



2. **The book of 2 Peter (like Paul's letter to the Galatians) is actually a LETTER, meant to be circulated to multiple early New Testament churches and believers** - Peter is a letter written in normal epistle form and style. The rhetorical and didactic nature of the letter may mean that it was intended to be read aloud to the congregations. It is best to see this letter as a circular type of letter much like Peter's first letter in its present form which was directed to all the churches in the areas mentioned in northern Asia minor in 1 Peter.
3. **The recipient of Peter's second letter were the same recipients of Peter's earlier letter (1 Peter), a group of mostly GENTILE BELIEVERS/CHRISTIANS who were now living throughout the five Roman provinces of Asia Minor** – This area would be what is today, Turkey. Peter says nothing directly in the salutation to specifically name the recipients of this letter. But according to 2 Peter 3:1-2, *“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),<sup>2</sup> that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of <sup>to</sup>us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior...”* Peter was writing another epistle to the same people to whom he wrote 1 Peter. In his first letter, he spelled out that he was writing “to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (1 Peter 1:1). These provinces were located in an area of Asia Minor, which is modern Turkey. The Christians to whom Peter wrote were mostly Gentiles.
4. **2 Peter is believed to have been written around AD 67-68, just before Peter death** – Tradition holds that both Paul and Peter were victims of persecution under Nero at Rome after the disastrous fire in the city of Rome on July 19 of AD 64. Peter's first letter (1 Peter) was written just after the burning of Rome as persecution broke out against Christians and they were literally scattered across the New Testament world, particularly into the area of Asia Minor. 2 Peter was written sometime later toward the end of Peter's life as he himself faced persecution and martyrdom at the hands of Nero. Consensus is that Peter wrote this second letter from prison in Rome, where he was facing imminent death. Nero died in AD 68, and tradition says that Peter died by crucifixion (upside down) prior to Nero's death. That would put the writing of the letter sometime in AD 67-68 just before his death.
5. **The purpose of 2 Peter was to warn these first century Christians of FALSE TEACHERS who had infiltrated church in the area of Asia Minor** - Unlike his first letter, written to encourage Christians being persecuted and scatter under Nero's brutal and tyrannical rule, 2 Peter was written to warn again and alert these vulnerable believers to the dangers of false religions and false professors that could undermine their own faith and sabotage the early church already reeling from these terrible times of persecution. Since the time of the writing and sending of his first letter, Peter had become increasingly concerned about false teachers who were infiltrating the churches in Asia Mino. Though these false teachers had already caused trouble, Peter expected that their heretical doctrines and immoral life-styles would result in more damage in the future. Thus Peter, in an almost last will and testament, wrote to warn the beloved believers in Christ about the doctrinal dangers they were facing.

Second Peter was written for the purpose of exposing, thwarting, and defeating the invasion of false teachers into the church. Peter intended to instruct Christians in how to defend themselves against these false teachers and their deceptive lies. Dr. John MacArthur calls 2 Peter, *“... the most graphic and penetrating exposé of false teachers in Scripture, comparable only to Jude.”* The description of the false teachers is somewhat generic. Peter does not identify some specific

false religion, cult, or system of teaching. If anybody in the early church knew the importance of being alert, it had to be the Apostle Peter. Remember he had a tendency in his early years to feel overconfident when danger was near and to overlook the Master's warnings.

2 Peter is particularly helpful and relevant for Christians and believers today in understanding not only how to recognize false teaching, but also in understanding why false teaching is so dangerous and how we may guard ourselves against it.

An important place to begin is to ask the reason for the relevance of a study like this on false teachers and their teaching. What is the relevance for Peter's second letter? In other words, why is it important for us. The main impetus for this letter was the growing number of false teachers in the church. Peter wanted believers to be able to discern these deceivers. Though Peter identifies no specific individual, cult, or teaching, he shows how to determine whether heresy is being taught.

2 Peter is relevant for us today as well, because some contemporary teacher and self-proclaimed experts also make remarkable claims about themselves and their teachings. This study is a textbook lesson on learning how to discern and defeat heresy, false teachers, and their teachings.

### **FOR DISCUSSION**

What are some of the more common and dangerous examples of "false teaching" – according to Scripture – that are popular where you live? What makes them so popular?

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How do you discern what is true and what is false? How do you determine what teaching you will listen to and what teaching you will reject?

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### ***How do you respond to the following statements/quotes?***

"The greatest danger to the church today is not humanism, paganism, atheism or agnosticism. The greatest danger is not increasing hostility against our faith from the culture. Our greatest danger is apostasy on the inside, arising from false teachers- theological liberals who deny and distort biblical doctrine and lead others down the same path." — Mark Hitchcock

"The cults have capitalized upon the failure of the Christian church to understand their teachings and to develop a workable methodology both to evangelize and to refute cult adherents. Within the theological structure of the cults there is considerable truth, all of which, it might be added, is drawn from Biblical sources, but so diluted with human error as to be more deadly than complete falsehood. The cults have also emphasized the things which the Church has forgotten." —Dr. Walter Martin, "The Kingdom of the Cults"

“Think fake news is scary? Try false teaching. The Christian equivalent to journalistic misinformation commits the same kinds of deception with much more at stake. Like fake news, false teaching has enjoyed a long history. The original misinformer appears in the earliest moments of human history, whispering into Eden’s atmosphere, ‘Did God really say?’ In a smooth turn of phrase, Satan does what liars do best: Muddle together a heady cocktail of fact and fiction, twisting the very words of God to prey on fear and desire. The pattern for false teaching was set.” -Jen Wilkins

**IS IT FALSE TEACHING OR BIBLICAL TRUTH?** Read each of the following statements and indicate whether it is “false teaching” or “Biblical truth” by placing a check [✓] in the box beside your chosen response.

TEACHING STATED AS BIBLICAL	FALSE TEACHING	BIBLICAL TRUTH
If you pray with enough faith, God will grant whatever you ask	[✓]	[ ]
By good works it may be <u>known</u> that one is a Christian	[ ]	[✓]
You can <u>earn</u> God’s favor through good works	[✓]	[ ]
Jesus Christ was/is <u>fully God</u> and at the same time <u>fully man</u>	[ ]	[✓]
Sickness and trials are the result of your <u>personal</u> sin	[✓]	[ ]
Baptism is an <u>essential</u> sacrament for salvation	[✓]	[ ]
God wants you to be happy, so do what makes you happy	[✓]	[ ]
If you do not have the Holy Spirit in you, you are not a Christian	[ ]	[✓]
You can’t lose your salvation, so live as you please	[✓]	[ ]
You can lose your salvation, so you better not sin	[✓]	[ ]

Those represent just a few of the fins (shark fins) circling in the present currents of Christianity. As with fake news, each appeals to fear or desire. Each distorts the truth, relying on a partial knowledge of what God really said. False teaching also enjoys unprecedented momentum and reach in this digital age. In the onslaught, Christians must train themselves to discern the credibility of the teacher, the scriptural accuracy of the message, and the dangers of credulity (gullibility naivety).

## WHY STUDY FALSE TEACHERS AND THEIR TEACHING?

### A. Group Work – Why study the false prophets, false religions, false teachings?

Using the Bible passage provided come up with your own answers and conclusions as a group why it is important to study these false groups?

1. **READ– 1 John 4:1-6: Why study false religions, false prophets, and false teachings?**
  - a. Because we are commanded to in Scripture - we are commanded to test the spirits to see if they are from Christ.
  - b. Because we are warned of them in Scripture - there are many false prophets in the world.
  - c. Because the anti-Christ will be like them.
2. **READ– 2 John 7-11: Why study false religions, false prophets, and false teachings?**
  - a. Because they are deceivers and we need to be able to recognize them

- b. Because of their subtle influence on the weak and innocent -we are not to welcome them.
3. **READ– Matthew 7:15-20: Why study false religions, false prophets, and false teachings?**
- a. Because we are commanded in Scripture to watch out for them.
- b. Because we are to examine their fruit and recognize them by their fruit.
4. **READ– Matthew 24:11 & Mark 13:22: Why study false religions, false prophets, and false teachings?**
- a. In order to keep from being deceived.
- b. Because they are a sign of the end times.

**B. Your Response - How do you respond to the following quote concerning cults?**

“A false teaching and/or teacher is a perversion, a distortion of biblical Christianity and/or a rejection of the historic teachings of the Christian church. Frequently we are challenged by people of other religious beliefs when we affirm the uniqueness and finality of the Christian faith. They argue that Christianity is compatible with other religions and cults and that we should not stress the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as being the only way a person can know the true and living God.” -Josh McDowell, “Handbook of Today’s Religions”

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**C. Reasons Why We Study The Cults**

**3 Reason Why We Study False Religions, Prophets and Teachings:**

1. **To protect our selves (2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15)**
2. **To protect others (2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15)**
3. **To protect the truth** – God’s truth will stand and there is a sense in which God’s truth needs no protection, but we are to preserve and protect the truth from being watered down and misapplied apart from God’s revealed Word so that others many come to know the truth of the gospel and be saved.

*“A key to how well you understand other religious faiths and cults  
is how well you understand you own.”*

*–Fritz Ridenour, “So What’s The Difference”*

**Observation:** A preliminary requirement to studying and understanding false teaching and false religious groups is knowing what you believe. You must know what you believe before you can recognize what is false.

**3 Reasons Why False Religious Groups, False Teachers and False Teaching Prosper:**

*Josh McDowell, “Handbook of Today’s Religions”*

1. **False religious group, teachings and teachers PROVIDE ANSWERS** – A major reason these false groups are flourishing is that in an unsure world they provide what appears to be authoritative answer to man’s basic questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

*“One of the greatest distinguishing marks of false prophet is that he will always tell you what you want to hear, he will never rain on your parade; he will get you clapping, he will get you jumping, he will make you dizzy, he will keep you entertained, and he will present a Christianity to you that will make your church look like a six flags over Jesus.”*  
 –Paul Washer

What do you think about that statement? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. **False religious group, teachings and teachers MEET HUMAN NEEDS** – False teachers and false religions and cults often flourish because they appeal to man’s basic human need. All of us need to be loved, to feel needed, to sense our lives have direction and meaning. Individuals who experience an identity crisis or have emotional problems are particularly susceptible to cults.

*“Scratching people where they itch and addressing their 'felt needs' is a stratagem of the poor steward of the oracles of God. This was the recipe for success for the false prophets of the Old Testament.”* –R.C. Sproul

What do you think about that statement? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. **False religious group, teachings and teachers MAKE a FAVORABLE IMPRESSION** – If the church fails to carefully and seriously provide spiritual warmth and true exposition of the Word of God, those with spiritual needs will find other avenues of fulfillment. Many false religious groups and cults prey on ignorance, and try to impress the uninformed with pseudo-scholarship. An example is The Way International’s leader, Victor Paul Wierwille, who quotes profusely from Hebrew and Greek sources in an attempt to give the impression of scholarship. Representatives of Jehovah’s Witnesses who go door to door give a similar impression of great learning. To combat this, the believer must know what he or she believes and why he or she believes it and thus be able to expose the cult’s teachings.

### **BEWARE FALSE TEACHERS (2 Peter 2:1-2)**

*“<sup>1</sup>But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup>And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup>By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction <sup>[a]</sup>does not slumber.”* -2 Peter 2:1-3(NKJV)

When you think of cruelty, you probably think of terrorists blowing up innocent people or of evil parents abusing a little child. But you probably wouldn’t think of heresy or false teachers and their teachings. Some years ago I read a book with the intriguing title, *The Cruelty of Heresy* [Morehouse Publishing, 1994], by FitzSimons Allison. While in my estimation, he focuses too

much on the temporal rather than the eternal consequences of heresy, his title is still provocative: heresy *is* cruel. It destroys lives for time and eternity.

In the same vein, John MacArthur (*The MacArthur Study Bible*, New American Standard Updated Edition [Nelson Bibles], pp. 1924, 1925) writes, “Nothing is more wicked than for someone to claim to speak for God to the salvation of souls when in reality he speaks for Satan to the damnation of souls.” Those who promote heresy and false teaching and false religions are the ultimate terrorists in that they deceive people to follow a path that leads to the eternal terrors of hell.

At the end of chapter 1, Peter lays out the foundation for our faith, which is the inspired Word of God. He knows that he is about to pass off the scene and he wants his readers to stand firmly on the truth of God’s Word. But he also knows that false prophets are a perpetual threat to God’s people. So in contrast to the godly prophets who spoke for God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, he begins chapter 2 by contrasting them with the false prophets who have plagued God’s people down through the ages.

It’s interesting that in 2 Peter 2 there are no direct exhortations or commands. Rather, Peter just describes the false teachers and their evil ways at length. It’s as if he is holding up a Most Wanted Poster with some hideous, evil-looking characters, saying, “This is what these guys look like, so watch out for them!” So chapter 2 serves as a warning. In our text, Peter is saying,

***Beware of false teachers because they leave a trail of spiritual devastation in their wake!***

Peter gives us seven reasons to beware of false teachers:

### **7 Biblical Reasons to Beware of False Teachers and their False Teachings:**

- 1. Beware of false teachers because they are a perpetual threat to God’s people** – Notice verse 1, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” The first phrase refers back to the history of God’s people in the Old Testament.

#### **2 Old Testament Examples of:**

- (1) Genesis 3:1-7** - Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He deceived Eve in the garden and he has used false teachers to deceive the unsuspecting ever since.
- (2) Deuteronomy 13:6-10** - In Deuteronomy 13, Moses warned Israel about false prophets who would deceive by performing signs and wonders to get people to go after false gods. He sees this as so severe a threat that he says that even if it is your brother, your child, or even the wife you cherish, you must not follow him or her after these false gods. Rather, you must not have pity on him, but must expose him so that he can be put to death (Deut. 13:6-10). That seems extreme to us, because our age is so tolerant of false doctrine. We shrug it off as not being a big deal. But Moses knew that false teachers would infect many, causing irreparable damage to God’s people. What does this tell us about how God feels about false teaching, false teachers, false religions, false prophets... even cults? Why do you think God feels this way?

It’s significant that Peter says that these false teachers will be “among you.” Paul warned the Ephesian elders of the same thing (Acts 20:29-30), “<sup>29</sup>For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Also from among

*yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*” He goes on to warn them to be on the alert.

False teachers arise from within the church and often do a lot of damage before they are confronted. If they leave, they invariably take a lot of people with them who are angry at the church for being so unloving and judgmental. It is true that Christians have wrongly divided over minor doctrinal disputes, personality conflicts, and other petty issues. Such divisions are sin. But it is also a sin to minimize doctrine to the point where in the name of love and unity, we tolerate false teachers who deny the fundamental doctrines of the faith. These foundational truths include:

- **The Trinity** - the triune nature of God
- **The Dual Nature of Christ** - the full deity and humanity of Jesus Christ
- **The Virgin Birth** –
- **The Sinless Nature of Christ** -
- **Substitutionary Atonement of Christ** - on the cross
- **The Bodily Resurrection of Christ** -
- **The Ascension** -
- **The Bodily Personal Return of Christ** -

Also, we cannot waver on the essentials of the gospel:

- **We are saved by grace alone**
- **We are saved through faith alone**
- **We are saved by Jesus Christ alone**

Underlying all of these truths is the divine inspiration, authority and complete infallibility of the Bible.

**J. C. Ryle**, the godly 19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican bishop, wrote (*Warnings to the Churches* [Banner of Truth], pp. 110-111), “Controversy in religion is a hateful thing. It is hard enough to fight the devil, the world and the flesh, without private differences in our own camp. But there is one thing which is worse than controversy—and that is false doctrine tolerated, allowed, and permitted without protest... Three things there are which men never ought to trifle with—a little poison, a little false doctrine, and a little sin.”

So just because someone claims to be an evangelical pastor or evangelist does not mean that he is sound in the faith. False teachers have always arisen from within the church. Beware!

2. **Beware of false teachers because their methods are subtle and deceptive** - Peter says in verse 1, “*But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*” Did you see it? These false teachers “*will secretly introduce destructive heresies.*” They will use (v. 3) “*deceptive/false words.*” We get our word “plastic” from the Greek word for “*deceptive/false.*” It meant, “made up,” or “fabricated.” The false teachers were accusing Peter and the apostles of

following “cleverly devised tales” (1:16), but Peter counters by saying that they are making up their own stories and doctrines.

In contrast to the inspired prophets and apostles, who wrote down God’s revealed truth in His Word, these false teachers were tools of Satan to promote deception. The Greek word translated “*secretly bring/introduce*” means to bring in from outside. They add worldly concepts to the Bible and give them the same authority as Scripture.

One example of this from recent years is the concept of “self-esteem,” or “loving yourself.” That idea did not come into the church from the Bible. You will search in vain for any verse that encourages you to build your self-esteem or to love yourself more than you do. Sometimes advocates of this teaching will use as a proof text, “love your neighbor as yourself.” They argue that you must love yourself before you can properly love your neighbor and even before you can love God. But a glance at the context (Matt. 22:37-40) will show that there are *two* great commandments, not three, namely, to love God and to love our neighbor. Love for self is assumed as the minimal standard. If we would just love our neighbor as much as we do in fact love ourselves, we would fulfill the command. False teachers often use Scripture, but they twist it by bringing in teaching from outside to pervert the true meaning of Scripture. Often, they are not up-front about their agenda. They cleverly work in a little error here and another error there, until they have taken people into a complete denial of the gospel. Paul warned that just as Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, even so his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:13-15). But they use subtlety and deception to gain followers.

3. **Beware of false teachers because their doctrine is destructive** - In verse 1 Peter calls their teaching, “*destructive heresies.*” The word *heresy* originally was a neutral term that referred to a school of thought or a teaching. It can also refer to factions or divisions within the church (Gal. 5:20; 1 Cor. 11:18; Titus 3:10). But by adding the word “destructive,” Peter shows that he is talking about seriously wrong doctrine that destroys lives and churches and, if unchecked, leads to eternal judgment. Peter takes us to the root of their destructive heresy when he adds (2:1), “*even denying the Lord who bought them.*” *Lord* is a strong word for Sovereign or Owner. We get our word “despot” from it, but in New Testament times it did not have the negative connotation that “despot” has in our language. It was used for the earthly master of slaves or to emphasize God’s absolute lordship. Here (and in Jude 4) it refers to Jesus Christ. These false teachers were denying, both by their teaching and lifestyle, the lordship of Jesus Christ as the rightful owner of His people.

If someone claims that you can believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and yet not submit to Him as Lord, it is destructive doctrine. It deceives people into thinking that they are saved because they “accepted Christ.” But Jesus said that He will say to such people, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matt. 7:23). They will be damned because their lives denied “the Lord who bought them.” Why would Peter call this a “destructive heresy”?

4. **Beware of false teachers because their influence is alluring** – Notice Peter’s words in verse 2, “*And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth*

*will be blasphemed.*” “Many will follow their destructive ways...” (2:2). They had a large following. They were “successful!” It’s amazing how the Christian world thinks that if a man has a huge following, he must be sound in the faith. If he builds a megachurch, the Christian world looks to him as a leader, without questioning what he teaches. These false teachers invariably cater to the flesh. They do not preach against sin. They do not mention divine judgment or hell. They avoid truths like denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Christ no matter what the cost. Rather, they soothe people with uplifting thoughts about how much God loves you and wants you to have your best life now. If they ever mention the death of Christ, they say that He did it because He believed in your great worth. Now you need to believe in yourself and ask God to help you fulfill your dreams. People follow that kind of false teaching by the droves, because it feeds their pride.

Remember Paul Washers words earlier... let’s listen to it again, *“One of the greatest distinguishing marks of false prophet is that he will always tell you what you want to hear, he will never rain on your parade; he will get you clapping, he will get you jumping, he will make you dizzy, he will keep you entertained, and he will present a Christianity to you that will make your church look like a six flags over Jesus.”* –Paul Washer

- 5. Beware of false teachers because their motives are impure** - Peter shows that these men are driven by two related evil motives: sensuality and greed. At the root of both of these is their own self-centeredness and pride. They want to exploit their followers to gratify themselves. There is always a connection between false doctrine and impure living.

Sometimes it’s difficult to figure out which came first, but invariably, they are intertwined. False doctrine leads to ungodly living, but the reverse is also true. If a man gets involved in sexual sin, the Bible convicts him. So he has to change the teaching somehow to dodge his guilty conscience.

*“Wrong behavior leads to wrong doctrine and wrong doctrine leads to wrong behavior.”* What do you think about that statement/quote? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? Can you cite an example of how?

- 6. Beware of false teachers because their teaching and lifestyles result in dishonor to the way of the truth** - Notice verse 2 again, *“<sup>2</sup> And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.”* Peter says (2:2), “because of them the way of the truth will be blasphemed.” The Christian faith is the way of the truth because Jesus Himself is *“the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6). But when professing Christians, and especially professing Christian leaders, do not live according to the truth of God’s Word, unbelievers mock and disregard the truth.

The TV preachers who live lavishly while milking their audiences for more money and the well-known pastors who get exposed in sex scandals cause the world to scoff at the faith. Steer clear of them all!

- 7. Beware of false teachers because they and all that follow them are heading toward eternal destruction** - Peter uses the word *“destruction”* 5 of the 18 times that it appears in

the New Testament. He speaks of (v. 1) “*destructive heresies*” and the “*swift destruction,*” which the false teachers will bring on themselves. He adds (v. 3), “*...their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*”

He also uses the word in chapter 3:7 in reference to “*the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly men*” and again in 3:17, where he says that the false teachers twist the Scriptures “*to their own destruction.*” And, he uses the verb in 3:6 to describe how God destroyed the world through the flood. Contrary to what some teach, the destruction of the wicked does not refer to their annihilation. Rather, it refers to their eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 17:8, 11; 20:14, 15; 21:8). The fact that these wicked men’s judgment is from long ago means that God declared judgment on false teachers in the Old Testament, centuries before. The phrase, “their destruction is not asleep” personifies destruction as an executioner, always ready to administer God’s sentence on those who teach and follow false doctrine. Again, Peter is not talking about minor doctrinal differences, but rather about false teachings that lead people to damnation. He does not seem to hold out any hope that these false teachers could be reclaimed for the truth. But he wrote to warn us, so that we would not be taken in by their destructive doctrines.

## CONCLUSION

False teachers abound today. Years ago, I received an advertisement in the mail trying to entice me to buy a book, *The Good Lord*, in which the author, who went by the name of Paul Moses, claimed to have discovered the greatest thing since the church began. It was purportedly based solidly on the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The author claimed to have discovered that God is always good and thus he would never threaten anyone with everlasting torment in hell. He would never send plagues or catastrophes to wipe out thousands of people. He wants everyone to be rich and no one to be sick or hungry. He has a bright future for everyone in the world. All you had to do was buy his book to find out how you can change your view of God and get all the blessings!

I’ve never heard of that man since, but there are plenty just like him, promoting similar damnable errors, not just in the U.S. but also all around the globe. But their teachings are cruel because they lead people who follow them to eternal destruction. False teaching is not neutral. It is not just a minor deviation. It is evil to the core. Beware of false teachers!

## Application Questions

1. How can we determine which doctrines are serious enough to qualify as “damnable”? What criteria apply?
2. How far should we go in preserving unity in the church? When is it necessary and right to divide?
3. So-called “non-lordship” salvation proponents argue that to require submission to Christ as Lord is to add works to faith as the basis for salvation. Why is their thinking seriously flawed?
4. Discuss: Everyone “limits” the atonement in some way. Either you limit its effectiveness by basing it on human will, or you limit its extent by applying it to the elect.