

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Unmasking False Prophets

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 2 Peter 2:1-9

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1620

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We need that which is real, that which is authentic.
- b) The world divides and recognizes all kinds of world religions.
  - i) For example, Christianity is divided by denominations into Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, etc.
- c) But when we analyze it, there are only two religions in all of the world:
  - i) The true and the false.
    - (1) That which is authentic and from God.
    - (2) That which is inauthentic and has the curse of Almighty God upon it.
- d) If it is a false religion, then it is dangerous.
  - i) The world is full of dangerous doctrines.
- e) The Apostle Peter warned about false teachers.
  - i) 2 Peter 2:1-9
    - (1) The word “false” in this passage is the word we get our word “pseudo” from.
    - (2) There were “pseudo” prophets among the people.
- f) It is wrong to tell a lie and even worse to teach a lie, but it is monstrous to teach a lie about God.
  - i) There is no greater crime than to be a false prophet or to be a false teacher.
  - ii) God does not take this lightly.
    - (1) Deuteronomy 18:20
  - iii) God hates lies taught about Himself.
- g) The message today is a needful message because the world is full of dangerous doctrines.
  - i) This message will teach us how to unmask false prophets.

2) WE NEED TO REALIZE THEIR PRESENCE

- a) 2 Peter 2:1
  - i) Do not think that they don't exist.
  - ii) There have always been false prophets.
  - iii) The “people” whom Peter referred to in this passage were the nation of Israel.
    - (1) The nation of Israel had false prophets.
    - (2) False prophecy is as old as the Garden of Eden.
  - iv) In Peter's time, there were false prophets.
    - (1) “You” in this verse refers to the church.
- b) When we look for Satan, we should never fail to look in the pulpit.
  - i) 2 Corinthians 11:13-14
  - ii) Satan comes not as a scaly monster with horns and a pitchfork, but as an angel of light declaring as an apostle but is really a false teacher.
- c) 2 Peter 2:1
  - i) The word “heresy” in this verse comes from a root word which means “to divide.”

- (1) Later on, it came to be called a sect, which is someone who is divided apart from true authentic Christianity.
  - d) Heresies always cause division.
    - i) When someone teaches something that is contrary to the Word of God, we cannot just open our arms and say that it is alright.
    - ii) A heretic is someone who causes division in the church.
      - (1) A little leaven leavens the whole lump.
    - iii) Division is painful and terrible, but it is better to be divided by truth than to be united by error.
  - e) Peter is saying that there have been false prophets, there are false prophets, and there will be false prophets right on down to the end of the age.
  - f) We ought not to think it strange that there are false prophets and false teachers.
    - i) 1 Timothy 4:1
      - (1) This should not discourage us for the following reasons:
        - (a) From the beginning of time, there have been false prophets; but the Word of God stands.
        - (b) If there were no false prophets, false teachers, or false apostles, then the Bible would not be true because the Bible says that they will come.
          - (i) In a strange way, every false prophet, fake apostle, and pseudo-Bible teacher is a confirmation of the Word of God.
          - (ii) 1 Peter 2:1
- 3) WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THEIR PRETENSE (2 PETER 2:1-3)
- a) False prophets may be very persuasive and very charming.
    - i) They may even seem sincere or actually be sincere.
  - b) We can recognize their pretense by their message.
    - i) 2 Peter 2:1
    - ii) In order to tell counterfeit money from the real thing, we would not study the counterfeit but the authentic.
      - (1) When we know what the authentic looks like, then we can spot the counterfeit because it is not like the authentic.
      - (2) We know a false prophet because his message is false.
    - iii) There are five tests for the message:
      - (1) The source test.
        - (a) Do they have as the source of their information the Word of God?
        - (b) Does it come from any source other than the Bible?
          - (i) Their source must come from the Word of God.
        - (c) Find out if they base all that they say and believe upon the Word of God.
      - (2) The Savior test.
        - (a) Do they believe that Jesus Christ is the very Son of God, virgin born?

- (b) Do they believe that Jesus Christ is as much God as if He were not man and as much man as if He were not God?
- (c) 2 John 1:10-11
- (3) The subject test.
  - (a) What is the subject of their preaching?
    - (i) Is it the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
    - (ii) Is it that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He was raised again the third day?
  - (b) Do they preach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ?
  - (c) What is the main subject or theme of their teaching?
- (4) The salvation test.
  - (a) How do they say that someone is saved?
    - (i) Is it by sending money to them?
    - (ii) Is it by good works that we do?
    - (iii) Is it man-centered, or is it God-centered?
  - (b) If it is not salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone, then he is a false prophet.
- (5) The sanctification test.
  - (a) Do they live a clean, pure, godly, and holy life?
    - (i) Do they teach others to do so?
- iv) False prophets may pass one, two, or three of these tests.
  - (1) We need to find out what they believe on all five tests, and measure them.
    - (a) If they are not bringing the right message, then they are a false prophet.
- c) We can recognize their pretense by their method.
  - i) 2 Peter 2:1
    - (1) In this verse, the word “privily” means “to secretly bring in.”
      - (a) This word has the idea of laying something good alongside of something that is bad.
    - (2) Very few false teachers and false prophets will deny the whole scope of Christianity.
      - (a) Some may say that they believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God or that the Bible is the Word of God.
        - (i) They will privily lay their doctrine alongside that part of Christianity that they say they believe.
  - ii) The devil is very clever.
    - (1) Genesis 3:1
    - (2) He has taught Madison Avenue how to sell alcohol.
      - (a) The predominant thing about an alcohol advertisement is joy, fun, beauty, and youth.
        - (i) The alcohol is laid down alongside all of these things.
      - (b) Because of this association, people are made to think that alcohol is somehow good.

- (i) The devil does the same thing in the realm of religion.
- iii) 2 Peter 2:3
  - (1) In this verse, the word “feigned” in the Greek language is the word we get “plastic” from.
    - (a) Plastic can be molded.
      - (i) It can be molded to fit almost any situation.
      - (ii) It can be made to look like the real thing.
        - 1. For example, plastic leather looks almost like real leather.
    - (b) These are the kind of words (feigned words) that are used by false prophets.
      - (i) The devil will use our words and his dictionary.
- d) We can recognize their pretense by their manner.
  - i) 2 Peter 2:2
    - (1) The word “pernicious” here means “unbridled lust” or “lasciviousness.”
  - ii) Apostasy and immorality are always linked together.
  - iii) Jude 4
    - (1) “Lasciviousness” is “unbridled lust.”
    - (2) They take the word “grace” and add the idea that it’s alright for a person to live anyway they want or do anything they want.
      - (a) They turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - iv) False prophets and immorality are always linked together.
    - (1) Jeremiah 23:14
      - (a) There are preachers today who say that what was practiced at Sodom and Gomorrah was alright.
      - (2) They’re living ungodly lives.
  - v) 2 Peter 2:2 says that many will follow their pernicious ways.
    - (1) A following does not prove that false prophets are right.
    - (2) There are a lot of people who do not want sound doctrine.
      - (a) 2 Timothy 4:3-4
        - (i) They have “itching” ears.
          - 1. They want someone to scratch their ears.
        - (ii) They turn away from the truth.
        - (iii) The word “sound” in this verse is the word we get our word “hygiene” from.
          - 1. They do not want spiritual hygiene or sound doctrine.
      - (3) There is a movement of church growth today that says we shouldn’t tell people that they are sinners, or they won’t come back.
        - (a) Instead, find out what their felt needs are and tickle their ears with smooth words in order to build a crowd.
        - (b) They do not want to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition.
          - (i) They don’t want to tell people they’re sinners.
        - (c) They just want Jesus Christ as their best friend.

- (i) But He won't be their best friend until He becomes their Savior.
- e) We recognize their pretense by their motive.
  - i) 2 Peter 2:3
    - (1) Their motive is to merchandise the Gospel.
  - ii) Their motive is profit.
  - iii) We ought to honor the ministry.
    - (1) Anyone who preaches the Gospel is to live by the Gospel.
    - (2) 1 Timothy 5:17
    - (3) Deuteronomy 25:4
  - iv) May God have mercy upon those who water down the message so as not to offend the rich.
  - v) May God have mercy upon those who take advantage of the plastic mentality of the masses and somehow become merchandisers of the Gospel.
    - (1) The Bible says that their damnation slumbers not.
      - (a) 2 Peter 2:3
- 4) WE NEED TO REMEMBER THEIR PAST (2 PETER 2:3-6)
  - a) God has given us a record of what has happened already.
    - i) 2 Peter 2:4
      - (1) When Satan fell, a third of the angels fell with him.
      - (2) God did not spare those angels.
        - (a) Angels are great, glorious creatures; man was made a little lower than the angels.
        - (b) If God spared not the angels who fell, then He will not spare the false teachers.
    - ii) 2 Peter 2:5
      - (1) The entire world was destroyed because of false doctrine, and only eight people were saved.
        - (a) If God spared not the higher (the angels), then why would He spare the lower (man)?
        - (b) If God spared not the many, then why would He spare the few?
    - iii) 2 Peter 2:6
      - (1) If God did not spare the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who were guilty of sexual perversion, then why would God spare those who are guilty of spiritual perversion?
        - (a) God is not going to overlook this.
  - b) The Bible makes it clear that judgment has already been executed.
    - i) 2 Peter 2:3
      - (1) The sentence has already been passed, but it has not yet been carried out.
        - (a) But it will be carried out.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) When it comes to false teachers, you need to recognize their presence, realize their pretense, and remember their past.
- b) Remember what God has done; God has set a precedent.
  - i) God spared not the angels that sinned.
  - ii) God spared not the old world.
  - iii) God spared not Sodom and Gomorrah.
- c) Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He sent a warning.
  - i) Sodom was warned and then destroyed.
- d) God has sent a warning to America.
  - i) America is embracing the same sins that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for.
  - ii) God left Sodom and Gomorrah with its smoking ruins as an example to those that came after who should live ungodly.
    - (1) All of it was rooted (whether it be angels, the people in Noah's day, or those who lived in Sodom) in a transgression from the Word of God.
      - (a) They turned the grace of God into lasciviousness and denied the only God that bought them.
- e) Romans 8:32
  - i) The God who spared not the angels, the old world, Sodom, or Gomorrah, also did not spare His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ii) Jesus became sin for you.
    - (1) He took your sin upon Himself.
    - (2) He carried that sin to the cross.
      - (a) God did not spare Him.
      - (b) If there was ever a time when God would have been lenient upon sin, it would have been that time.
        - (i) But God did not spare Jesus.
      - (c) Unless your sin is on Jesus, He will not spare you.
- f) God is not only unsparing in His justice, but He is unsparing in His love.
  - i) John 3:16
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31