

Beware of False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3

“Nothing is more wicked than for someone to claim to speak for God to the salvation of souls when in reality he speaks for Satan to the damnation of souls.” - John MacArthur

- I. False teachers are always _____ (1a-b)
- II. False teachers are always _____ (1c, 3a)
- III. False teachers are always _____ (1c-2a)
- IV. False teachers are always _____ (2-3a)
- V. False teachers are always _____ (2)
- VI. False teachers are always _____ (3)

Controversy in religion is a hateful thing. It is hard enough to fight the devil, the world and the flesh, without private differences in our own camp. But there is one thing which is worse than controversy - and that is false doctrine tolerated, allowed, and permitted without protest . . . three things there are which men never ought to trifle with - a little poison, a little false doctrine, and a little sin.

- J.C. Ryle

They talk about, “sin,” “salvation,” “inspiration,” “God,” “Jesus Christ,” and “resurrection” - but they don’t mean what the Bible means by these terms. *Sin* may be simply failing to actualize our human potential. *Salvation* might mean self-actualization or psychological well-being. To false teachers today Scripture is *inspired* in the same way great poetry or literature is “inspired.” *God* is often seen as our personal higher power, a projection of our need for a belief in a transcendent reality beyond ourselves. *Jesus Christ* is viewed as a great moral teacher who had a high degree of God-consciousness - or as a cosmic symbol for the highest in human potential. And *resurrection* is just a metaphor for keeping Jesus “alive” through observing His teachings and following His ethics.

- Chuck Swindoll