



## Method / Scripture

## Verse

## Identifying False Teachers

*Beware of pseudo-prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, yet inside they are rapacious wolves! By their fruits you will recognize them.*

Mat 7:15-16

1. Do they exhibit the **biblical truth**? Or do they rather teach their congregations what they **want to hear**?
2. How do they speak? The words of a teacher can ring with righteous anger but not with hate. The teacher must **judge sin but have compassion** for sinners. If there is no love in the teacher's voice, then he does not speak with the voice of THEOS.
3. Do they claim to have a **special revelation**? Do they try to appear superior to their listeners? Some claim an experience that elevates them to a 'higher level', while others profess a more advanced spirituality that no one else could ever achieve.
4. Follow the money. Are they **very rich**? No prophet in Scripture was ever rich.
5. Do they **connect or disconnect** people from the local churches?
6. Do they **unify** the church body?
7. What is their **reputation** in the local community and family?
8. Who are the **teacher's friends**? An upright teacher is rather friends with the poor and the powerless.
9. How do they **regard other leaders**?
10. What does **my pastor think** of those teachers?

## Should We Identify False Teachers?

*... there are overseers in the house of KYRIOS over any mad man who exhibits the behavior of a prophet, and you must put him into the stocks and into the neck iron [prison], and so then why have you not rebuked Jeremiah the Anathothite who exhibits the behavior of a prophet for you? Because he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, It will be a long time, build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit. [...] Thus says KYRIOS concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah prophesied to you, though I have not sent him, and he has made you trust in a lie [...] I am going to punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his offspring ...*

Jer 29:26-32

*Just as I urged you [...] so that you may instruct certain people not to teach other doctrine, and not to pay attention to myths ..., which cause useless speculations rather than THEOS' plan that is by faith. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a faith without hypocrisy, from which some have deviated, and have turned away into fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the law, although they do not understand either the things which they are saying or the things concerning which they are speaking confidently.*

1Tim 1:3-7

*... having faith and a good conscience, which some, because they have rejected these, have suffered shipwreck concerning their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, in order that they may be taught not to blaspheme.*

1Tim 1:19-20

*You know this, that all those in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.*

2Tim 1:15

*But avoid pointless chatter, for it will progress in impious deeds, and their message will spread like gangrene, among whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have deviated concerning the truth by saying the resurrection has already taken place, and they are upsetting the faith of some. However, the solid foundation of THEOS stands firm, having this seal: 'KYRIOS knows those who are His', and 'Everyone who names the name of KYRIOS must abstain from unrighteousness'.*

2Tim 2:16-19

*For Demas deserted me, because he loved the present age, and went to Thessalonica.*

2Tim 4:10

*By leaving the straight path, they have gone astray, because they followed the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, but received a rebuke for his own lawlessness: a speechless donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the prophet's madness.*

2Pet 2:15-16

*I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who wants to be first among them, does not acknowledge us. Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to the deeds he is doing, disparaging us with evil words. [...] Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.*

3Joh 1:9-11

*I know your works, and your labor and patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you found them to be false.*

Rev 2:2

## Judgment Of Pseudo-Prophets (Old Covenant)

*Therefore I will give their wives to others, their fields to conquerors, because from the smallest to the greatest, all of them make profit for unlawful gain, from prophet to priest, all of them practice deceit. And they have treated the wound of the daughter of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' but there is no peace. Were they ashamed, for they had committed a detestable thing? What's worse, they were not ashamed at all, and they did not know to feel humiliated. Therefore they will fall among those who fall; at the time of their punishment they will stumble, says KYRIOS.*

Jer 8:10-12

*... You shall not prophesy in the name of KYRIOS or you will die by our hand. Therefore thus says KYRIOS of hosts: Look, I am about to punish them. The young men will die by the sword. Their sons and their daughters will die by the famine ...*

Jer 11:21-23

*And the prophet, if he is deceived and he speaks a word, I KYRIOS, I have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him, and I will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. And they will bear their guilt, like the guilt of the inquirer so the guilt of the prophet will be, so that the house of Israel will not go astray again from me, and they will not make themselves unclean again with all of their transgressions, and they will be for me a people, and I will be for them as THEOS, declares KYRIOS.*

Eze 14:9-11

## Epilogue

*... you must not listen to the words of that prophet or to that dreamer, for KYRIOS your THEOS is testing you to know whether you love KYRIOS your THEOS with all of your heart and with all of your inner self.*

Deu 13:3

*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not speak a greeting to him, because the one who speaks a greeting to him shares in his evil deeds.*

2Joh 1:10-11

*Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods by which those who participate have not benefited.*

Heb 13:9

