

Discerning False Teaching

By Dave DeWitt

Thesis: “Christian” false teaching is making a public declaration which adds to or takes away from the 66 books of the Bible (Revelation 22:18-19). Such teaching must be identified, refuted, and invalidated.

After listing the 27 books of the New Testament, Athanasius said: “In them alone is the doctrine of piety proclaimed. Let no one add anything to them or take anything away from them” (Athanasius’ 39th Festal Letter, A.D. 367). There were only 27 Christian books written in the first century, i.e. ending with the book of Revelation. Contrary to liberal teaching, the canon of Scripture did not leave out some first-century gospels they didn’t like. We have been discovering Christian documents for over 2000 years now (we have 5,900 in Greek alone). Search the world over and you will not find any first-century Christian writing, other than the 27 books we call the New Testament. These 27 books also proclaim the inspiration of the 39 books of the Old Testament. We call these 66 books the Bible. False teaching (in various ways) either adds to those 66 books, or takes away from them. The Apostle John warned, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world* (1 John 4:1-2). My thesis is that the way to *test the spirits* is to determine if they adding to, or taking away from, the Bible.

Definitions

- **False teaching in general** = teaching things that are contrary to the way things actually are.
- **False teaching in Christianity** = teaching from within “Christianity,” which *adds to* or *takes away from* the Bible (Revelation 22:18-19).
- **False prophecy** = a false claim to have received some message from God which is then proclaimed to others. When that proclamation is made, and it usually is if we know about it, then false prophecy is a subcategory of false teaching. False prophecy will be included as part of false teaching in this material.
- **Faulty teaching** = teaching that is biblically incorrect, inaccurate, mistaken or erroneous, which does not restrict interpretation to the author’s intended meaning. Covenant theology would be an example of this because it does not take prophecy literally, i.e., as the authors intended. Faulty teaching is not false teaching and will not be a consideration in this material, since it does not leave out or add to the Bible.
- **Flawed teaching** = a teaching which does not teach the author’s intended meaning correctly. Because it is trying to uphold a particular position, it ignores (or is ignorant of) relevant information, such as the context, the author’s purpose, the way certain words are translated, etc. Examples would include “Lordship salvation” and “New Calvinism.” Flawed teaching is not false teaching and will not be a consideration in this material because it does not leave out or add to the Bible.
- **Cult teaching** = teaching from established cults which focuses on an alternative scripture or spiritual source. Examples would include Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Christian Science. Cult teaching is indeed false teaching but will not be considered in this material because most Christians do not consider established cults as part of Christianity.
- **Denominational teaching** = teaching from Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy and the main-line Protestant denominations (such as Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Lutherans). The main Christian denominations will not be evaluated in this material because their teaching varies greatly from church to church and within the clergy. Such a considerations are beyond the scope of this material.

- **Definition conclusion:** False teaching includes false prophecy but does not include faulty teaching, flawed teaching, or cult teaching, as defined here. The essence of “Christian” false teaching is that it adds to or takes away from Scripture (Revelation 22:18-19). It adds some other source of revelation, or it denies, or ignores, major biblical passages. The Apostle John wrote, *We [the apostles] are from God; he who knows God listens to us [apostles]; he who is not from God does not listen to us [apostles]. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error* (1 John 4:6).

Seven General Considerations about False Teaching

1. We are discussing false teaching. But the authors of the Bible never separate false teaching from the false teacher (1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:17; 4:14). False teaching does not teach itself. Somebody has to teach it. The apostles and prophets never separated the sin from the sinner. We are never told to hate the false teaching but to love the false teacher. So, of necessity, we have to deal with false teachers.
2. The apostles did not separate a person’s motives from their teaching. We, however, cannot discern motives. Therefore, our discussion will focus on the false teaching of a false teacher, not their motives.
3. Satan was the first false teacher. Since *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving* (2 Corinthians 4:4), we can assume Satan is involved and determined to destroy the influence of the Bible. But the focus of the prophets and apostles is on human deceivers.
4. Discerning, identifying and dealing with false teaching is one of the main subjects of Scripture. The word *false* occurs 72 times (NASB – *false word, false witness, false vision, false dreams, false prophets, false teachers, etc.*). Every book of the New Testament, except Philemon, has warnings against false teachers.
5. It is absolutely essential to confront false teaching. Paul told Titus they *must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach...* (Titus 1:11).
6. Crucial to discerning false teaching is knowledge of the truth of the written Word of God as recorded in the Bible. But we must also know how to use the truth to combat what is false. We must be able to both *exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict* (Titus 1:9). We cannot simply say what is true, we must also confront what is not true.
7. Heresy can come from anywhere. But false teaching comes from within “Christianity.” That’s why we will not here consider established cults to be false teachers. Paul said, *from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them* (Acts 20:30). Peter said, *there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them* (2 Peter 2:1).

Nine Warnings about False Teachers

1. Mysticism – Ezekiel 13:1-7; Jeremiah 23:16; 2 Peter 1:21

Ezekiel said, some false teachers claim to have experienced a message from God, when they actually *are following their own spirit and have seen nothing* (Ezekiel 13:3). This is the most common false teaching described in the Bible. Through Ezekiel, God said that they claim, *The LORD declares, but it is not I who have spoken* (Ezekiel. 13:7). These false teachers may be lying, but in most cases they are *following their own spirit*. They actually imagine they have mystically received a message from God. Jeremiah said, *They speak a vision of their own imagination* (Jeremiah 23:16). Peter tells us that *no [true]*

prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men [like Moses, David, the prophets, and the apostles] moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (2 Peter 1:21).

Mysticism Today

Here is an extended definition of mysticism from gotquestions.org.

[Mysticism] is often thought of as the practice of the experiential knowledge of God... The Charismatic movement, with its emphasis on dreams and visions, feelings and experiences, and new revelation, is one form of Christian mysticism. Because we have God's completed Word, we are not to seek after dreams and visions or extra revelation from God. While it is possible for God to reveal Himself in dreams and visions today, we should beware the subjective nature of feelings and spiritual impressions [<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-mysticism.html>].

Mysticism is also seen in pastors who claim a mystical connection to God. For example, some pastors say God called them to a particular local church, gave them a message for their congregation, told them what building projects the church should undertake, and other specifics about their lives. For example, Jim Samra, pastor of Calvary Undenominational Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has a book entitled, "God Told Me" with the subtitle "Who to Marry, Where to Work, Which Car to Buy, and I'm Pretty Sure I'm Not Crazy" (bakerpublishinggroup.com).

His mental health is not my concern (I assume he is not hearing voices), but this teaching is of great concern. This is exactly what the biblical prophets and apostles called false prophecy and false teaching (Ezekiel 13:6). Of course, we get the general revelation of God through nature (Romans 1) and our conscience (Romans 2). But God never ever gave special revelation to anyone in the Bible through feelings, circumstances, or coincidences. His revelation to His patriarchs, prophets, and apostles was in real words and real sentences to be understood logically.

2. Signs and Wonders – Matthew 7:22-23; 24:24

Jesus said that there will be some false teachers who actually do *great signs and wonders so as to mislead* believers. These will claim that in Jesus' name they can: (1) receive and proclaim prophecies, (2) do miraculous healings, or (3) perform miracles.

Signs and Wonders Today

Here is Benny Hinn:

We are about to see the greatest manifestations of God's presence ever! A prophetess named Ruth Heflin sent me a word recently and told me to get ready, to see, physical *manifestations* of Christ on the platforms in our crusades, that people will have visions of the Lord in the meetings. Those things have happened in the past, I know. In a Thailagua meeting one time in Africa, the Lord appeared to a—to the whole crowd! It is about to begin happening, I know it too! Expect it to happen also, in your own home! (May 2, 2000).

Keith and Janet Miller of the "Stand Firm World Ministry," while advertising a conference for August 15-18, 2018, wrote this:

Are you hungry to see the power and presence of the Holy Spirit working in your life? You can live daily in that place of the demonstration of the Spirit and power! We serve a supernatural God who performs supernatural acts. Every believer should expect demonstrations of the Spirit and power, signs, wonders, and miracles every moment, of every day.

<https://sfwm.org/details/453-texas-ablaze-signs-wonders-miracles-conference>

These false teachers are claiming miraculous interventions of God in their meetings. We are reminded that Jesus said, "*For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect*" (Matthew 24:24).

3. Prosperity Gospel – 1 Timothy 6:9-11

Paul warned, *but those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God.*

Prosperity Gospel Today

Joel Osteen writes:

To experience [God's] immeasurable favor, you must rid yourself of that small-minded thinking and start expecting God's blessings, start anticipating promotion and supernatural increase. You must conceive it in your heart before you can receive it. In other words, you must make increase in your own thinking, then God will bring those things to pass" (from *Your Best Life Now*, chapter 1).

The reason for the effectiveness of the Prosperity Gospel false teaching is that many people believe this false idea. A 2006 "Times" poll [content.time.com] found:

- 17 percent of American Christians identify explicitly with the Prosperity Gospel.
- 31 percent espouse the idea that "if you give your money to God, God will bless you with more money."
- 61 percent agree with the more general idea that "God wants people to be prosperous."

The four richest pastors in America are: #1 Kenneth Copeland – Net Worth \$760 Million, #2 Pat Robertson – Net Worth \$100 Million, #3 Benny Hinn– Net Worth \$42 Million, #4 Joel Osteen – Net Worth \$40 Million, [https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/8-richest-pastors-in-america.aspx?p=10]. This is probably not what Paul, quoting Moses, had in mind, when he said, *You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing, and the laborer is worthy of his wages* (Deuteronomy 25:4; 1 Timothy 5:18).

4. False Apostles – 2 Corinthians 11:13-14; 3 John 9; Revelation 2:2

Paul warned the Corinthians that some false teachers *are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ*. The Apostle John pointed out that *Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we [apostles] say*. Jesus commended the church at Ephesus, when He said, *you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false* (Revelation 2:2).

False Apostles Today

Three prominent examples of this today are: the New Apostolic Reformation, the Latter Rain Movement, and the International House of Prayer. The website bereanresearch.org describes the claims of NAR, the New Apostolic Reformation:

We're in a "Second Apostolic Age." There are new Apostles on the earth today, anointed by the laying of hands to represent and speak for God here on Earth. These "Super Apostles" are equal to the original Apostles – the ones who witnessed Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and were appointed by Christ Himself to the office. Since these new apostles are commissioned by God, their authority may not be questioned.

The website gotquestions.org reports the following about LRM, the Latter Rain Movement:

The Latter Rain Movement is an influence within Pentecostalism which teaches that the Lord is pouring out His Spirit again, as He did at Pentecost, and using believers to prepare the world for His Second Coming... [The LRM says we are] on the verge of a new era, one in which the Holy

Spirit would demonstrate His power in a greater way than the world had ever seen. Not even the age of the apostles, they said, had witnessed such a movement of the Holy Spirit.

Bill Randel [“Weighed And Found Wanting” Cambridge UK, 1996] reported this about IHOP, the International House of Prayer:

The origin of the International House of Prayer started in 1982 after a man named Augustine approached Mike Bickle and said an audible voice told him to prophesy to his congregation. Later that year, Mike Bickle claimed to hear an audible voice speaking to him while on a trip in Cairo, Egypt. The voice told him, “I am inviting you to raise up a work that will touch the ends of the earth. I have invited many people to do this thing and many people have said yes, but very few have done my will.” [apologeticsindex.org/docs/WeighedAndFoundWanting.pdf]

This is one of the most blasphemous forms of false teaching. True teaching comes from the apostles who God sent out with His new revelation. Adding to that blatantly defies the message of the New Testament apostles.

5. New Orthodoxy – Matthew 23:13; Acts 20:27-30; Jude 3-4

Jesus warned His disciples that some false teachers pervert the plan of salvation. He told the scribes and Pharisees, *you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.* Paul told the Ephesian elders, *from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.* These false teachers will not be *declaring to you the whole purpose of God.* Jude said some false teachers *deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

New Orthodoxy Today

Brian McLaren is an example of this kind of false teaching. In his 2001 book, “A New Kind of Christian,” he tells the story of Dan Poole, a pastor who meets a high school science teacher, and together they discuss a long list of core Christian doctrines. According to the publisher, “This stirring fable captures a new spirit of Christianity—where...faith is more about a way of life than a system of belief.” Brian McLaren does not see the Bible as an authoritative Word of God. For example, in his interpretation of the account of Noah, McLaren says, “A god who mandates an intentional supernatural disaster leading to unparalleled genocide is hardly worthy of belief, much less worship.”

McLaren also writes,

A lot of arguments happen among religious and non-religious people about the question of who’s going to hell and who’s going to heaven and uh, a lot of times Christians get into this argument by saying, ‘we have the only way to heaven.’ And uh, people often ask me what do I think is the way to heaven. I have a problem when they ask me this question because it assumes that the primary purpose of Jesus’ coming and the primary message of Jesus was a message about how to get to heaven” –Brian McLaren.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OH1yOmij7Q4&feature=related>, accessed on January 18, 2008)

Regularly, we get false teachers who get the idea that we should keep Christianity but deny the Bible. McLaren’s teaching is basically just a return to many of the ideas expressed in old 1800s liberalism.

6. Progressive Christianity – 2 Timothy 4:2-4

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

Progressive Christianity Today

Rob Bell tickles the ears of the liberal progressive culture, while denying *sound doctrine*. For example, he denied the necessity of believing the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, which includes denying the accuracy of the Bible. Rob Bell wrote,

What if tomorrow someone digs up definitive proof that Jesus had a real, earthly, biological father named Larry, and archeologists find Larry's tomb and do DNA samples and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was just a bit of mythologizing the Gospel writers threw in to appeal to the followers of the Mithra and Dionysian religious cults that were hugely popular at the time of Jesus, whose gods had virgin births? ...Could you still be a Christian? Is the way of Jesus still the best possible way to live? [Rob Bell (*Velvet Elvis*, pp. 26-27)].

Rob Bell wants to put the Bible on the shelf, in a museum, as an artifact of the past, one that we honor as good at one time, but out-of-date for today. He said the Bible is like his Oldsmobile, it was good then, but they don't make them anymore, today. This is just another way to divorce Christianity from the Bible.

7. Sabbath-Keeping Revelations – John 5:8; Colossians 2:16; Romans 14:5; Acts 15:28

Jesus repeatedly healed on the Sabbath and even told the man healed at the pool of Bethesda to carry his bed pallet on the Sabbath. Paul said, *Do not let anyone act as your judge in regard to keeping a Sabbath day*, leaving it up to the individual believer. At the Jerusalem Council, the elders and the apostles gave four directives for Gentile Christians (keep from things sacrificed to idols, fornication, blood, and things strangled). They made no mention of Sabbath-keeping, but rather they determined to *lay on you no greater burden than these essentials*. Apparently, Sabbath-keeping was not an essential.

Sabbath-Keeping Revelations Today

Seventh Day Adventism mandates Sabbath-keeping for Christians. The Seventh Day Adventist Church was founded at Battle Creek, Michigan in 1863 by Ellen Gould White (1827-1915), together with her husband James White, Hiram Edson, J. N. Andrews, and Joseph Bates. Ellen White claimed to receive over 2,000 **visions** and dreams from God throughout her life, which included a mandate for Sabbath-keeping.

The Seventh Day Adventists believe the Sabbath should be observed from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. They say about “the Ten Commandments: THEY WERE NOT SHADOWY TYPES TO PASS AWAY WITH THE DEATH OF CHRIST” [April 15, 1875. SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 1, p. 1104, emphasis theirs]. Ellen White believed the rest of the Mosaic Law was for “illustrating and applying the laws of the Ten Commandments...unlike the Ten Commandments, they were delivered privately to Moses” [“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 310]. They believe only the Ten Commandments are eternal, since they come from the hand of God.

It's good to keep a rest day because of creation, but keeping the Old Testament Sabbath is filled with problems. One should never travel more than 1 kilometer (a half-mile), preventing most from going to church. One should never turn on anything electrical. One should not do the work it takes to get to church or prepare for a church service. Actually, the Sabbath-keeping of the Ten Commandments has nothing to do with meetings. But what makes the teaching of the Seventh Day Adventists false is that it comes from the visions of Mrs. White.

8. Hebrew Roots Ministries – Galatians 3:1-2, 24-25; Romans 10:4

Paul battled Judaizers all through his ministry. After his first missionary journey to the Galatians, these Judaizers moved in and told them they needed to keep the Hebrew laws. Paul wrote, *You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?*

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Paul also told the Romans, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Hebrew Roots Ministries Today

There are two forms of this HRM false teaching today:

— One form says we need to know the Hebrew language and ancient Hebrew culture in order to understand the Bible. On followtherabbi.com, Ray VanderLaan states:

“Most Christians in our culture are Western (Greek) thinkers, who think about the world in a different way than Easterners. As a result, many of the text’s rich images puzzle or escape us. If we learn to “think Hebrew,” the pages of God’s Word will come alive in a whole new way.”
[<http://www.followtherabbi.com/Brix?pageID=1854>]

— A second form of HRM false teaching believes Christianity should be theologically conformed to Judaism. Here is a clarification by the “Jews For Jesus” that separates them from this HRM false teaching:

The Hebraic Roots or Jewish Roots movement refers to...avoiding the “paganism” of Christianity, affirming the existence of original Hebrew language gospels and, in some cases, denigrating the Greek text of the New Testament.

Pastor Ken Garrison, Director of the Tsemach Institute for Biblical Studies, wrote a book titled *Hebraic Roots*, which states that the Church, in straying from its Hebraic heritage, has fallen into error. Further, he claims that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity must be rejected as unscriptural.

If you enter messianic chatrooms, you may well encounter people who describe the Trinity as a Gentile invention of the Nicene Council.

[<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/havurah/havurah-v04-n01/the-jewish-roots-movement-pros-and-cons>].

To place interpretive significance on extra-biblical knowledge of the culture or language, as Ray VanderLaan does, imposes uninspired information and guess work on the inspired text of Scripture. It’s as if the Holy Spirit left out some information we need to get from “scholars” like VanderLaan. This clearly denies the sufficiency of the Bible. More extreme forms of HRM even separate Christianity from basic biblical concepts such as the Trinity. The HRMs add to or take away from the Bible, hence qualifying as false teaching.

9. Theistic Evolution – Genesis 1:24, 27; 2:2, 7; Exodus 20:11; Psalm 33:6; Isaiah 42:5; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6; Romans 5:12-18; 8:20; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 11:3

According to my count, the word for *creation* occurs 73 times in the Bible (*created* - 50x, *creation* - 14x, *creates* - 1x, *create* - 6x, *creating* 2x). And that’s not counting *creation* described with other words (like, *God made* - 16x). Consider:

- Genesis 1:24, *Let the earth bring forth living creatures **after their kind**: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth **after their kind**”; and it was so.*
- Genesis 2:2, *By the seventh day God **completed** His work which He had done.*
- Genesis 2:7, *Then the LORD God **formed man of dust** from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*
- Exodus 20:11, *For **in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them**, and rested on the seventh day.*
- Psalm 33:6, ***By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.***

- Matthew 19:4, *And He answered and said, “Have you not read that **He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE...**”*
- Romans 5:12, *Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin...***
- 1 Timothy 2:13, *For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.*
- Hebrews 11:3, *the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that **what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.***

Theistic Evolution Today

The following are unedited statements from **biologos.org**.

- “First, Christians should study evolution because, like all the natural sciences, it is the study of God’s creation.”
- “One recent survey showed that a key factor in the evangelical church’s loss of credibility among young people is its assertion of anti-evolutionary creation models that contradict virtually all of the evidence we find in nature.”
- “We at BioLogos maintain that the scientific evidence from many branches of modern science would make little sense apart from common ancestry and evolution. We also believe that the cultural and theological contexts in which Scripture was written are key for determining the best interpretation of the creation accounts.”
- “BioLogos in One Sentence” *January 29, 2014 | By Deborah Haarsma* . Deborah Haarsma serves as the President of BioLogos, a position she has held since January 2013. Previously, she served as professor and chair in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Mission Statement: “BioLogos presents evolution as God’s means of creation, so that the Church may celebrate and the world may see the harmony between science and biblical faith.”

Theistic Evolution is false teaching by definition because it adds evolution to the Bible. As in the case of BioLogos, it adds Bio to Logos. Evolution directly contradicts the Bible. For example if evolution is what God used for creation, then animals do not reproduce *after their kind*, God’s creating work was not *complete*, He did not *form man from dust*, there is no basis for the Sabbath commandment because God did not make *the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them in six days*, God did not create *them from the beginning* as *MALE AND FEMALE*, sin evolved as part of God’s work, therefore, it is not true that *through one man sin entered into the world*, and it is not true that *what is seen was not made out of things which are visible*.

Why believe in a six-day creation? Oh, I don’t know—how about because: Moses did, and David did, and the prophets did, and Jesus did, and the apostles did? How about because not one single author of the Bible assumed anything other than God speaking creation into existence in six, 24-hour days?

Why teach “Theistic Evolution” in our churches? Why not? We also have Theistic abortion, Theistic homosexuality, Theistic divorce, Theistic remarriage, Theistic infanticide, Theistic humanism, Theistic yoga, and Theistic feminism—in our churches. BioLogos revealed their hand when they said, “a key factor in the evangelical church’s loss of credibility among young people is its assertion of anti-evolutionary creation models.” That’s the same argument I hear for making our churches as gay-friendly as the Bible allows. It’s all about keeping worldly people, especially young people who have been brainwashed by the evolutionists, in our churches. The apostles did not do evangelism, or minister to believers, by adding the world’s doctrines or trying to mesh them with the gospel. But that is exactly what the early cults did. They added views like Greek and Roman mythology, Gnosticism, Epicureanism, Hedonism, and Stoicism, and created the first “Christian” false teaching.

Evolution is religion, not science. Science is based on reason applied to repeatable observations. No one has ever observed anything evolve into anything. Period. Evolution bears no more scientific credibility than beliefs in alchemy, a flat earth, or bleeding people with leaches, all of which were “scientific” ideas.

Three Prominent Women Today Who Are False Teachers

Since we have only illustrated our categories of false teachers today with men (Ellen White died in 1915), we shall list three women who are prominent false teachers. [Note: we are not dealing with the subject of whether women should teach men, since that is not a false teaching issue.]

Joyce Meyer

Here are six unedited quotes from Joyce Meyer:

- Jesus “was no longer the Son of God” (<http://storage.carm.org/joycemeyer/joyce-meyer-Jesus-became-sin-stopped-being-son-of-God.mp3>).
- “The minute that blood sacrifice was accepted, Jesus was the first human being that was ever born again” (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neKsa_74w7k&feature=related).
- “His spirit went to hell because that is where we deserve to go... There is no hope of anyone going to heaven unless they believe this truth” (*The most important decision you'll ever make*, by Joyce Meyer, second printing, may 1993, page 37).
- “...why do people have such a fit about God calling his creation, his creation, his man not his whole creation, but his man, little gods? If he’s God, what’s he going to call them but the God kind?” (www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrP3OLCH9GI&feature=related).
- “I am not poor. I am not miserable, and I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of hell.” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dmHJdM63hk>).
- “The Bible can’t even find any way to explain this. Not really. That is why you have got to get it by revelation. There are no words to explain what I am telling you. I have got to just trust God that he is putting it into your spirit like he put it into mine” (<http://storage.carm.org/audio/joycemeyer/joyce-meyer-revelation-knowledge.mp3>).

According to beliefnet.com, Joyce Meyer is the 9th richest preacher in America.

Beth Moore

Here is a statement from Beth Moore. The original quote was quite long, so I have selected only part of it. Besides this quote, it should be noted that Beth Moore has closely associated herself with Joyce Meyer.

But I knew God was talking to me. It burned like a branding iron. Every single day for nearly 14 months, that same word has reverberated in my soul and troubled my feet ...

Fast forward 12 months exactly to the most recent November. A year after hearing from God so clearly about sowing further than the field that I’d loved and served in for so long, I had a very disturbing dream. I can count the significant dreams I’ve had through the decades on one hand so I’m not prone to look for messages in my sleep to keep from having to actually pray and read the Bible. That God can speak through dreams is clear in our own Bibles...

As we cry out for a downpour and I’m going to tell you something, I believe it’s coming. You know why? Because I believe the truth is we are thirsty ...

I believe that he placed it on my heart that the scoffers will have an alternative answer for everything; An alternative for every single thing we see, there will be an alternative. They will not see it as the hand of God, an alternate answer.

[<http://www.donotbesurprised.com/2014/03/beth-moore-prophecies-coming-outpouring.html>]

Beth Moore relates this story about a woman who approached her during a conference with a message from God:

“With obvious anointing, she told the story we’re about to study, then she said: “I don’t know you, Beth. I have no idea why God sent me with such a message to give you, but He told me clearly to say these words to you: ‘Tell her that her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much.’” [<http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/say-no-more-beth-moore>]

Sarah Young

With sales of more than 25 million books worldwide, Sarah Young’s daily devotional book “Jesus Calling” has appeared on all major bestseller lists. She writes,

- “I knew that God communicated with me through the Bible, but I yearned for more. Increasingly, I wanted to hear what God had to say to me personally on a given day” (Intro).
- “I decided to listen to God with pen in hand, writing down whatever I believe He was saying. I felt awkward the first time I tried this, but I received a message...” (Intro).
- “Sometimes He [the Holy Spirit]...enables you to hear Me ‘speak’ directly to you...Take time to listen to My voice” (Dec 4).

“*Jesus Calling*, written by Sarah Young, has become an exceedingly popular book since its first release in 2004. Readers have been encouraged to...listen to His [God’s] voice. The devotionals are based on messages the author claims to have received from Jesus and are passed along to the reader as if God is talking.” [gotquestions.org]

“Young bases her works on listening prayer, a theological practice in which a person aims to hear messages directly from God” (Melissa Steffan, “Christianity Today,” Oct 1, 2013).

“*Jesus Calling* promotes mystical devotion to God and is based on words from Jesus beyond Scripture. ...Young puts New Age, panentheistic ideas into the mouth of Jesus Christ Himself” (Bob DeWaay, “Toxic Devotion: A Review of Sarah Young’s—*Jesus Calling*), cicministry.org).

Conclusion

As I once heard Prof. Howard Hendricks say, “Light attracts bugs.” True teaching attracts false teaching. And, as is always the case with good and evil, false teaching depends on true teaching for its existence. Something false is always a perversion of something true. When that is proclaimed, someone will think they can profit by perverting it. But the authors of the Bible consistently, not only warn us about false teacher, but they exhort us to take a stand against them. We must be able to both *exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict* (Titus 1:9).