

# Pursuit and Promise, Pt. 4

## Beware of False Prophets

Steve Berger

February 16, 2020

---

### TODAY

When God created humanity, Adam and Eve, He spoke truth to them. When the Devil spoke to them, he lied to them. Nothing has changed! God is still speaking truth — and the devil is still speaking lies!

*Who are you listening to?*

---

### Beware of False Prophets

**2 Peter 1** ended with Peter's authoritative claim that true prophets wrote the Word of God as they were moved, influenced, by the Holy Spirit. Chapter 2 **is all about false prophets and teachers** — they existed in the early church from the beginning. The devil continues to speak!

**Before we dive into 2 Peter**, let's examine what Jesus, Paul, and others said about false prophets and teachers...

- **Matthew 7:15-16**

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

- **1 Timothy 4:1-2**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

- **2 Timothy 4:2-4**

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

The Franciscan School was dissatisfied with the popular theological idea that Jesus came to Earth as a necessary sacrifice... As human consciousness advances, more and more people cannot believe that God would demand Jesus' blood as payment for our sins... The terrible and un-critiqued premise of many is that God demanded Jesus to be a blood sacrifice to "atone" for our sin-drenched humanity. As if God could need payment, and even a very violent transaction, to be able to love and accept God's own children... our alternative orthodoxy, is basically saying that no atonement is necessary... There is no bill to be paid; Jesus didn't come to solve a problem; he came to reveal the true nature of God as Love. <sup>1</sup>

~ Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM — Catholic Franciscan Priest

In his online daily devotionals, February 5, 2020

### WHAT!?!?

---

<sup>1</sup> Rohr, Richard. <https://cac.org/at-one-ment-not-atonement-2020-02-05/>

- **Luke 22:19-20**

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise, He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

“The time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep,  
the church will have clowns entertaining the goats.”

~ Charles Spurgeon

- **2 Peter 2:1-11**

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. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

---

## Who Were the False Teachers?

### Who was Peter addressing in his day?

- **Gnostics**

- Secret knowledge
- Flesh is evil, doesn't matter how you live, body is going to be destroyed anyway
- Live how you want — if you are seeking spiritual enlightenment
- Rebellion!

- **Judaizers**

- Mixing Jesus' salvation with Old Testament Jewish law
- must keep ceremonial, dietary laws
- Religious bondage

**Both the Gnostics and the Judaizers preached a different gospel, and the early Apostles had to defend truth, and warn the people of these heresies.**

---

## A Different Gospel

- **Galatians 1:6-9**

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

**Traits Peter mentions in first 11 verses** — secret heresies, even denying, many followers, covetous, deceptive, ungodly, walk in flesh, unclean, despise authority, presumptuous, self-willed, unafraid to speak evil of dignitaries...

**Where do we see glaring, heretical false teaching today? NO HATE!!!**

- **Homosexual Agenda** in Methodist Church (split), Presbyterian Church USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, others.

Lead Pastor Dan Matlock of Eikon Church in Kyle, Texas made the announcement in a sermon Sunday, February 9 that the Austin-area congregation would now be open to LGBTQ persons on staff and that the church building will be available to host same-sex wedding ceremonies... Dan Matlock has announced that he and Eikon Church will no longer be affiliated with the Assemblies of God.<sup>2</sup>

- **Unapologetic, Aggressive** — A number of LGBT activists have highlighted in recent years that the movement's goal is to "indoctrinate" children into accepting the normalcy of the LGBTQ+ agenda.

"I am here to tell you: All that time I said I wasn't indoctrinating anyone with my beliefs about gay and lesbian and bi and trans and queer people? That was a lie," wrote Canadian gay activist S. Bear Bergman, a woman who identifies as a transgender man, in a March 2015 piece titled "I Have Come to Indoctrinate Your Children Into My LGBTQ Agenda (And I'm Not a Bit Sorry)." Bergman holds nothing back, stating she wants to make children "like us" even if that "goes against the way you have interpreted the teachings of your religion."<sup>3</sup>

~ S. Bear Bergman

**Even though the scripture says —**

- **Leviticus 18:22**

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

---

## Hypergrace

- **Hypergrace**

- All sin is covered, past, present, future
- No repentance
- No confession needed
- No pursuit of living a holy life

---

<sup>2</sup> Walton, Jeffrey. <https://juicyecumenism.com/2020/02/14/dan-matlock/>

<sup>3</sup> Boynes, Janet. *God & Sexuality: Truth and Relevance Without Compromise* (Destiny Image Publishers, Dec 13, 2016)

## Even though the scripture says —

- **1 John 1:9**  
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **Revelation 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3,19**  
Repent
- **Titus 2:11-12**  
For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

---

## Universalism

- **Universalism**
  - Everyone is saved
  - God is love
  - There's no hell for anyone

## Even though the scripture says —

- **John 3:16-18**  
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- **Revelation 20:10,15**  
The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

“The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.”<sup>4</sup>

~ General William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army  
written 150 years ago

**Notice** — the bottom line is **rebellion** — do what you want, God is okay with it, He loves you, you won't face judgment. Goes all the way back to the Devil's lies in Eden.

---

<sup>4</sup> Chapman, John Wilbur. *The Minister's Handicap* (American Tract Society, 1918)

---

## **Destruction and Judgment Is Coming to False Teachers ... and their followers**

- **2 Peter 2:4**
  - **angels** — sinned, hell, chains, darkness, judgement
- **2 Peter 2:5**
  - **ungodly world of Noah** — flooded, judged, but Noah was saved
- **2 Peter 2:6-9**
  - **Sodom and Gomorrah** — turned to ashes, condemned to destruction, as an example, reserved punishment for unjust in day of judgment; delivered Lot who lived among ungodly

---

### **Bottom Line**

**You are accountable for what you believe. Do you believe God's truth, or the Devils lies?**

- **God's truth leads to deliverance, salvation and heaven.**
- **Devil's lies lead to deception, judgment and hell.**

**It's that simple — it's that serious!**

---

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What kind of "fruits" would false prophets have?
2. What are "itching ears"? How does this equate to selfishness?
3. How is "alternative orthodoxy" an oxymoron?
4. Read Galatians 1:6-9. What does Scripture say about anyone who preaches a different gospel? What does *accursed* mean?
5. How can you protect your (our) children from/against the aggressive LGBTQ Agenda?
6. Do you know anyone who has been influenced by *Hypergrace*? What can you say to them?
7. How is *Universalism* the same Rebellion that goes back to Eden?

# NOTES