

What Kind of Preaching Do You Like?

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1 John 4:5-6 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

I. The false prophets are of the world – they are not of God.

Jer. 27:14-15 Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you. For I have not sent them, saith the LORD, yet they prophesy a lie in my name; that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you.

Jer. 29:8-9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. ⁹For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 13:1-9 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD. And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

- A. Not everyone that says they are sent of God ...are really sent of God.
- B. No matter what claims they maintain of visions and miraculous things, if their message is not from God then they are false prophets and their visions and dreams are all out of the imaginations of their own hearts.

II. The message of false prophets always is focused on temporal things of the world.

- A. They preach about the here and now and how to have the best life now.
- B. Their message centers on how to improve your lot here on earth.
- C. Their message always avoids the enmity between God and man.
- D. The matter of sin, and any demands of God are not a part of their message.
- E. Their message is tailored to fit the world as it is and they modify God any way necessary to make Him acceptable to the people of the world.
- F. They have an eye toward the people instead of toward God.
- G. Their messages are more about entertainment and pleasing the people than pleasing God.

III. The people of the world hear them.

- A. They reject what is displeasing and seek out what is palatable for them – just like a kid who likes candy.

- B. These are selfish people who are ruled by their lusts and not spiritual people who are led by the Spirit of God.

Isa. 30:9-10 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

- C. So the false prophets and the people of the world who are without God are both from the same cloth – they are the same.
 1. It is the blind leading the blind.
 2. It is the dead comforting the dead.
 3. They speak the same language and think in the same realm.
 4. The philosophy coming from the pulpit reinforces what they have learned from the Philistines in the world and its sources of knowledge and wisdom.
- D. To be accepted by the world is a red flag warning of a false prophet.

Luke 6:26 **Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets**

1. What about the most well-known and accepted “preachers” and “evangelists?”
2. Those who are the most accepted are those who are the best at appearing to tell the truth but at the same time continue to lead people into worldly alliance.

IV. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth us not.

- A. The people of God understand each other – they speak the same language.

John 8:47 **He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.**

- B. A prophet sent by God will not be received by the world – but he will be received by the true people of God.
- C. A preacher or evangelist can be identified by which crowd in the church loves him and which crowd hates him.
- D. If a person cannot understand spiritual truth it is because they are not a spiritual person.

1 Cor. 2:14 **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

- E. If we ARE of God we CAN hear God's words.

1 John 5:20 **And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.**

1 Cor. 2:15-16 **But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.**

V. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

- A. This simple test will keep you from believing lies and being deceived.
- B. Notice who is listening and receiving and you will know what kind of person is talking – whether he is of God or not.
 1. If the worldly people of the church who do not order their lives according to the Bible like him - he is one of theirs.
 2. If the spiritual people of the church perk up and pay attention - he is one of them.
 3. The worldly people will not like the spiritual preacher, and the spiritual people will not like the carnal false prophet.