edify the church. The gifts of the unholy spirit divide, deceive, disrupt and destroy the church.

*The Holy Spirit teaches us that wealth and riches drown men in destruction and perdition. The unholy spirit teaches men that God's will is for them to be wealthy and rich.

*The Holy Spirit says that God's grace is sufficient for your infirmities and sickness. The unholy spirit says that sickness is sin and God's will is for everyone to be healed and well and if you are sick you are out of the will of God and living in sin.

*The Holy Spirit creates in the believer a divine appetite and love to read the word of God, hear the word of God and study the word of God. The unholy spirit quenches that appetite and makes the word of God dead, boring and uninteresting. He is more interested in entertaining the masses with lights, smoke, candles, dancers and quote: "Christian rock music" than the word of God.

*The Holy Spirit makes edification and evangelism the number one priority of the local church. The unholy spirit makes entertainment, fun, excitement, social contacts and "goose bumps" the number one priority of the church.

*The Holy Spirit makes men glad and happy to hear the gospel preached with power. The unholy spirit makes people sad, mad and gloomy when the true gospel is preached.

If you test and try men by the spirit that leads them you can separate the sheep from the wolves and the wheat from the tares. In many cases what passes off as the work of the Holy Spirit today is nothing more than the work of demon spirits counterfeiting the true Spirit of God. But if you know who and what the true Spirit of God is like, you will not be fooled by the false ones the wolves preach and follow.

By The Bible They Use

The Bible makes two major claims about itself. It claims to be divinely inspired in 2 Timothy 3:16 and divinely preserved in Psalms 12: 6-7.

2 Timothy 3:16: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Psalms 12:6-7: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

2 Timothy makes the claim that the scriptures were given by divine inspiration and Psalms 12:6-7 makes the claim that those scriptures are also divinely preserved. And what good is divine inspiration without divine preservation? The Bible makes both claims. Which one do you believe? You should believe both.

The Bible is the number one tool of all preachers and churches no matter if they are true or false or sheep or wolves. Every false teacher and apostate church in the world uses a Bible to promote their doctrines and to justify their practices. With all the different Bibles in the world today which one do you suppose the Spirit of God would use? Would the Holy Spirit of God use just any Bible on the market today? Would he lead and influence preachers and churches to just pick out any Bible they like and use it? Would he lead you to believe that one Bible is just as good as another?

The Spirit of God was the person who inspired the prophets and apostles to write the words of God down in the so called originals and he is the one who also inspired and led other men to preserve them. It's the Spirit of God in 2 Timothy 3:16 who inspired the prophets and apostles to write the word of God down in books. It's the Spirit of God in Psalms 12:6-7 who preserved those words in a book forever. The job of divine inspiration and divine preservation was given to the Spirit of God. How many Bibles did he inspire? How many did he preserve? How can we tell the difference between the one he inspired and preserved, from the ones he did not inspire or preserve?

Let's put it this way:

*Would the Spirit of God lead a man or church to use a Bible that makes Christ out to be the devil?

*Would he lead them to use a Bible that condemns Christ and accuses him of committing sin?

*Would he lead them to use a Bible that says that Jesus had an earthy father?

*Would he lead them to use a Bible that denies that Jesus mother had other children besides him?

*Would he lead them to use a Bible that placed doubt in the infallible proofs of Christ's resurrection?

*That denies that Christ is everlasting?

*That leaves out verses that say Christ ascended back to heaven and sat down at God's right hand after his resurrection?

*That leaves out a verse that says: *For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them?*

- *That does not say that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God?
- *That leaves out the testimony of a man who said he believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?
- *That denies that Mary was a virgin when she had Jesus?
- *That leaves out the words that say: the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof?
- *That leaves out the word "Lord" in many verses that say Jesus is the Lord?
- *That leaves out words that say that Jesus Christ is the creator of heaven and earth?
- *That perverts verses that plainly say that Jesus Christ made himself equal to God?
- *That attacks the blood atonement of Christ by leaving out the mention of his blood?
- *That distorts a verse that plainly says, that Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh?
- *That take the words, "study and rightly dividing the word of truth" completely out of the Bible?
- *That leaves out the words that say Jesus Christ is the express, exact image of God?
- *That leaves out words that encourage people to believe on the Son of God?
- *That leaves out the fact that Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end and that he lives forever?

I do not believe for one second God would ever lead any preacher, church or religious group to use a Bible that belittles his Son, denies his deity, denies his blood atonement or accuses him of sin or makes him out to be the devil, do you? And yet the religious market today is flooded with counterfeit bibles that do just that. And one of the worst bibles today is the NIV that is guilty of all these blasphemes against Jesus Christ. If you doubt that then write or call me and I will send you a book I have written that proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the NIV is the worst of the worst. It is guilty of all the blasphemous accusations against Christ that you just heard me call out.

What is hard for many Christians to believe and understand is that the devil is now in the Bible printing business. He has flooded the market with Bibles that attack God's Son from every angle. This sounds far out and hard to believe, but it is true.

The devil found out a long time ago that he can work far more effectively by counterfeiting the Bible than by openly opposing it.

When the devil persecuted the men who translated and printed the Bible years ago, the more it grew and multiplied. So the devil changed his tactic. He started to print his own Bibles and used them to attack Jesus Christ!

Remember he is the master counterfeiter. He has a counterfeit son, prophets, apostles, spirits, gospels, doctrines, and a counterfeit Jesus. So why is it hard for people to believe he has counterfeit Bibles? Of course he has counterfeit bibles and he uses them throughout the world to attack Jesus Christ and to undermine the truth and to plant seeds of doubt in people's minds about the word of God.

It only makes spiritual sense that the Bible God leads men and churches to use today is the one that exalts and magnifies his Son's deity, his blood atonement, his divine attributes, his flawless character, his great power, his sacrificial death, burial, resurrection, his impeccable integrity, his perfect holiness, and sinlessness. And the one that does that more than any other is the King James Bible.

This alone tells me it is the Bible God said he inspired and preserved for the English speaking people. If you have a problem with this I ask the question again: What good is divine inspiration without divine preservation? It's obvious to me and millions of other saints that God preserved his inspired word as he promised in the English language and it's obviously the King James Bible. This is why false teachers hate it and apostate churches forsake it and deceived believers also.

How do we separate the wheat from the tares and the wolves from the sheep? By the Bible they use. The wolves use bibles that are against the Son of God because they are led by the spirit of their father the devil who hates the Son of God. Counterfeit Bibles are just another way the devil attacks Jesus Christ. It is one of the most subtle ways he does it. Who would have ever thought that a Bible could be used by the devil to attack Jesus Christ? Yet he has flooded the world with millions of Bibles that do just that. And those of you who use these Bibles that attack the Son of God need to seriously consider what you have in your hands and what you allow in your church. Do you really want to use a Bible that denies these truths about the Son of God?

By The Fruits They Produce

In Matthew 7:15-20 Jesus said: ***Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***

The Lord said we can identify false prophets and teachers by their fruits. ***Their fruit is the effect their doctrines have on the people who believe and follow them.***

All doctrines, true or false, have an effect on those who believe them. What are the fruits of the doctrines taught by false teachers and apostate churches? What kind of effect does their doctrine have on people? And what is the fruit of sound doctrine. How does it influence people?

The fruits of sound doctrine versus the fruits of false doctrine

The first statement in this comparison is the effect that sound doctrine has on people. The second statement is the effect that false doctrine preached by false teachers has on people.

*Sound doctrine causes Christians to believe the Bible and not to doubt it or change it. False doctrine causes people to doubt and change it to suit their taste.

*Causes people to trust totally in Christ alone for salvation. Causes people not to totally trust in Christ alone to save them, but to believe in other things in addition to Christ to be saved.

*To rest in Christ alone to keep them saved forever. To live in doubt and fear and never be sure about salvation.

*To deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly and righteously in this world. That godly living is not all that important.

*To fear God. Not to fear God, for they say there is nothing to fear.

*To be humble. To be proud.

*To dress modestly, covering up the flesh. To dress immodestly revealing the flesh.

* To control their tongue. To have no control over their tongue.

*To pray for one another. To pray against one another.

*To give and support the work of the local church. To be stingy with their money and spend it on themselves instead.

*To pray for the man of God and help him as he preaches the true gospel and word of God. Not to pray for him and to undermine his efforts.

*To sacrifice their time, money, and leisure for the sake of Christ and the church. To spend their time, money and leisure on themselves.

*To be a faithful believer who does not forsake the assembly when it meets to study and hear the word of God. To forsake the assembly and come when they feel like it or when it does not clash with their "schedules".

*To witness and win souls. To ignore them and never witness.

*To become servants of God and the church. To expect the church to serve them and wait on them.

*To live peaceably with all men. To be contentious and carry grudges against people.

*To love the brethren. To despise them.

*To be charitable and kind to those in need. Not to care or have any charity for those in need.

*To have a clean and chaste conversation. To have a carnal unclean conversation.

*To edify the church and its members. To be a stumbling block to the church and believers.

*To put God and others ahead of themselves. To put themselves ahead of God and others.

*To expose false teachers and apostate churches. To get along with them.

*To keep company with those that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. To keep company with carnal Christians and ungodly lost people.

*Not to be a friend of the world or to be conformed to the world. To be conformed to the world and a friend to the world.

*To come out and be separated from apostate churches that preaches false doctrine. To stay in them.

*To esteem the word of God as treasure. To have no esteem or love for the word of God and to stay away from it when it is taught and preached in truth and power.

*To love God with all their heart, soul and strength and mind. To love themselves, the world, pleasure, and money more than God.

*To listen and watch things that are pure, wholesome, lovely, chaste and honoring to God. To listen and watch things that are impure, ungodly, filthy, cruel and dishonors God.

When the Lord said, by their fruits ye shall know them, their fruits are seen in the people who believe their doctrines. Doctrine, true or false, has an influence upon those who believe it. Sound doctrine has a godly, wholesome, Christ honoring influence upon those who believe it. False doctrine has a carnal, ungodly, bad influence upon those who believe it.

You can't sit under false doctrine without being affected by it. Sound and false doctrine is like flowers and weeds. Flowers need a lot of attention to get them to grow. Weeds will grow with no attention at all. When a man preaches false doctrine he is sewing weeds and weeds will grow anywhere. There is always a harvest when you plant weeds

and weeds always outnumber flowers. But, when a man preaches sound doctrine he must continually work and work to get it to produce good fruit in the ones who hear it. Consequently apostate churches always have more people in them than sound churches. Why? For the same reason there are more weeds than flowers.

In conclusion when it comes to separating the wolves from the sheep and the true from the false we must judge men and churches:

By the gospel they preach

By the man they follow

By the doctrine they teach

By the Jesus they believe

By the spirit that leads them

By the Bible they use

By the fruits they produce

In the last days, many people will be deceived and depart from the faith. The Holy Spirit has predicted a major apostasy within the church in the last days in 1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-6. Why? Because the church will let the standards down. Instead of judging men and churches by these 7 doctrinal standards, they judge men by the outward appearance which is exactly what the devil and his ministers want them to do. It is up to us to keep ourselves from being deceived by false teachers and apostate churches. If we take these 7 standards and use them to judge men and churches and religious groups by, we will save ourselves from deception now and in the last days when it will increase and abound. (1 Tim.4:16)

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