

## The Scariest Chapter in the Bible (Part 2)

### How Do You Identify a False Prophet?

So how do you identify a false teacher and escape the perils Jesus describes in this chapter? Our answer is found in I John 4:6:

**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.**

John was an Apostle. When he says “We,” he refers to all Apostles (see also II Peter 3:2). Being an accurate teacher of the scriptures is not as difficult as it may appear. It is a simple matter of teaching the same things the Apostles taught. And it gets even simpler when we “rightly divide” the Word of God (II Timothy 2:15). There are two types of people in the world, the “saved” and the “unsaved.” We have the Apostle's words to the “saved” in the books of Romans through Jude inclusive. And we have the Apostle's words to the “unsaved” in the book of Acts. We can know the “spirit of truth, and the spirit of error” by comparing what is being taught to the saved in the books of Romans through Jude and the unsaved in the book of Acts.

The books of Romans through Jude are letters written to churches or individuals who were already “saved.” For example, the book of Romans was written to the church at Rome (Rom. 1:7), the books of I and II Corinthians to the church at Corinth (I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1), the book of Galatians to the churches of Galatia (Gal. 1:2), and the list goes on. The book of James, the two letters Peter wrote, and the three John wrote were meant to be circulated

among all the churches. The books of I and II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon were written to men who had already been born again. So, all of the letters from Romans through Jude are written to churches and individuals who were already saved. When a teacher teaches those who are already saved, all he has to do is teach what the Apostles taught in these letters to the churches. Though there are many verses in these letters which refer to the plan of salvation, it is only in the book of Acts that we can see someone being saved.

The book of Acts is called “The Acts of the Apostles.” It is the only book in the Bible where we can *see* someone being born again. When we desire to be saved, a true teacher will teach the same things the Apostles taught in the book of Acts. It is the Christians' responsibility to ensure that the teaching they are receiving is actual Bible teaching. A true teacher will teach the “saved” from the letters (epistles in the Greek) and the “unsaved” from the book of Acts. And, as John said, “...Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”

In Acts, chapter 2, Peter preached to the same people who had crucified the Lord. He told them:

**Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36)**

Immediately these Jews began to feel conviction for the sin of crucifying their own Messiah. They wanted to know what they should do. Notice the following verse:

**Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? (Acts 2:37)**

Because Peter was a true teacher, even an Apostle, and therefore the standard, he gave a true answer:

**Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**  
**(Acts 2:38)**

Peter was asked by sincere people desiring to take care of the sin question, "...what shall we do?" Any teacher who is asked, "what shall we do," *must* give the same answer. If they do not, they are false prophets. One might say all you have to do to be saved is:

"Just receive the Lord." False prophet!

"Just believe in God." False prophet!

"You don't have to change your life or repent to be saved."

False prophet!

"You don't have to be baptized to be saved." False prophet!

"You don't have to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to be saved." False prophet!

"You don't have to receive the Holy Ghost to be saved."

False prophet!

To get rid of the sin of crucifying their own Messiah, they had to "repent," they had to be "baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ," and they had to "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Peter went on to say in the following verse:

**For the promise is unto you (*those present there*), and to your children (*the next generation*), and to all that are afar off (*that's us!*), even as many as the Lord our God shall call (*everyone who has ever been called to be a Christian*).  
(Acts 2:39)**

When we repent, we fulfill the following:

We obey Jesus' command in Luke 13:3, 5:

- 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**
- 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

We express true belief:

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)**

When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we fulfill the following:

We are born again of the water:

**John 3:3-5**

**3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

**4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?**

**5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

We obey Jesus:

**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)**

We follow Jesus' example:

**Matthew 3:14-16**

**14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?**

**15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so now*: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.**

**16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:**

We receive spiritual circumcision:

**Colossians 2:11-12**

**11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

**12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

We obey the teaching in I Corinthians 6:9-11:

**9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,**

**10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

**11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

We obey the teaching in Titus 3:5:

**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.**

When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we put on Christ:

**For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27)**

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, we fulfill the following:

We are born again of the Spirit:

**John 3:3-5**

**3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

**4** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

**5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

We are adopted into God's family:

**For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (Romans 8:15)**

We are baptized into His body:

**For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.  
(1 Corinthians 12:13)**

We become His:

**But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Romans 8:9)**

We obey the teaching in I Corinthians 6:9-11:

**9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,**

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**11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

We obey the teaching in Titus 3:5:

**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.**

We know we *must* obey the Gospel:

**7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,**

**8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.  
(2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)**

Paul has defined the gospel as the “death, burial, and resurrection” of Jesus Christ.



**1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

**2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

**3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

**4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

We obey Jesus' death when we repent of our sins:

**Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (Romans 6:6)**

We obey Jesus' burial when we are baptized:

**Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)**

**Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)**

We obey Jesus' resurrection when we receive the Holy Ghost:

## **Romans 6:4-5**

**4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death (baptism), we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*: (... be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38)

**Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)**

Every verse in the Bible that pertains to salvation can be understood in the light of Acts chapter 2 and verse 38 (Acts 2:38). There are many more references that could be added here, but this is more than enough to teach the sincere what they must do to find a true Bible experience that will become a house built on the rock. We must find the straight and narrow road that leads to life and avoid the broad way that leads to destruction. The Bible teaches we must all appear before the Lord to account for the things done in this life. When we do, we do not want to be among those professing Christians who will hear Jesus say, "...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23).

Elder Steven Kerr