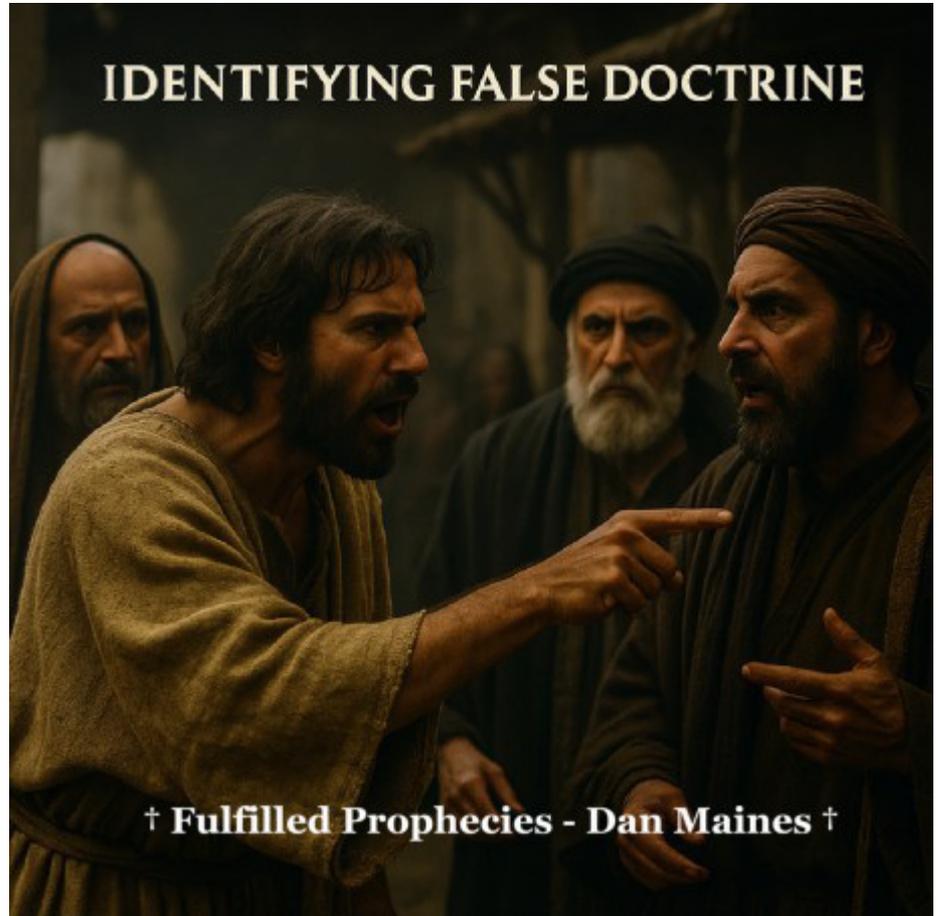


Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#) > [I](#) > [Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Identifying False Doctrine



By Dan Maines

Identifying False Doctrine

Introduction

False doctrine didn't start in our generation. It was already a major concern in the first century. Jesus warned about it, Paul confronted it, John condemned it, Jude exposed it, and the apostles constantly told the church to test everything. Identifying false doctrine is not optional, it's a command. And now that we stand in the fulfilled Kingdom, it's even more important that we guard the truth that Christ finished and delivered to the saints.

People fall into false doctrine for different reasons. Some because they've never studied. Some because they follow emotions instead of scripture. Some because they trust tradition more than the word of God (They trust their Pastor over Jesus). But every apostle pointed to the same solution, stay anchored to what was written.

The Biblical Warnings Against False Doctrine

2 Timothy 4:3 to 4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

† Paul wasn't warning about some far future age, he was warning Timothy about what was happening in their time as the end of the age approached (2 Timothy 4:3 to 4).

† Ear tickling doctrine is always attractive because it lets people believe what they want instead of submitting to scripture (2 Timothy 4:3).

† Turning to myths is what happens when people stop checking everything against what Jesus actually said (2 Timothy 4:4).

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

† John said many false prophets were already active, showing that deception was part of the last days leading up to AD 70 (1 John 4:1).

† Testing the spirits means comparing every teaching to the words of Christ and His apostles, not to tradition or popular opinion (1 John 4:1).

† False prophets always appear religious, but they deny the

finished work and fulfilled timeline of Christ.

Matthew 24:11

Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

† Jesus told them false prophets would arise in their generation before the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:11).

† The fact that Jesus tied false prophets to the end of the age proves they were a first century sign, not something we wait for today (Matthew 24:11).

† Deception is the first step that leads people away from the fulfilled truth.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

† False doctrine always starts with man's ideas, not God's completed revelation (Colossians 2:8).

† Tradition can be the most dangerous trap because it feels familiar even when it contradicts scripture (Colossians 2:8).

† The only safeguard is staying anchored in Christ and His fulfilled work.

Jude 3 to 4

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all handed down to the saints.

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

† The faith was once for all delivered, meaning nothing needed to be added after Christ fulfilled everything (Jude 3).

† False teachers always creep in unnoticed, blending in until their message starts pulling people away from truth (Jude 4).

† Denying Christ doesn't just mean denying His identity, it means denying the finished work and the fulfilled timeline of His coming and judgment.

Additional Scriptural Warnings

Acts 20:29 to 30

I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock, and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them.

† Paul said false teachers were coming from inside the first century church, proving the danger was immediate in their generation.

† They weren't waiting for wolves, the wolves were already forming among them.

† This reinforces that identifying false doctrine is always tied to knowing what Christ fulfilled.

Matthew 16:6

And Jesus said to them, Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

† False doctrine doesn't explode, it spreads slowly like leaven until it corrupts everything.

† Jesus was warning His disciples to guard against the teaching that opposed the New Covenant He was establishing.

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to

disappear.

† False doctrine in the first century thrived in the tension between the fading Old Covenant and the arriving New Covenant.

† That same Old Covenant mindset fuels most false doctrine today when people refuse to accept that it fully disappeared in AD 70.

Jude 17 to 19

But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts. These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly minded, devoid of the Spirit.

† Jude identifies false teachers as the mockers of the last time, the final days of the Old Covenant age in the first century.

† Division always follows false doctrine because it's not grounded in the fulfilled work of Christ.

How False Doctrine Spreads

† It spreads when people stop testing teachings against scripture

† It spreads when tradition is elevated above the completed work of Christ

† It spreads when individuals seek teachers who confirm what they already want to believe

† It spreads when people follow personalities instead of the written word

† It spreads when scripture is read through futurism, pulling every promise out of its context, audience, and timeline

False doctrine is never harmless. It always leads people away from the truth Jesus fulfilled.

Historical References

The early church fathers warned about false doctrine constantly because they lived immediately after the apostles.

Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Eusebius, and Clement of Alexandria all describe false teachers who twisted prophecy, denied fulfillment, and introduced ideas that were foreign to the apostolic message. They saw the danger firsthand, and they insisted that the church must stay anchored to the faith delivered by the apostles.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're in the New Jerusalem, the judgment is past, and the Kingdom is open. But the danger of false doctrine didn't vanish. It changed shape. Today the greatest source of false doctrine is futurism. It denies the completed work of Christ, it pushes the hope of the church into an imaginary future, and it causes people to miss the blessing of the Kingdom we already live in.

† We identify false doctrine the same way the apostles told the first century church to do it.

† Test everything

† Anchor every belief in scripture

† Stay grounded in what was fulfilled in their generation

† Refuse to accept ideas that contradict the clear timing of Christ's coming

† Stand firm on the fact that the last days ended in AD 70, the resurrection is fulfilled, the judgment has taken place, and the New Covenant Kingdom is fully established

† We don't identify false doctrine by emotion, tradition, or popularity. We identify it by the fulfilled word of God. The apostles didn't tell the church to wait for a future age of deception, they warned that deception was active in their last days. That same deception continues today every time someone denies the timing Jesus gave, the fulfillment He

accomplished, and the New Covenant Kingdom we now live in.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies, Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Matthew 24:11, 2 Timothy 4:3 to 4, 1 John 4:1, Colossians 2:8, Jude 3 to 4, Acts 20:29 to 30, Matthew 16:6, Hebrews 8:13, Jude 17 to 19

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue With Trypho

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/1883207902567342/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.