



***WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT  
FALSE TEACHERS  
&  
SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS***

If we don't know what the Good News has to say about a certain issue, how can we be obedient and do what God says to do? How can we be "*doers of the Word and not hearers only, deluding ourselves* ([James 1:22](#))," *if we don't know what the Word says to do?*

This document includes Holy Scripture references from the New American Bible (*8677 revised NABRE edition*). It was prayerfully designed to highlight the unceasing emphasis that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit- through Old Testament Prophets and New Testament Saints- placed upon knowing and embracing the Good News. Being armed with the Truth of Jesus Christ equips us to be spiritually alert and, therefore, capable of identifying and exposing false teachers attempting to advance their own agenda, rather than the Kingdom of God.

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The [Good News of Jesus Christ](#) is packed with references warning us not to stray from the written Word and to beware of those who preach against it and/or live in a manner that contradicts its teachings. Many in today's society- *including some Christians*- have stated that our society "has evolved" since the time Jesus walked the Earth and, therefore, the Bible is "outdated" and needs "revising" or "updating."

This opinion contradicts many Old & New Testament Scriptures ([Isaiah 44:6](#) and [48:12](#), [Matthew 6:24](#), [Luke 16:13](#), [Romans 8:7-8](#), [James 4:4](#), [Hebrews 1:12](#), [7:24](#), [13:8](#), [1 John 2:15-16](#), [2 John 1:7-11](#), [Revelation 1:8](#) and [1:17](#) to list but a few of many) that proclaim we either:

a) honor, serve and do our human best to emulate a God of consistency. He is One who never wavers with public opinion ([1 Samuel 15:24](#)), does not conform to the ways of this world ([Romans 12:2](#)), does not straddle political fences ([1 Kings 18:21](#)) or cave to desires of the flesh ([Galatians 5:17-21](#)). He is the same yesterday, today and forever ([Hebrews 13:8](#)).

OR

b) we don't.

There is no "updating" or "revising" required, only a complete and unconditional surrender to the King we say we are followers of. We must bend to His desires, not the other way around.

[Jesus Christ](#) Himself spoke unceasingly about how any of us who claim to be His followers are to pick up our Cross daily to follow Him ([Matthew 10:38](#), [Matthew 16:24-25](#), [Mark 8:34-35](#), [Luke 14:27](#) & [John 12:26](#)). When we are met with resistance in today's world about the steadfast teachings of Jesus Christ, we have two options: Pick up our Cross and follow Jesus OR turn our back on Him and follow *any other way*. There is no middle ground to stand on or fence post to straddle. Again turning to the God-inspired Scriptures ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)), the footnotes to [Revelation 3:15-16](#) share with us that "a halfhearted commitment to the faith is nauseating to Christ." Instead, we are to possess zeal, enthusiasm and be fervent of Spirit ([Romans 12:11](#)). This is the Ultimate Challenge which has eternal consequences. The Good News is that we have a choice and, today, I choose to follow Jesus Christ. Amen!

Whether we are at Church on Sunday or at the supermarket on Tuesday, how do we know when we are hearing the Truth of Jesus Christ ([John 14:6](#)) as opposed to when we are hearing anything else? The great evangelizer and author of a majority of the New Testament, St Paul, exhorts in [1 Thessalonians 5:21](#) that we are to "test everything; retain what is good." To be more specific, Paul is telling us we need to know what the Word says so we can discern upon what we are hearing. Does what we are hearing line up with the Scriptures or is it a false teaching?

Our very first Holy Father, Peter- the Rock and chosen one of Christ- encourages us in [1 Peter 2:2](#) to "long for spiritual milk, so that through it we may grow into salvation." After a seasonal period, we are to be weaned from that milk and, in place, seek out solid spiritual food- the fresh manna of Jesus Christ. [Church Fathers](#), [Church Tradition](#) and [Holy Fathers](#) throughout the ages have pointed to the Holy Scriptures as the very touchstone for that spiritual milk.

If we don't know what the Good News has to say about a certain issue, how can we be obedient and do what God says to do? How can we be "doers of the Word and not hearers only, deluding ourselves ([James 1:22](#))," if we don't know what the Word says to do?

We're grateful for many forewarnings outlined in both Old (ex: [Hosea 4:6](#)) and New (ex: [Matthew 7:24-27](#)) Testament Scriptures that spell out what is to take place if we adhere to or stray from what God

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wants us to do. The Good News is also relentless in teaching about kingdoms and their inhabitants- once very righteous in the eyes of God- who ultimately perished for falling off of the Vine they were called to remain upon. They chose, instead, to follow their own way, their own understanding and their own flesh. Akin to children under the tutelage of sound parents, we can avoid the consequences of disobeying our Father in Heaven and, instead, spend eternity with Him- if we crawl up into His lap and embrace His teachings. We have a choice. Let us choose Jesus!

## SACRED SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Utilizing the Sacred Scriptures from the New American Bible, listed below in Canonical Order are numerous references to False Teaching / Spiritual Blindness:

### OLD TESTAMENT

[Genesis 3:1](#), [Deuteronomy 13:1-9](#), [Isaiah 9:1-20](#), [1 Samuel 8:10-18](#), [Psalms 50:16-23](#), [Jeremiah 5:31](#), [Jeremiah 6:13-21](#), [Jeremiah 14:14](#), [Jeremiah 23:1-40](#), [Ezekiel 13:3-4](#), [Hosea 4:1-12, 14](#), [Amos 6:12](#) & [Micah 2:11](#).

### NEW TESTAMENT

[Matthew 7:15-20](#), [Matthew 10:37-39](#), [Matthew 24:11-12](#), [Matthew 24:23-25](#), [Mark 7:6-9, 13](#), [Mark 13:5-6](#), [Luke 6:43-45](#), [Luke 11:37-52](#) (see also [Matthew 23:1-36](#); [Mark 12:38-40](#); [Luke 20:45-47](#)), [Luke 12:8-10](#), [John 8:37, 44-45, 47](#), [Acts 15:19-20](#), [Acts 17:11](#), [Acts 20:29-31](#), [Romans 16:17-20](#), [2 Corinthians 11:1-15](#), [Galatians 1:6-10](#), [Galatians 3:10](#), [Philippians 3:1-4](#), [Philippians 3:17-21](#), [Colossians 2:4-8](#), [1 Timothy 1:3-7](#), [1 Timothy 4:1-5](#), [1 Timothy 6:3-5](#), [1 Timothy 6:20-21](#), [2 Timothy 3:8](#), [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#), [Titus 1:7-14](#), [Titus 3:10-11](#), [James 3:13-18](#), [2 Peter 2:1-22](#), [2 Peter 3:3-4](#), [2 Peter 3:15-17](#), [1 John 2:18-23](#), [1 John 4:1-6](#), [2 John 1:7-11](#), [3 John 1:9-11](#), [Jude 1:3-19](#), [Revelation 13:1-10](#) & [Revelation 22:16-19](#).

## FAITH DOCTRINE REFERENCES

### CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### Blindness

doubt of faith and blindness of the spirit, [2088](#).

of Herod and Pilate and the plan of salvation, [600](#).

**New life in the Spirit**, [1698](#), [1708](#), [1715](#).

living according to the Spirit, [1533](#), [2848](#).

See also [Spiritual life](#); [Spirituality\(ies\)](#).

## FALSE TEACHERS & SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Utilizing the Holy Scriptures from the New American Bible, listed below in Canonical Order are numerous False Teaching / Spiritual Blindness references:

### OLD TESTAMENT

[Genesis 3:1](#) Now the snake was the most cunning\* of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”

[Deuteronomy 13:1-9](#) Every word that I command you, you shall be careful to observe, neither adding to it nor subtracting from it. If there arises in your midst a prophet or a dreamer who promises you a sign or wonder, saying, “Let us go after other gods,” whom you have not known, “and let us serve them,” and the sign or wonder foretold to you comes to pass, do not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer; for the LORD, your God, is testing you to know whether you really love the LORD, your God, with all your heart and soul. The LORD, your God, shall you follow, and him shall you fear; his commandments shall you observe, and to his voice shall you listen; him you shall serve, and to him you shall hold fast. But that prophet or that dreamer shall be put to death, because, in order to lead you astray from the way which the LORD, your God, has commanded you to take, the prophet or dreamer has spoken apostasy against the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery. Thus shall you purge the evil from your midst.

If your brother, your father’s child or your mother’s child, your son or daughter, your beloved spouse, or your intimate friend entices you secretly, saying, “Come, let us serve other gods,” whom you and your ancestors have not known, any of the gods of the surrounding peoples, near to you or far away, from one end of the earth to the other: do not yield or listen to any such person.

[Isaiah 9:1-20](#) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing; They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest, as they exult when dividing the spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, the rod of their taskmaster, you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, upon David’s throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

### Judgment on the Northern Kingdom

The Lord has sent a word against Jacob, and it falls upon Israel; And all the people know it— Ephraim and those who dwell in Samaria— those who say in arrogance and pride of heart, Bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with cut stone; Sycamores have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars.” So the LORD raises up their foes against them and stirs up their enemies to action— Aram from the east and the Philistines from the west— they devour Israel with open mouth.

For all this, his wrath is not turned back, and his hand is still outstretched! The people do not turn back to the one who struck them, nor do they seek the LORD of hosts. So the LORD cuts off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day. (The elder and the noble are the head, the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail.) Those who lead this people lead them astray, and those who are led are swallowed up.

That is why the Lord does not spare their young men, and their orphans and widows he does not pity; For they are totally impious and wicked, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this, his wrath is not turned back, his hand is still outstretched! For wickedness burns like fire, devouring brier and thorn; it kindles the forest thickets, which go up in columns of smoke. At the wrath of the LORD of hosts the land quakes, and the people are like fuel for fire; no one spares his brother. They hack on the right, but remain hungry; they devour on the left, but are not filled. Each devours the flesh of the neighbor; Manasseh devours Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh, together they turn on Judah. For all this, his wrath is not turned back, his hand is still outstretched! A spirit of judgment for the one who sits in judgment, and strength for those who turn back the battle at the gate.

### **Against Judah**

But these also stagger from wine and stumble from strong drink: Priest and prophet stagger from strong drink, overpowered by wine; They are confused by strong drink, they stagger in their visions, they totter when giving judgment.

[Isaiah 52:5](#) But now, what am I to do here?—oracle of the LORD. My people have been taken away for nothing; their rulers mock, oracle of the LORD; constantly, every day, my name is reviled.

[1 Samuel 8:10-18](#) Samuel delivered the message of the LORD in full to those who were asking him for a king. He told them: “The governance of the king who will rule you will be as follows: He will take your sons and assign them to his chariots and horses, and they will run before his chariot. He will appoint from among them his commanders of thousands and of hundreds. He will make them do his plowing and harvesting and produce his weapons of war and chariotry. He will use your daughters as perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will tithe your crops and grape harvests to give to his officials and his servants. He will take your male and female slaves, as well as your best oxen and donkeys, and use them to do his work. He will also tithe your flocks. As for you, you will become his slaves. On that day you will cry out because of the king whom you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you on that day.”

[Psalms 50:16-23](#) But to the wicked God says: “Why do you recite my commandments and profess my covenant with your mouth? You hate discipline; you cast my words behind you! If you see a thief, you run with him; with adulterers you throw in your lot. You give your mouth free rein for evil; you yoke your tongue to deceit. You sit and speak against your brother, slandering your mother’s son. When you do these things should I be silent? Do you think that I am like you? I accuse you, I lay out the matter before your eyes. “Now understand this, you who forget God, lest I start ripping apart and there be no rescuer. Those who offer praise as a sacrifice honor me; I will let him whose way is steadfast look upon the salvation of God.”

[Jeremiah 5:31](#) The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests teach on their own authority; Yet my people like it this way; what will you do when the end comes?

[Jeremiah 6:13-21](#) Small and great alike, all are greedy for gain; prophet and priest, all practice fraud. They have treated lightly the injury to my people: “Peace, peace!” they say, though there is no peace. They have acted shamefully, committing abominations, yet they are not at all ashamed, they do not know how to blush. Therefore they will fall among the fallen; in the time of their punishment they shall stumble, says the LORD.

Thus says the LORD: Stand by the earliest roads, ask the pathways of old, “Which is the way to good?” and walk it; thus you will find rest for yourselves. But they said, “We will not walk it.” I raised up watchmen for them: “Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!” But they said, “We will not pay attention!” Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O earth, what I will do with them: See, I bring evil upon this

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people, the fruit of their own schemes, because they did not pay attention to my words, because they rejected my law.

Of what use to me is incense that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane from far-off lands? Your burnt offerings find no favor with me, your sacrifices do not please me. Therefore, thus says the LORD: See, I will place before this people obstacles to trip them up; Parents and children alike, neighbors and friends shall perish.

[Jeremiah 14:14](#) These prophets utter lies in my name, the LORD said to me: I did not send them; I gave them no command, nor did I speak to them. They prophesy to you lying visions, foolish divination, deceptions from their own imagination.

[Jeremiah 23:1-40](#) **A Just Shepherd.** Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock of my pasture—oracle of the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have banished them and bring them back to their folds; there they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear or be terrified; none shall be missing—oracle of the LORD.

See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when I will raise up a righteous branch for David; As king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name to be given him: “The LORD our justice.” Therefore, the days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when they shall no longer say, “As the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt”; but rather, “As the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Israel up from the land of the north”—and from all the lands to which I banished them; they shall again live on their own soil.

### **The False Prophets**

Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me, all my bones tremble; I am like a drunk, like one overcome by wine, because of the LORD, because of his holy words. The land is filled with adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, the pastures of the wilderness are withered. Theirs is an evil course, theirs is unjust power. Both prophet and priest are godless! In my very house I find their wickedness— oracle of the LORD. Hence their way shall become for them slippery ground. Into the darkness they shall be driven, and fall headlong; For I will bring disaster upon them, the year of their punishment—oracle of the LORD.

Among Samaria’s prophets I saw something unseemly: They prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray. But among Jerusalem’s prophets I saw something more shocking: adultery, walking in deception, strengthening the power of the wicked, so that no one turns from evil; To me they are all like Sodom, its inhabitants like Gomorrah. Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts against the prophets: Look, I will give them wormwood to eat, and poisoned water to drink; for from Jerusalem’s prophets ungodliness has gone forth into the whole land.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: Do not listen to the words of your prophets, who fill you with emptiness; They speak visions from their own fancy, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say to those who despise the word of the LORD, “Peace shall be yours”; And to everyone who walks in hardness of heart, “No evil shall overtake you.” Now, who has stood in the council of the LORD, to see him and to hear his word? Who has heeded his word so as to announce it?

See, the storm of the LORD! His wrath breaks forth In a whirling storm that bursts upon the heads of the wicked. The anger of the LORD shall not abate until he has carried out completely the decisions of his heart. In days to come you will understand fully.

I did not send these prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. Had they stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people, They would have brought them back from their evil ways and from their wicked deeds. Am I a God near at hand only—oracle of the LORD— and not a God far off? Can anyone hide in secret without my seeing them?—oracle of the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth?—oracle of the LORD. I have heard the prophets who prophesy lies in my name say, “I had a dream! I had a dream!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets who prophesy lies and their own deceitful fancies ever turn back? By the dreams they tell each other, they plan to make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophets who have dreams tell their dreams; let those who have my word speak my word truthfully! What has straw to do with wheat? —oracle of the LORD. Is not my word like fire—oracle of the LORD—like a hammer shattering rock? Therefore I am against the prophets—oracle of the LORD—those who steal my words from each other. Yes, I am against the prophets—oracle of the LORD—those who compose their own speeches and call them oracles. Yes, I am against the prophets who tell lying dreams—oracle of the LORD—those who lead my people astray by recounting their reckless lies. It was not I who sent them or commanded them; they do this people no good at all—oracle of the LORD.

And when this people or a prophet or a priest asks you, “What is the burden of the LORD?” you shall answer, “You are the burden, and I cast you off”—oracle of the LORD. If a prophet or a priest or anyone else mentions “the burden of the LORD,” I will punish that man and his household. Thus you shall ask, when speaking to one another, “What answer did the LORD give?” or “What did the LORD say?” But “the burden of the LORD” you shall mention no more. For each of you, your own word becomes the burden so that you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. Thus shall you ask the prophet, “What answer did the LORD give?” or “What did the LORD say?” But if you ask about “the burden of the LORD,” then thus says the LORD: Because you use this phrase, “the burden of the LORD,” though I forbade you to use it, therefore I will lift you on high and cast you from my presence, you and the city which I gave to you and your ancestors. And I will bring upon you eternal reproach, eternal shame, never to be forgotten.

[Ezekiel 13:3-4](#) Thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to those prophets, the fools who follow their own spirit and see nothing. Like foxes among ruins are your prophets, Israel!

[Hosea 4:1-12, 14](#) **Indictment of Israel** Hear the word of the LORD, Israelites, for the LORD has a dispute with the inhabitants of the land: There is no fidelity, no loyalty, no knowledge of God in the land. Swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land dries up, and everything that dwells in it languishes: The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and even the fish of the sea perish.

### **Guilt of Priest and of People**

But let no one accuse, let no one rebuke; with you is my dispute, priest! You will stumble in the day, and the prophet will stumble with you at night; I will make an end of your mother. My people are ruined for lack of knowledge! Since you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from serving as my priest; since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children. The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against me, I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of my people, and are greedy for their iniquity. Like people, like priest: I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds. They will eat but not be satisfied, they will promote prostitution but not increase, because they have abandoned the LORD, devoting themselves to prostitution. Aged wine and new wine take away understanding. My people consult their piece of wood, and their wand

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makes pronouncements for them, for the spirit of prostitution has led them astray; they prostitute themselves, forsaking their God. Thus a people without understanding comes to ruin.

[Amos 6:12](#) Yet you have turned justice into gall, and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood.

[Micah 2:11](#) If one possessed of a lying spirit speaks deceitfully, saying, "I will preach to you wine and strong drink," that one would be the preacher for this people.

## NEW TESTAMENT

[Matthew 7:15-20](#) "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.

[Matthew 10:37-39](#) "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

[Matthew 24:11-12](#) Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evil-doing, the love of many will grow cold.

[Matthew 24:23-25](#) If anyone says to you then, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand.

[Mark 7:6-9, 13](#) "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He went on to say, "How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition! You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things."

[Mark 13:5-6](#) Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name saying, 'I am he,' and they will deceive many."

[Luke 6:43-45](#) "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

[Luke 11:37-52](#) **Denunciation of the Pharisees and Scholars of the Law.** After he had spoken, a Pharisee invited him to dine at his home. He entered and reclined at table to eat. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not observe the prescribed washing before the meal. The Lord said to him, "Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil. You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside? But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you. Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking the others. Woe to you Pharisees! You love the seat

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of honor in synagogues and greetings in marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk.”

Then one of the scholars of the law said to him in reply, “Teacher, by saying this you are insulting us too.” And he said, “Woe also to you scholars of the law! You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them. Woe to you! You build the memorials of the prophets whom your ancestors killed. Consequently, you bear witness and give consent to the deeds of your ancestors, for they killed them and you do the building. Therefore, the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles; some of them they will kill and persecute’ in order that this generation might be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who died between the altar and the temple building. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be charged with their blood! Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not enter and you stopped those trying to enter.” (see also [Matthew 23:1-36](#); [Mark 12:38-40](#); [Luke 20:45-47](#)).

[Luke 12:8-10](#) “I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

[John 8:37, 44-45, 47](#) (Jesus speaking with fellow Jews who believed in Him) “I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. You belong to your father the devil and you willingly carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe me. Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not listen, because you do not belong to God.”

[Acts 15:19-20](#) It is my judgment, therefore, that we ought to stop troubling the Gentiles who turn to God, but tell them by letter to avoid pollution from idols, unlawful marriage, the meat of strangled animals, and blood.

[Acts 17:11](#) These Jews were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all willingness and examined the scriptures daily to determine whether these things were so.

[Acts 20:29-31](#) I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears.

[Romans 16:17-20](#) I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned; avoid them. For such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent. For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil; then the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

[2 Corinthians 11:1-15](#) If only you would put up with a little foolishness from me! Please put up with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your

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thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere [and pure] commitment to Christ. For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus than the one 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 well enough.

For I think that I am not in any way inferior to these “superapostles.” Even if I am untrained in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.

Did I make a mistake when I humbled myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? I plundered other churches by accepting from them in order to minister to you. And when I was with you and in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. By the truth of Christ in me, this boast of mine shall not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

And what I do I will continue to do, in order to end this pretext of those who seek a pretext for being regarded as we are in the mission of which they boast. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, who masquerade as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light. So it is not strange that his ministers also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

[Galatians 1:6-10](#) I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by [the] grace [of Christ] for a different gospel (not that there is another). But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach [to you] a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now currying favor with human beings or God? Or am I seeking to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ.

[Galatians 3:10](#) For all who depend on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not persevere in doing all the things written in the book of the law.”

[Philippians 3:1-4](#) **Concluding Admonitions.** Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. Writing the same things to you is no burden for me but is a safeguard for you.

### **Against Legalistic Teachers.**

Beware of the dogs! Beware of the evil workers! Beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, we who worship through the Spirit of God, who boast in Christ Jesus and do not put our confidence in flesh, although I myself have grounds for confidence even in the flesh.

[Philippians 3:17-21](#) Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

[Colossians 2:4-8](#) I say this so that no one may deceive you by specious arguments. For even if I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing as I observe your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon

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him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ.

[1 Timothy 1:3-7](#) **Warning against False Doctrine.** I repeat the request I made of you when I was on my way to Macedonia, that you stay in Ephesus to instruct certain people not to teach false doctrines or to concern themselves with myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the plan of God that is to be received by faith. The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, wanting to be teachers of the law, but without understanding either what they are saying or what they assert with such assurance.

[1 Timothy 4:1-5](#) Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the last times some will turn away from the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and demonic instructions through the hypocrisy of liars with branded consciences. They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected when received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the invocation of God in prayer.

[1 Timothy 6:3-5](#) Whoever teaches something different and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the religious teaching is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid disposition for arguments and verbal disputes. From these come envy, rivalry, insults, evil suspicions, and mutual friction among people with corrupted minds, who are deprived of the truth, supposing religion to be a means of gain.

[1 Timothy 6:20-21](#) O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid profane babbling and the absurdities of so-called knowledge. By professing it, some people have deviated from the faith.

[2 Timothy 3:8](#) Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so they also oppose the truth—people of depraved mind, unqualified in the faith.

[2 Timothy 4:1-5](#) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

[Titus 1:7-14](#) For a bishop as God's steward must be blameless, not arrogant, not irritable, not a drunkard, not aggressive, not greedy for sordid gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, temperate, just, holy, and self-controlled, holding fast to the true message as taught so that he will be able both to exhort with sound doctrine and to refute opponents. For there are also many rebels, idle talkers and deceivers, especially the Jewish Christians. It is imperative to silence them, as they are upsetting whole families by teaching for sordid gain what they should not. One of them, a prophet of their own, once said, "Cretans have always been liars, vicious beasts, and lazy gluttons." That testimony is true. Therefore, admonish them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith, instead of paying attention to Jewish myths and regulations of people who have repudiated the truth.

[Titus 3:10-11](#) After a first and second warning, break off contact with a heretic, realizing that such a person is perverted and sinful and stands self-condemned.

[James 3:13-18](#) Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

[2 Peter 2:1-22](#) There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who ransomed them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their licentious ways, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled. In their greed they will exploit you with fabrications, but from of old their condemnation has not been idle and their destruction does not sleep.

### **Lessons from the Past.**

For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus and handed them over to be kept for judgment; and if he did not spare the ancient world, even though he preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, together with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the godless world; and if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah [to destruction], reducing them to ashes, making them an example for the godless [people] of what is coming; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man oppressed by the licentious conduct of unprincipled people (for day after day that righteous man living among them was tormented in his righteous soul at the lawless deeds that he saw and heard), then the Lord knows how to rescue the devout from trial and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who follow the flesh with its depraved desire and show contempt for lordship.

### **False Teachers Denounced.**

Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to revile glorious beings, whereas angels, despite their superior strength and power, do not bring a reviling judgment against them from the Lord. But these people, like irrational animals born by nature for capture and destruction, revile things that they do not understand, and in their destruction they will also be destroyed, suffering wrong as payment for wrongdoing. Thinking daytime revelry a delight, they are stains and defilements as they revel in their deceits while carousing with you. Their eyes are full of adultery and insatiable for sin. They seduce unstable people, and their hearts are trained in greed. Accursed children! Abandoning the straight road, they have gone astray, following the road of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved payment for wrongdoing, but he received a rebuke for his own crime: a mute beast spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

These people are waterless springs and mists driven by a gale; for them the gloom of darkness has been reserved. For, talking empty bombast, they seduce with licentious desires of the flesh those who have barely escaped from people who live in error. They promise them freedom, though they themselves are slaves of corruption, for a person is a slave of whatever overcomes him. For if they, having escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of [our] Lord and savior Jesus Christ, again become entangled and overcome by them, their last condition is worse than their first. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment handed down to them. What is expressed in the true proverb has happened to them, "The dog returns to its own vomit," and "A bathed sow returns to wallowing in the mire."

[2 Peter 3:3-4](#) Know this first of all, that in the last days scoffers will come [to] scoff, living according to their own desires and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming?”

[2 Peter 3:15-17](#) And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures. Therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, be on your guard not to be led into the error of the unprincipled and to fall from your own stability.

[1 John 2:18-23](#) **Antichrists.** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that the antichrist was coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. Thus we know this is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of our number; if they had been, they would have remained with us. Their desertion shows that none of them was of our number. But you have the anointing that comes from the holy one, and you all have knowledge. I write to you not because you do not know the truth but because you do, and because every lie is alien to the truth. Who is the liar? Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Whoever denies the Father and the Son, this is the antichrist. No one who denies the Son has the Father, but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

[1 John 4:1-6](#) Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can know the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ come in the flesh belongs to God, and every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus does not belong to God. This is the spirit of the antichrist that, as you heard, is to come, but in fact is already in the world. You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They belong to the world; accordingly, their teaching belongs to the world, and the world listens to them. We belong to God, and anyone who knows God listens to us, while anyone who does not belong to God refuses to hear us. This is how we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit.

[2 John 1:7-11](#) Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh; such is the deceitful one and the antichrist. Look to yourselves that you do not lose what we worked for but may receive a full recompense. Anyone who is so “progressive” as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God; whoever remains in the teaching has the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him in your house or even greet him; for whoever greets him shares in his evil works.

[3 John 1:9-11](#) I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to dominate, does not acknowledge us. Therefore, if I come, I will draw attention to what he is doing, spreading evil nonsense about us. And not content with that, he will not receive the brothers, hindering those who wish to do so and expelling them from the church. Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God.

[Jude 1:3-19](#) Beloved, although I was making every effort to write to you about our common salvation, I now feel a need to write to encourage you to contend for the faith that was once for all handed down to the holy ones. For there have been some intruders, who long ago were designated for this condemnation, godless persons, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

### **The False Teachers.**

I wish to remind you, although you know all things, that [the] Lord who once saved a people from the land of Egypt later destroyed those who did not believe. The angels too, who did not keep to their own domain but deserted their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains, in gloom, for the judgment of

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the great day. Likewise, Sodom, Gomorrah, and the surrounding towns, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual promiscuity and practiced unnatural vice, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Similarly, these dreamers nevertheless also defile the flesh, scorn lordship, and revile glorious beings. Yet the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil in a dispute over the body of Moses, did not venture to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!" But these people revile what they do not understand and are destroyed by what they know by nature like irrational animals. Woe to them! They followed the way of Cain, abandoned themselves to Balaam's error for the sake of gain, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they carouse fearlessly and look after themselves. They are waterless clouds blown about by winds, fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead and uprooted. They are like wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shameless deeds, wandering stars for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved forever.

Enoch, of the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied also about them when he said, "Behold, the Lord has come with his countless holy ones to execute judgment on all and to convict everyone for all the godless deeds that they committed and for all the harsh words godless sinners have uttered against him." These people are complainers, disgruntled ones who live by their desires; their mouths utter bombast as they fawn over people to gain advantage.

#### **Exhortations.**

But you, beloved, remember the words spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, for they told you, "In [the] last time there will be scoffers who will live according to their own godless desires. These are the ones who cause divisions; they live on the natural plane, devoid of the Spirit.

[Revelation 13:1-10](#) **The First Beast.** Then I saw a beast come out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads; on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads blasphemous name[s]. The beast I saw was like a leopard, but it had feet like a bear's, and its mouth was like the mouth of a lion. To it the dragon gave its own power and throne, along with great authority. I saw that one of its heads seemed to have been mortally wounded, but this mortal wound was healed. Fascinated, the whole world followed after the beast. They worshiped the dragon because it gave its authority to the beast; they also worshiped the beast and said, "Who can compare with the beast or who can fight against it?"

The beast was given a mouth uttering proud boasts and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling and those who dwell in heaven. It was also allowed to wage war against the holy ones and conquer them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. All the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, all whose names were not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life, which belongs to the Lamb who was slain.

Whoever has ears ought to hear these words. Anyone destined for captivity goes into captivity. Anyone destined to be slain by the sword shall be slain by the sword. Such is the faithful endurance of the holy ones.

[Revelation 22:16-19](#) "I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water. I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words in this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book.