

“TRUE OR FALSE,” NOT “MULTIPLE CHOICE” ON DOCTRINE

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In **2 Peter 2** we find the apostles bringing news to the brethren that must have been difficult to accept: The fight with false brethren (teachers/doctrine) would be an ongoing battle. Peter speaks to them with certainty that this will happen in the future (**v.1**), just as Jude (**Jude 4**) speaks of it happening in the present. The apostle Paul spoke to the elders in **Acts 20** concerning the same matter (**20:17-31**), reminding them that he had warned them about this problem of false teachers (“GRIEVOUS WOLVES”) for three years! Brethren, however, are often lax on matters of fellowship with things that must be either “true” or “false.” False teaching hurts (weakens) the church, but many fail to see this. Truth matters!

We commend the various brethren who will always defend the “Truth.” The “Truth” is very precious. God’s Word is “Truth.” In the Bible, things are quite often “true” or “false.” We want to look at how that difference is not one to compromise on or be confused by.

The word *truth* appears in the Bible over 200 times. The word has invariably meant the same with respect to God’s will and Word: stability, certainty, trust worthiness, and verity. God’s Word is “stable, certain, trustworthy, and verifiable.” In **Psalms 26:3** we read, “I HAVE WALKED IN THY TRUTH.” In **Psalms 119:151** we read, “ALL THY COMMANDMENTS ARE TRUTH.” Jesus tells us in **John 17:17** that the Word of God (“THY WORD”) is Truth. An interesting use of the word also appears in **Galatians 4:16**. The question is asked, have I “BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?” Here we see that the Truth is a dividing line at times, as Jesus said it would be. Truth is divided from error and all that is “false.” If a person does not preach/teach the Truth, then that which is spoken is “false.” The Scriptures inform us of this numerous times.

Pseudodidaskalos is the translated Greek word for “false teacher” in **2 Peter 2:1**, a compound word that means “a propagator of erroneous Christian doctrine.” It is not limited to any particular teaching, as the New Testament seems to use it to reference any “false” teaching that takes place regarding God’s commandments. The Scriptures refer to those who teach error as “false prophets.” The label is a serious one, as both the Lord and the apostles warn of the harm that they can and will do to the souls of the faithful.

“BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS, WHICH COME TO YOU IN SHEEP’S CLOTHING, BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE RAVENING WOLVES” (**Matthew 7:15**). **Galatians 2:4** also speaks to us of false brethren who come in “UNAWARES.” It is in the following verse that we see how we are to handle these brethren: not to give them hupotage (control) for even an hour! Paul did not allow Peter to reflect a “false” example to the brethren; he withstood him to the face. This is the lesson; that any who teach any other doctrine than that

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which is of God shall be accursed (**1:8**). We are not interested in pleasing men with the Gospel, lest we displease God (**v.10**). Those who water down the commands of God, those who “change” the demands of God, and those who omit the requirements of God are nothing less (other) than false teachers. Is there really any other way to view it according to the Scriptures?

In the world, people sometimes do not take “True” and “False” questions too seriously. In the Lord’s church, we must always view this quite differently.