

## False Teachers

2 Timothy 4:1-5

### Need for "sound" doctrine.

- Man doesn't have to teach & preach truth. Consider the warnings? 1 Timothy 1:3-10; 4:6-16; 2 Timothy 1:13
- What about those who propose that which isn't sound? 1 Timothy 6:3-6.
- Some won't conform. 2 Peter 2:1
- There always have been and always will be false teachers.

### Who Are False Teachers?

*Judge their motives and intentions?*

- Some propose that unless it can be proven that someone is "**insincere**" or "**dishonest**", they can not be determined to be a false teacher.

### Who Are False Teachers?

"A false teacher is surely one whose **dishonest motives and/or ignorance** distinguish him from the sincere brother who has reached an erroneous conclusion."

Ed Harrell - "Homer Hailey: False Teacher?", *Christianity Magazine*, Nov., 1988, page 9

"I do not regard Homer Hailey as a false teacher ... because I am persuaded by his conduct and his arguments **that he honestly believes that he is faithful to God's teaching** on the subject."

Ed Harrell, "Divorce and Fellowship"

### Who Are False Teachers?

What does that type of reasoning do for Saul of Tarsus, before his conversion?  
Acts 23:1; 26:9

Was Saul not sincere? Did he not honestly believe he was doing what he ought to do?

Was he right? By falsely teaching that Jesus was not the Christ, was he not a false teacher?

## Who Are False Teachers?

- **Introducers of Heresies** - 2 Peter 2:1
- **Forsake the Right Way-Gone Astray**  
- 2 Peter 2:15
- **Promoters of Anything Contrary** -  
Romans 16:17; Galatians 1:8-9
- **Teachers of What is False** –
- **What about the ignorant and the honestly mistaken?** - Acts 18:24-28

## Characteristics of False Teachers

- **Many Followers**  
– 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- **Well Spoken Of By Everyone**  
– Luke 6:26
- **Work Secretly**  
– 2 Peter 2:1; Matthew 7:15
- **Forsake Divine Authority**  
– Matthew 21:23-37; Jeremiah 5:30-31; 2 Peter 2:10

## Purpose Of Identifying False Teachers

- **Be aware – Wolves in Sheep's Clothing** – Romans 16:17; Acts 20:29-30; Matthew 7:15
- **Prevent the Leaven of Error** – Galatians 5:7-9
- **Not to Attack but Admonish** – 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
- **Save Souls** - 1 Timothy 4:16
- Not a label, it's about a defense of truth.

## What Is Our Attitude Towards False Teachers?

- **Love the Soul -- Hate The Error**  
– Psalms 119:104; Revelation 2:6
- **Don't Give Way To Their Error**  
– Galatians 2:4-5
- **Be aware** –  
– Philippians 3:2; Matthew 16:12

## What Is Our Responsibility?

- **Love The Truth – Demand the Truth**  
– 2 Thessalonians 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:1-3; 1 Kings 22:5ff.
- **Continue to put them to the test**  
▪ 1 John 4:1; Acts 20:29
- **Equip Ourselves to Refute Error**  
– 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 3:16-17

## What Is Our Responsibility?

- **Pay Attention To Our Own Teaching**  
– 1 Timothy 4:16; Galatians 6:1
- **Contend Earnestly for the faith.**  
– Jude 3
- **Have the courage and faith to follow...**  
▪ 2 John 9-11