



The Epistles of Peter
 2 Peter 2:17-22
 From Sermon 5.31.26

Read 2 Peter 2:17-22

Overview from Sunday's sermon: God the Holy Spirit now has the lead Apostle dive into the deep corrupted mindset of the false teachers and the vicious cycle loop they are trapped in. while they promise power and freedom, they are actually only providing enslavement and false assurance. Everything for them is external appearances for the sake of control and cash. The spiritual evaluation is that they would have been better off (and their followers) having never heard of Jesus, the Bible, and the Gospel.

1. How do you (personally) go about discerning sound teachers, ministries, movements, & media (tv, books, & movies) from those which are false, dangerous, and unbiblical? Various answers and options. I don't. If it has Jesus' name and it's popular, it must be good. I don't watch or read anything or anyone. I can be exposed to teaching and media but filter it through Scripture and sound doctrine before I'd ever act on it or recommend it to others. I ask my pastors. I do my research.

2. On Sunday, we shared John MacArthur's assessment and warning regarding false teachers. He notes three common traits. Define and discuss each. Include examples if possible.

- Authoritarian: Cannot be questioned or disobeyed. Usually have absolute control with no oversight.
- Man Centered: Business approach. Crowds over content. Marketing. Catering to the culture.
- Contempt for Doctrine or Correction: Never quote giants in the faith. Rarely use Scripture and almost always use it out of context. Deep hatred for those with discernment who call out the fakes.

3. Discuss the Bible's repeated analogy that false teachers are "*Springs without water*" or "*clouds without water*". Like a mirage, they appear beneficial and nourishing from afar—from the outside. It's when you get there and look closer, you find out they offer nothing but require everything.

4. Pretty much all false teachers and organizations have an *outward* religion and piety that relies heavily on moral reform (define and discuss). Turns out, it's actually bondage through rules and restrictions. Biblical vs non-biblical/manmade. Consider these examples that go beyond biblical boundaries.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Rule/Restriction</u>
Roman Catholic	<u>Lent, no meat Fridays, unquestioned devotion to Pope/clergy, works based</u>
Jehevoh's Witness	<u>No holidays/birthdays, no outside relationships, no blood transfusions.</u>
LDS	<u>No alcohol, tobacco, caffeine. Standard dress. Required tithing.</u>
7 th Day Adventism	<u>Adherence to Old Testament Sabbath. no meat. Legalism</u>
Many Christian Denominations/Groups	<u>No dancing, cards, tattoos. Strict Dress codes. No movies/music</u> See also <i>Colossians 2:20-23</i> & <i>1 Timothy 4:1-5</i>

5. Discuss the Scriptures and doctrine that these false teachers would actually have been "*Better off to not have known the way of righteousness*" and "*last state worse for them than the first...*".
 See also *Hebrews 6:4-8* & *10:28-29*