

## How to Spot a Counterfeit

Sermon 091216W  
Text II Peter 2:1-22  
Introduction

\*\* Some of this outline comes from a sermon by Adrian Rogers.

On one of my trips to Peru I was paying a bill with the local currency. The cashier began to cry, "Falso" or counterfeit. What should you do if you were to find out one of your bills were counterfeit? Should you throw it all away because you found one that was counterfeit? Of course not! That would be foolish. Yet, I often hear this as an excuse why you should not accept Christ. I also hear it as an excuse not to serve Christ. I tell you it is equally as foolish. Shall we discount all the genuine believers because you have found some that are counterfeit? Make no mistakes there are counterfeits. There are counterfeit believers. There are counterfeit preachers. There are counterfeit religions. How do you spot a counterfeit? Here are some simple principles.

- I. Message.
  - A. Verse 1. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."
  - B. Here are five simple words to help you examine and expose the message.
    1. Source.
      - a. What is the source of their message?
      - b. Is it the Bible? Or do they have to have another revelation?
      - c. Rev. 22:17b "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"
      - d. The Mormons have to have their blue book of revelation.
      - e. The Jehovah witnesses must have their little red book.
      - f. This book (the Bible) is all we need.
    2. Saviour.
      - a. Who is their Saviour?
      - b. Notice verse 1 speaks of them "denying the Lord".
      - c. Is He the Only Begotten Son?
      - d. Was He virgin born?
      - e. Deut. 32:31 "For their rock *is* not as our Rock".
      - f. Was He sinless?
      - g. Has He risen from the dead?
      - h. Mormons reject Christ as the Second Adam.

- i. Make sure you are speaking the same language. Many use our words, but their dictionary. Some acknowledge Jesus but will not worship Him.
3. Subject.
    - a. Who or what is the primary subject?
    - b. It must be the gospel.
    - c. See I Cor. 15:1-3 for a Bible definition.
    - d. Subject is our Hero Jesus Christ.
    - e. Our theme is His gospel and not another.
    - f. Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
    - g. Many present the idea of send me "seed money" and prosperity. See verse 14.
  4. Salvation.
    - a. Rom. 10:13
    - b. What do they require for salvation?
    - c. Again let's allow the Bible to define the gospel. See I Cor. 15:1-3.
    - d. Do they require something else besides Jesus?
      1. The Church of Christ says you must be baptized to be saved.
      2. Some Charismatics teach you must speak in tongues to be saved.
      3. Some teach you must work to keep your salvation.
      4. Some teach you can lose your salvation.
      5. It is Jesus and Jesus alone.
  5. Sanctification.
    - a. Do they require a holy life? Or do they use grace as a license to sin? See Romans 6:1.
    - b. Look at verse 14.
    - c. Do they preach one message and live another.
    - d. There is a relationship to fidelity to doctrine and immorality.
    - e. Those who do not have their doctrine right will not have their morals right. Shall I list a view? Jim Baker. Jimmy Swaggart. Sandi Patti. John MacArthur is recorded as saying every pastor with immoral sins that he work to "reclaim" went back into immorality.
    - f. Many espouse grace, but live wickedly.
    - g. Are they holy?

## II. Method.

- A. Verse 2,3
- B. Notice "pernicious". It presents the idea of squandering. Take the example of Richard Roberts.

- C. Notice “covetousness”. They are not interested in you. They are interested in what they can get out of you. The TBN seed money theme of send me \$100 of seed money and God will bless you is such a scam. Corrupt doctrine justifies corrupt morals.
  - D. Notice “feigned words”. They take Bible words and change the definition of them. Why? To make merchandise of you.
  - E. Take the case of Robert Tillman.
  - F. They look good, but they are empty. See verse 17.
  - G. They promise liberty, but provide their own bondage. See verse 19.
- II. Manner.
- A. Verse 2.
  - B. They work privily.
  - C. It means to be crafty.
  - D. Notice what they bring in. It is heresies.
  - E. Jude 4 “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - F. They will use the grace of God as a smoke screen to allow unrestrained lives. Lasciviousness describes wantonness and excess.
  - G. Take the example of Benny Hinn.
  - H. They are arrogant.
    - 1. Verse 10
    - 2. Presumptuous and self-willed.
    - 3. Take the example of Reverend Ike.
    - 4. Because of their arrogance they feel free to break laws they find confining.
  - I. They are fleshly or carnal.
    - 1. Verse 10.
    - 2. The dollar is their true god. See verse 15.