

Doctrine of False Communicators

1. The Scriptures are replete with teachings about false communicators called: false prophets, wolves in sheep clothing, satan's ministers, wells without water, hireling prophets, profane and vain babblers.

1.1 False Prophets:

Jer 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mar 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

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

2Pe 2:1 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.

1Jo 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1.2 Wolves In Sheep's Clothing

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Luk 10:3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing from Ephesus shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

1.3 Satan's Ministers

2Co 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him ...

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

1.4 Wells Without Water

2Pe 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever.

2Pe 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2Pe 2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2Pe 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

1.5 Hirelings

Joh 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

Joh 10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

1.6 Profane and Vain Babblers

1Ti 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

2Ti 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

2. A few Old Testament examples:

2.1 Satan convinced one-third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion and terrible act of pride.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Rev 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

2.2 Satan was a deft false communicator when he possessed the snake, a creature originally created as a thing of beauty but later cursed to its present state because of his seduction of Eve.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Gen 3:2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

Gen 3:3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

Gen 3:4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

2.3 Satan was also a major player in the slaying of Abel.

Gen 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Gen 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Gen 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Gen 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Gen 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Gen 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Joh 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

2.4 There were false communicators who no doubt tried to dissuade Noah in building the ark. As John Grey Barnhouse has said in his book entitled Genesis:

"We must realize it had never rained upon the earth. Rain was one of the things not seen as yet. What a fool Noah must have seemed to those who lived around him, when he warned of a change in nature that was one of the greatest in geological history."

2.5 There were false communicators who rose up against Moses.

Exo 17:2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

Exo 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Exo 17:4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

Exo 17:5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Num 16:2 Now Korah and his men rose up against Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

Num 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

Num 16:4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

Num 16:5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even tomorrow the LORD will show who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

Num 16:6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;

Num 16:7 And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.

Num 16:8 And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:

Num 16:9 Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them?

Num 16:10 And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?

Num 16:11 For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?

2.6 Aaron could not handle the Exodus generation in Moses' absence. He became a false communicator by default, forsaking his "responsibilities as High Priest."

Exo 32:1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Exo 32:2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."

Exo 32:3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

Exo 32:4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

Exo 32:5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."

Exo 32:6 So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

2.7 In Numbers chapters 22 through 25 we find the terrible example of Balaam. So evil was this man, he became the New Testament example for all false teachers; especially those with improper motivations.

Jude 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Jude 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos (300-800 A. D.) write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges ...

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

2.8 Isaiah who ministered to Judah during the 8th century B.C. was opposed by false communicators of the Egyptian Party.

Isa 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:
Isa 30:2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!
Isa 30:3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.

2.9 Jeremiah was resisted by many false teachers during his 7th century ministry to Judah.

Jer 43:1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words,
Jer 43:2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:
Jer 43:3 But Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon.
Jer 43:4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah.

2.10 Malachi was opposed primarily by the priest of the land. They were rebuked for falsely communicating God's Word.

Mal 2:1 "And now this admonition is for you, O priests.
Mal 2:2 If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.
Mal 2:3 "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.
Mal 2:4 And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD Almighty.
Mal 2:5 "My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.
Mal 2:6 True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.
Mal 2:7 "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction--because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.
Mal 2:8 But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the LORD Almighty.
Mal 2:9 "So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

2.11 Nehemiah was faced with numerous adversaries as he led the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. Several of these men made false accusations against the Jewish effort to rebuild the city plazas, walls and motes outside the wall.

Ezr 4:8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort ...

Ezr 4:11 This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

Ezr 4:12 Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.

Ezr 4:13 Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt be without their revenue.

Ezr 4:14 Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;

Ezr 4:15 That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed.

3. There were numerous false communicators actively resisting our Lord during the Kingdom Age.

4. They were primarily the religious heirarchy consisting of the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mat 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Mat 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,"

Mat 19:5 "And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"

Mat 19:6 "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mat 19:7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

Mat 19:8 He saith unto them, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."

Mat 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

Mat 16:2 He answered and said unto them, "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red."

Mat 16:3 "And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

Mat 16:4 "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas." And he left them, and departed.

Mar 11:15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,

Mar 11:16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

Mar 11:17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Mar 11:18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Mat 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

5. There have been and still are numerous false teachers abounding in the Church Age. As with false teachers of every age they are to be critiqued based on the content of their teaching.

5.1 There were false teachers in Corinth teaching there was no "bodily resurrection."

1Co 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1Co 15:15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

5.2 There were false teachers in Corinth who were critical of Paul's speech, devotion to grace and his appearance. It is interesting to note Paul says false teachers often are glib entertainers who have little substance. 2Co 11:1-33

2Co 11:1 I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that.

2Co 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2Co 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2Co 11:5 But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

2Co 11:6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way ...

2Co 11:12 And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ ...

2Co 11:16 I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting ...

2Co 11:20 In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face.

2Co 11:21 To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! What anyone else dares to boast about--I am speaking as a fool--I also dare to boast about.

2Co 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again ...

2Co 11:28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

5.3 There were false teachers at Jerusalem who mixed Judaism and Christianity. Hebrews chapters 1-8. Let me give you a few selected passages:

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Heb 3:2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

Heb 3:3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

Heb 3:5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Heb 3:7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

Heb 3:8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

Heb 3:9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did ...

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

Heb 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

Heb 4:10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

Heb 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Heb 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need ...

Heb 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

Heb 5:12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Heb 5:13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Heb 7:12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

Heb 7:13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

Heb 7:14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Heb 7:15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,

5.4 There were false teachers who came from Jerusalem to Galatia, particularly Antioch, to teach a doctrine of salvation and spirituality by faith and works. These legalist also taught false doctrine about circumcision which Paul successfully resisted.

Gal 2:1 Fourteen years later (just after the 1st missionary journey in about A.D. 50) I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

Gal 2:2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

Gal 2:3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

Gal 2:4 This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

Gal 2:5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

Gal 2:6 As for those who seemed to be important--whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance--those men added nothing to my message.

Gal 2:7 On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews.

Gal 2:8 For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Gal 2:9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

Gal 2:10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Gal 2:11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

Gal 2:12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

Gal 2:13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Gal 2:14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

Gal 2:15 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners'

Gal 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Gal 2:17 "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!

Gal 2:18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker.

Gal 2:19 For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Acts 15:2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Acts 15:5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."

Acts 15:6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

Act 15:9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?

Acts 15:11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

Acts 15:12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

Acts 15:13 When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me.

Acts 15:14 Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.

Acts 15:15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

Acts 15:16 "After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,

Acts 15:17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'

Acts 15:18 that have been known for ages.

Acts 15:19 "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Acts 15:20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

Acts 15:21 For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

Acts 15:22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers.

Acts 15:23 With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

Acts 15:24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

Acts 15:25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul--

Acts 15:26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

Acts 15:28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

Acts 15:29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

5.5 There were false teachers teaching post tribulation and partial tribulation theories of the rapture; they seem to abound in Thessalonica. 2Th 2:1-12.

2Th 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2Th 2:2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord was at hand.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2Th 2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2Th 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

2Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2Th 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

2Th 2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

5.6 There were false teachers who tried to put church age saints back under the Mosaic law. 1Ti 1:3-11

1Ti 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer

1Ti 1:4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith.

1Ti 1:5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1Ti 1:6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.

1Ti 1:7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

1Ti 1:8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

1Ti 1:9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

1Ti 1:10 for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

1Ti 1:11 that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

5.7 There are false teachers who it would seem love to obfuscate the truth with speculation which at least in part contradicts the Scriptures; they love to wax eloquent with reference to "knowledge, science, etc. 1Ti 6:20-21

1Ti 6:20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,

1Ti 6:21 which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.

Grace be with you.

5.8 False teachers pervasively will abound in various forms; spanning the gamut from do-gooder legalist to antinomian despisers of morality. 2Ti 3:1-13

2Ti 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2Ti 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

2Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

2Ti 3:6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,

2Ti 3:7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.

2Ti 3:8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

2Ti 3:9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

2Ti 3:10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

2Ti 3:11 persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

2Ti 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

2Ti 3:13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

5.9 Paul says on the island of Crete there are false teachers who love to speak of the merits of the law, discoursing on genealogies, endless contentions and pontifications. Paul urges Titus to confront these false communicators and to protect the congregates by urging Pastors to teach sound doctrine.

Tit 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

Tit 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

Tit 1:12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

Tit 1:13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith

Tit 1:14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.

Tit 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

Tit 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

5.10 Peter warns against the perils of false teachers in 2Pe 2:1-3.

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.

2Pe 2:2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

2Pe 2:3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

5.11 John in 1Jo 2:18-19 warns against false teachers much in the same way as Peter. These false teachers, like those warned against by Peter, would deny the Lord that bought them; they would gain a following and cast a shadow on the way of truth - "They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves."

1Jo 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

5.12 In 1Jo 2:22-23 we have a warning that "little antichrists" abound who deny the Father and the Son. Their purpose would be mercenary; they would be motivated through covetousness - "In their greed these teachers will exploit you."

1Jo 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

1Jo 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

5.13 The judgment of these false teachers is said to be a certainty.

2Pe 2:1 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.

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell (Tartaroo), putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

2Pe 2:6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)--

2Pe 2:9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

5.14 The characteristics of the false teachers are enumerated by Peter. Their fleshly self-indulgence is recounted in 2Pe 2:10-12.

2Pe 2:10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;

2Pe 2:11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

5.15 Their perversion of Christian conviviality and sociability is warned against in 2Pe 2:13.

2Pe 2:13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

5.16 Their moral instability is described in 2Pe 2:14.

2Pe 2:14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed--an accursed brood!

5.17 Their crassly selfish motivation is described as being similar to Balaam. False teachers are often motivated by approbation, prestige and monetary gain.

2Pe 2:15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

5.18 Their spiritual barrenness, even though saved, is further delineated in 1Pe 2:20-22.

2Pe 2:20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

2Pe 2:21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

2Pe 2:22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

5.19 False teachers should surprise none of us given the fact the Scriptures tell us Satan is capable of becoming a minister of light just as are his ministers; to ascertain the true from the false we have the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit; Pastors need to document what they teach and avoid teaching what is not in the Scripture.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

5.20 There are false teachers in substance and motivation. First we look at some unnamed teachers and then take a look at several specific individuals.

Phi 1:14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Phi 1:15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

Phi 1:16 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

Phi 1:17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

Phi 1:18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

1Ti 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

1Ti 1:20 Of whom is **Hymenaeus and Alexander**; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2Ti 4:13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

2Ti 4:14 **Alexander** the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

2Ti 4:15 Of whom be you must beware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

2Ti 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

2Ti 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

2Ti 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

5.21 Many think Hymenaeus was a teacher in Ephesus; he is mentioned in 1Ti 1:20 and 2Ti 2:17, he is condemned by Paul for being a false teacher.

1Ti 1:20 Of whom is **Hymenaeus** and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

2Ti 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a cancer (Gangraina): of whom is **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus**;

2Ti 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, *saying that the resurrection is past already*; and overthrow the faith of some.

5.21.1 It is difficult to determine the exact nature of their false teaching. it would seem, they were at best distorting pre-trib/pre-mil eschatology.

5.22 There is an Alexander mentioned in Acts 19:33. The Alexander of Acts 19:33 may be the same as the Alexander of 1Ti 1:20; there are others who believe he was simply a Jew who wanted to speak to the crowds in Ephesus and thus relieve the Jewish citizens of Ephesus of blame for Paul's teaching.

Acts 19:30 Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him.
Acts 19:31 Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

Acts 19:32 The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.

Acts 19:33 The Jews pushed Alexander to the front, and some of the crowd shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people.

Acts 19:34 But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

5.23 Alexander is more than likely also the Alexander of 2Ti 4:14, who opposed Paul's apostolic teaching and testified against him.

5.23.1 The phrase "delivered unto Satan" in 1Ti 1:20 has been interpreted by most expositors to mean the apostolic imposition of some extraordinary chastisement, perhaps similar to that ordered by Paul in 1Co 5:5.

1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Co 5:5 **To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

5.23.2 Paul commands Timothy in verse fifteen of chapter four to beware of Alexander, who has openly attacked the truth.

5.23.3 This would seem to be in keeping with the principles of separation.

5.24 Let's look at one other infamous reversionist of Paul's day and most likely also a false teacher - Demas.

5.24.1 Demas is mentioned three times in the NT (Col 4:14; 2Ti 4:10; Phm 24).

Col 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and **Demas**, greet you.

5.24.2 Demas may be a shortened form of Demetrius.

5.24.3 He was a believer, and was evidently with Paul when he wrote Colossians and Philemon.

Phm 1:24 Marcus, Aristarchus, **Demas**, Lucas, my fellow laborers.

5.24.4 Later, when writing Second Timothy, Paul pens the dismal fact that Demas had forsaken him, "having loved this present world."

2Ti 4:10 For **Demas** hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

6. Wycliffe in his Encyclopedia has the following to say concerning Hymenaeus, Philetus, Demas and Alexander.

HYMENAÆUS

A teacher in Ephesus (perhaps), mentioned in 1Ti 1:20 and 2Ti 2:17, condemned by Paul for false teaching. He appears to have rejected the apostolic teaching of Paul. For this Paul delivered him over to Satan to teach him the error of blaspheming ...

The second error of **Hymeneus** was the affirmation that the resurrection had already taken place. Like cancer, the error was apparently spreading and doing injury to the faith of certain persons ... Again, it may have been a teaching that the resurrection was spiritual in nature ... and not a bodily resurrection ... these heretical views are recorded by 2nd century writers (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and Tertullian).

PHILETUS

Mentioned but once in the Bible (2Ti 2:17). Paul warns against him and **Hymanaeus** whose teachings undermined the faith. They were Gnostics and their specific error was the Gnostic teaching that there is no future resurrection of the body--the body is entirely evil and therefore irrelevant--but only a "spiritual experience" which occurs at salvation. Thus they were saying that those who have spiritual enlightenment have already enjoyed the real blessing of resurrection. This Gnostic denial of the bodily resurrection was destroying the faith of some in Paul's day.

DEMÁS

Mentioned three times in the NT (Col 4:14; 2Ti 4:10; Phm 1:24). This may be a shortened form of **Demetrius**. He was a believer, and was evidently with Paul when he wrote Colossians and Philemon. Later, when writing II Timothy, Paul pens the dismal fact that **Demas** had forsaken him, "having loved this present world."

ALEXANDER

Acts 19:33 And they drew **Alexander** out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And **Alexander** beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defense unto the people.

1Ti 1:20 Of whom is **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander**; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2Ti 4:14 **Alexander** the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

7. That there are false teachers in the Tribulation goes without saying given the existence and extensive teaching of the Antichrist, False Prophet and the head of the Babylonian Whore Church. Clearly the Antichrist will be the ultimate false teacher.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2Th 2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2Th 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

2Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2Th 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

2Th 2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Rev 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

8. The only evidence of false teaching in the Millennium is that of Satan at the end of the one thousand year reign of Christ.