

# PORTRAIT OF THE *King*



ADMINISTRATION

**“What Does a False Teacher Look Like?”**

**MATTHEW 23:1-12**



*<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless,...*

**II Timothy 3:1-8**



*...swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth...*

**II Timothy 3:1-8**



*...<sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.*

**II Timothy 3:1-8**



1. Nicodemus (John 3)
2. Joseph of Arimathea (Mark 15:43)

**Two Friendly Pharisees**



- I. What does a false teacher look like? (vs. 1-12)
- II. What should false teachers expect from God? (vs. 13-36)
- III. How should we respond to those sitting under false teaching? (vs. 37-39)

## Structure of Matthew 23





**KEY POINT:**

A false teacher is exactly the **opposite**  
of **Jesus Christ.**





1. A false teacher has no authority (vs. 1-2).

**What Does a False Teacher  
Look Like?**





*<sup>11</sup> For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.*

**Galatians 1:11-12**



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**False Teacher**

**Jesus**

No authority

All authority (Matthew 28:18)

1. A false teacher has no authority (vs. 1-2).
2. A false teacher lacks integrity (vs. 3).

**What Does a False Teacher  
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**II Peter 2:17** - *These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.*

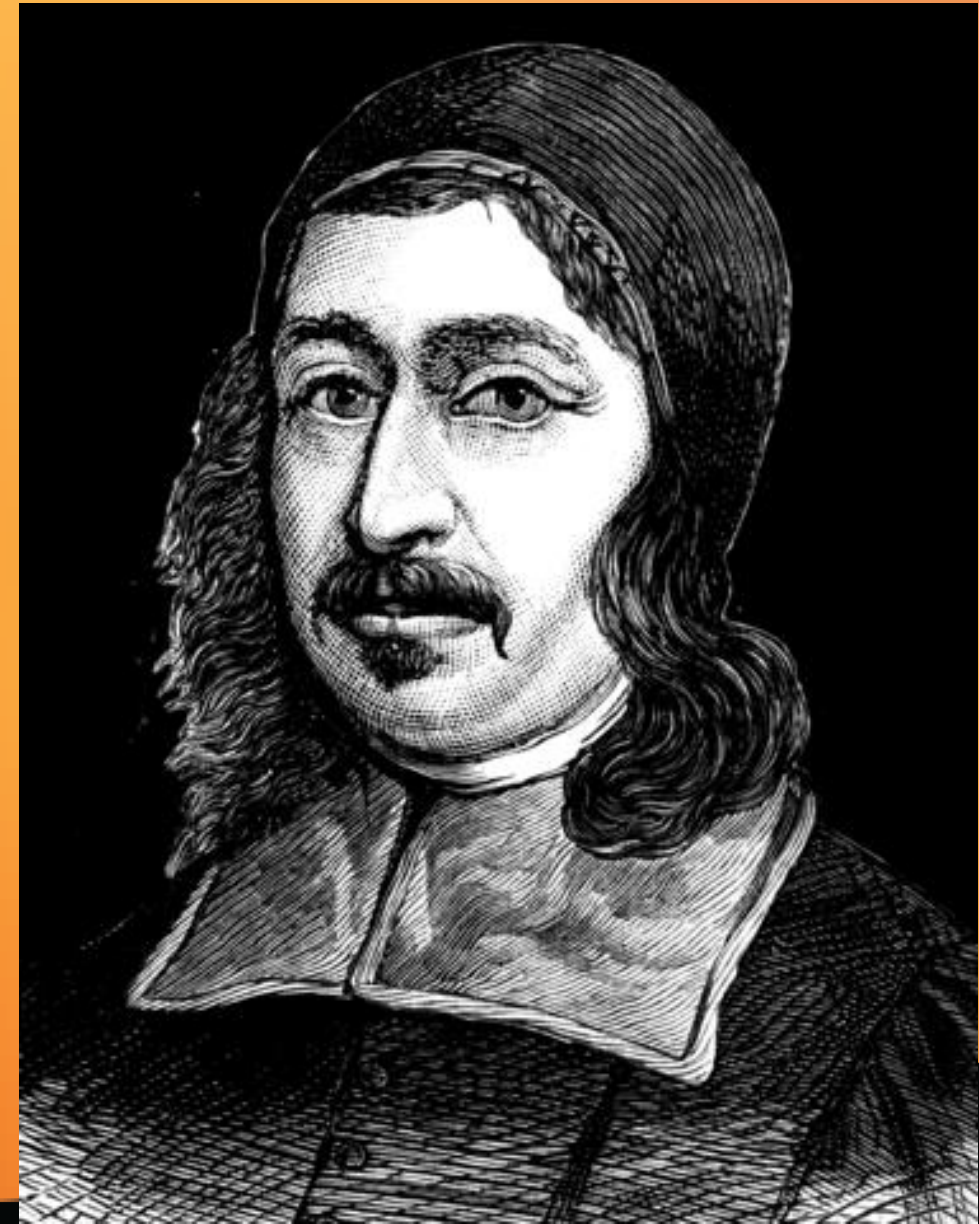
**Jude 12** - *These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;*



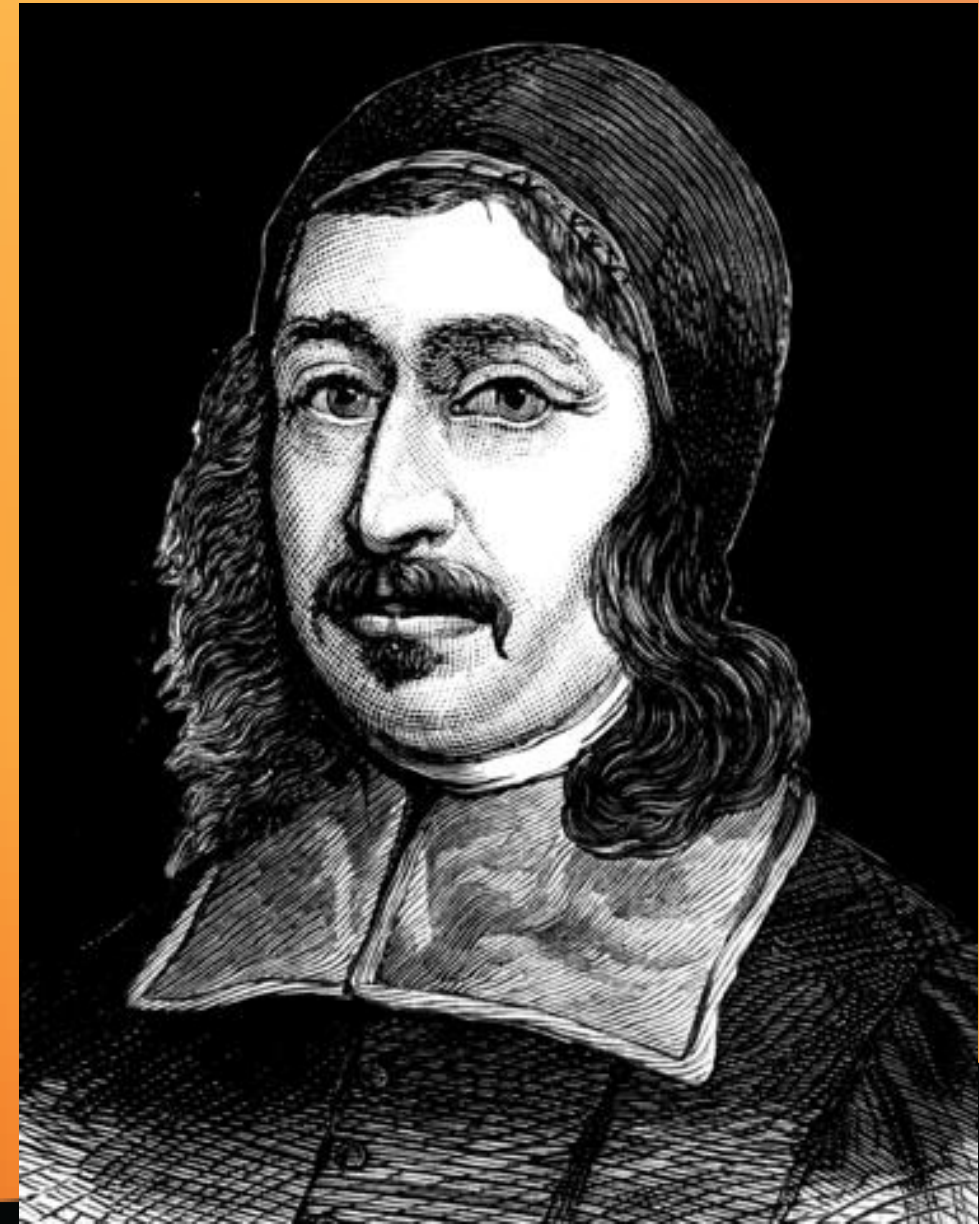
“Take heed to yourselves, lest your example contradict your doctrine, and lest you lay such stumbling-blocks before the blind, as may be the occasion of their ruin; lest you unsay with your lives, what you say with your tongues; and be the greatest hinderers of the...

*The Reformed Pastor*

**Richard Baxter**



# Richard Baxter



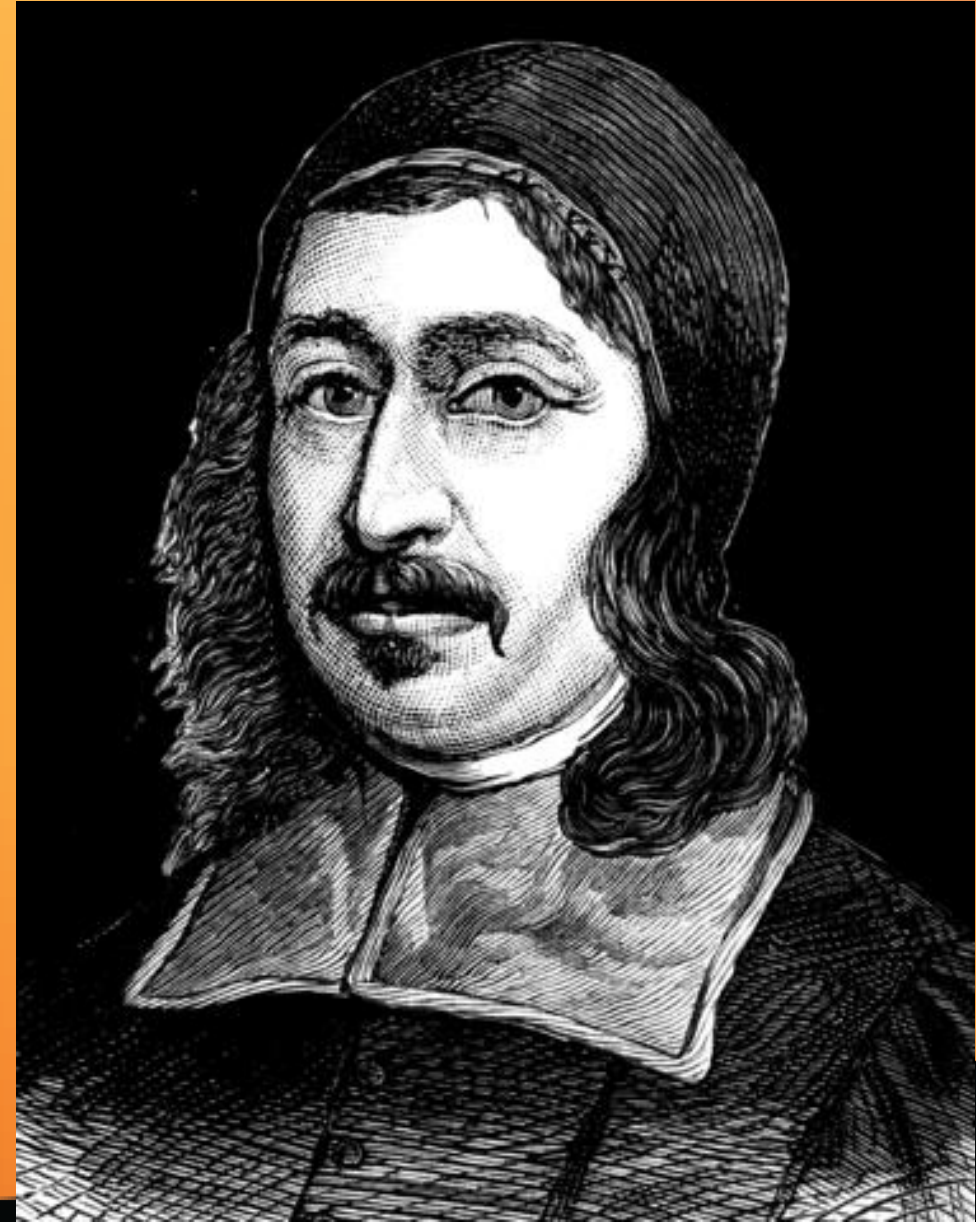
“... success of your own labours...  
This is the way to make men think  
that the Word of God is but an idle  
tale, and to make preaching seem  
no better than prating...It is a  
palpable error of some ministers,  
who make such a disproportion  
between their preaching and their  
living;...”

*The Reformed Pastor*

# Richard Baxter

“... who study hard to preach exactly, and study little or not at all to live exactly.”

*The Reformed Pastor*





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<b>False Teacher</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
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3. A false teacher lacks sympathy (vs. 4).

**What Does a False Teacher  
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*<sup>2</sup> “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup> You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep...*

**Ezekiel 34:2-5**



*...<sup>4</sup> The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.<sup>5</sup> So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered;*

**Ezekiel 34:2-5**



*<sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. <sup>8</sup> So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. <sup>9</sup> For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked...*

**I Thessalonians 2:7-9**



*...night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.*

**I Thessalonians 2:7-9**



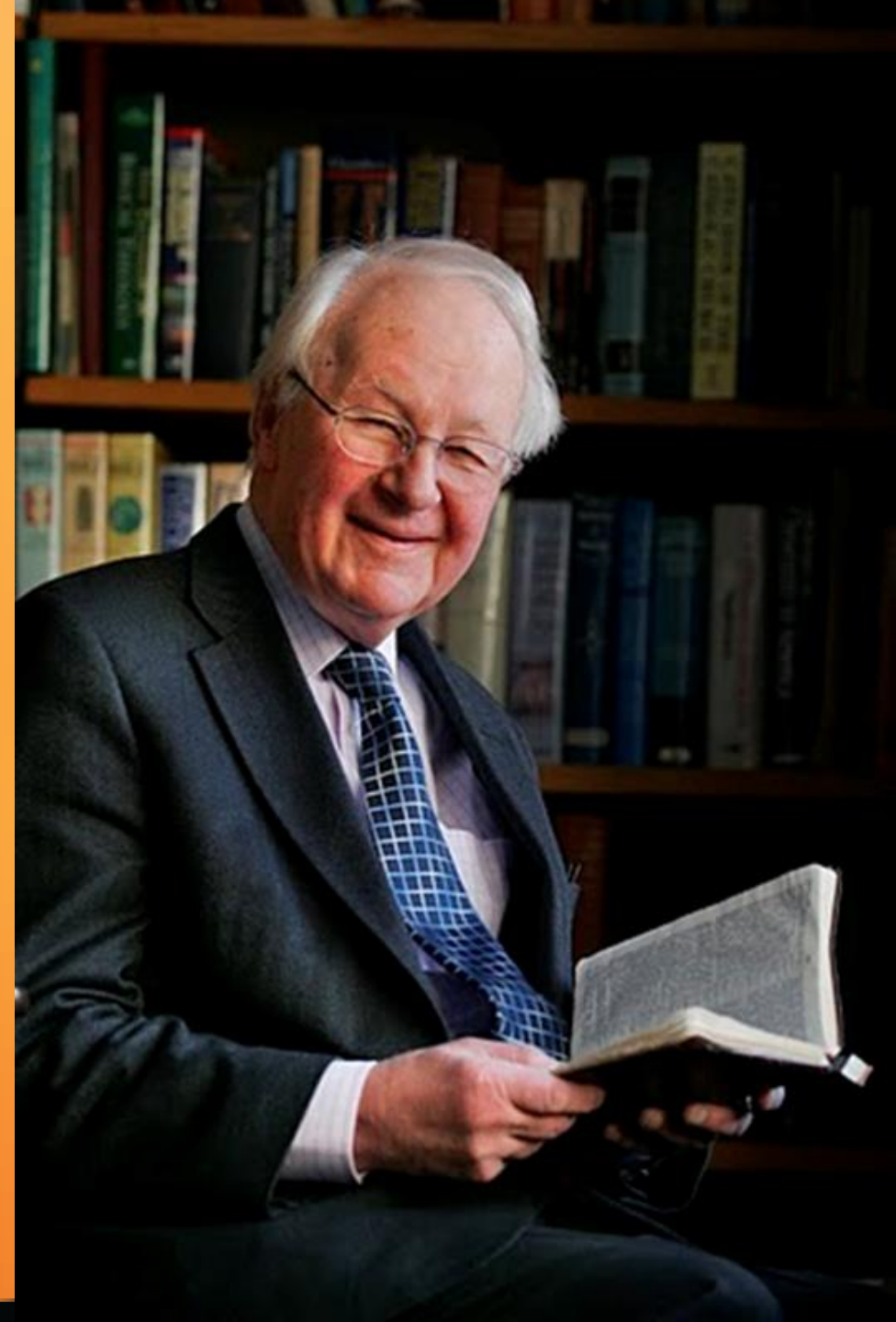
*28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

**Matthew 11:28-30**



“He despised nobody and disowned nobody. On the contrary, he went out of his way to honor those whom the world dishonored, and to accept those whom the world rejected. He spoke courteously to women in...

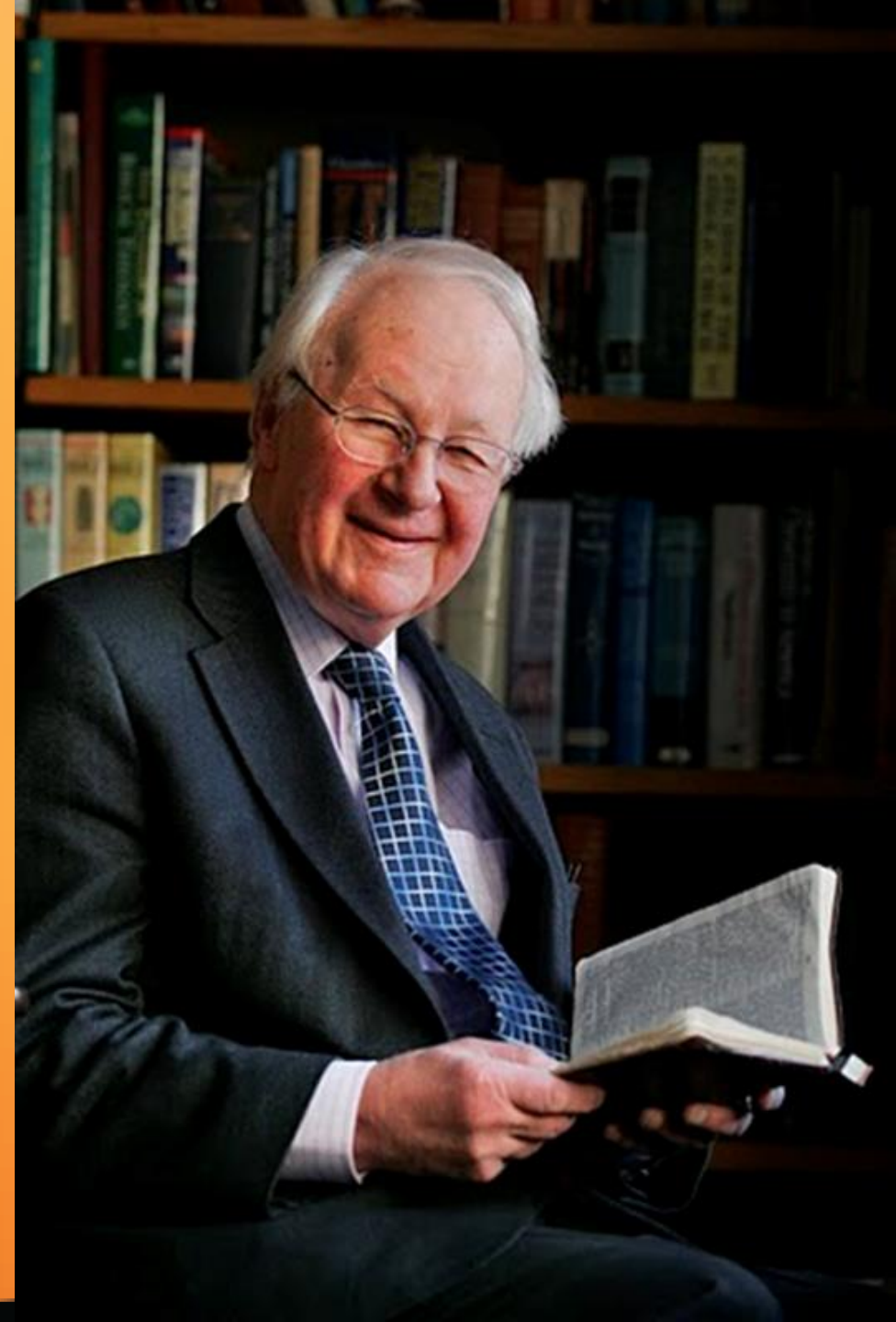
**John Stott,**  
*The Cross of Christ*





“...public. He invited little children to come to him. He spoke words of hope to Samaritans and Gentiles. He allowed leprosy sufferers to approach him and a prostitute to anoint and kiss his feet. He made friends with...

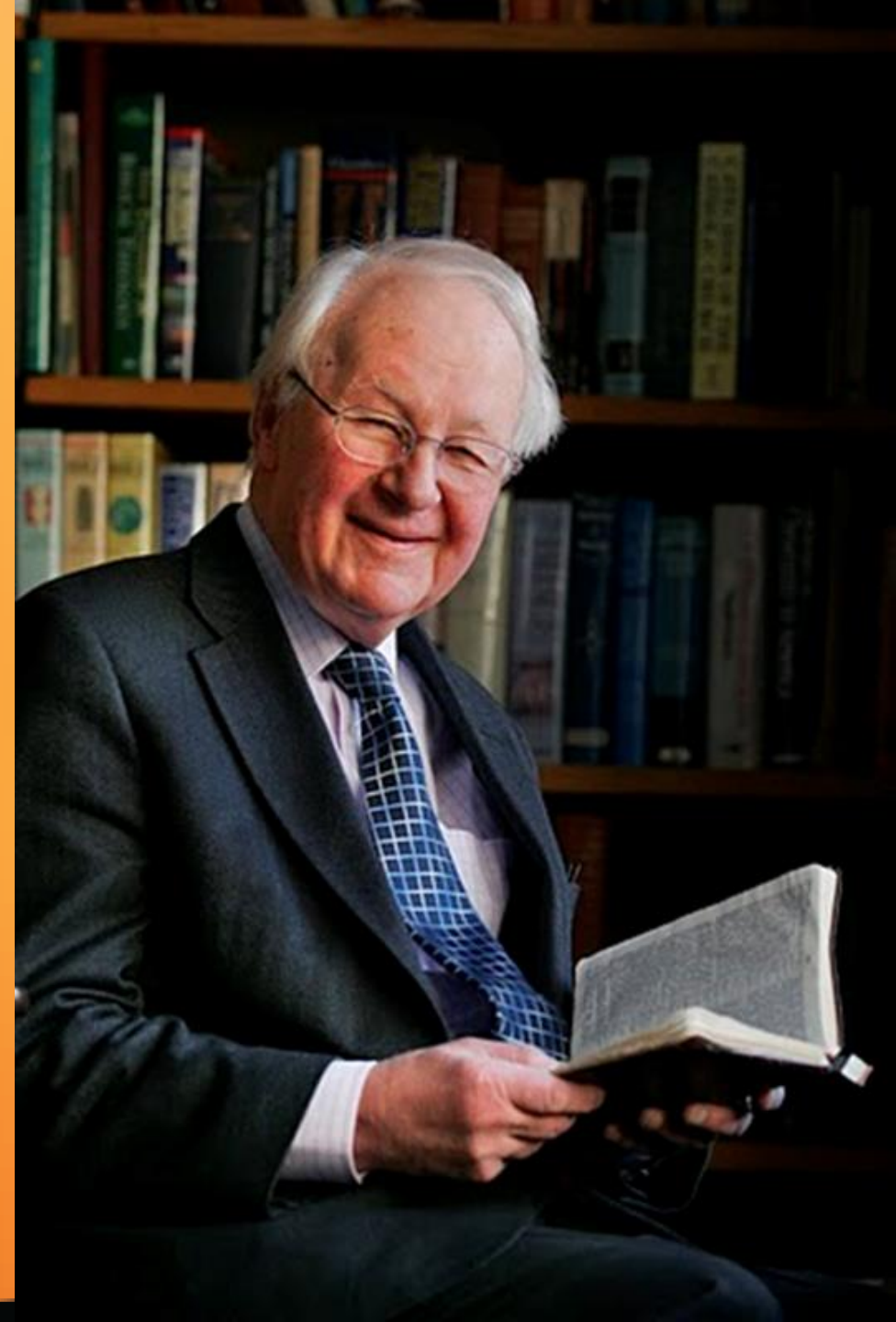
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“... the outcasts of society and ministered to the poor and hungry. In all this diversified ministry his compassionate respect for human beings shone forth. He acknowledged their value and loved them, and by loving them he further increased their value.”

**John Stott,**  
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Lacks integrity	No hypocrisy (I Peter 2:22-23)
Lacks sympathy	Compassionate (Matthew 9:36; 11:28-30)

1. A false teacher has no authority (vs. 1-2).
2. A false teacher lacks integrity (vs. 3).
3. A false teacher lacks sympathy (vs. 4).
4. A false teacher is unholy (vs. 5).

**What Does a False Teacher  
Look Like?**





- Also called *tephillinm*, which means “frontals”
- Made from a ceremonially clean animal
- From Exodus 13:9, 16 and Deuteronomy 6:4-8; 11:18



- Worn on the 4 corners of an outer garment
- Commanded in Numbers 15:38-39 as an outward sign of consecration to God.

*“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”*

**Matthew 6:1**





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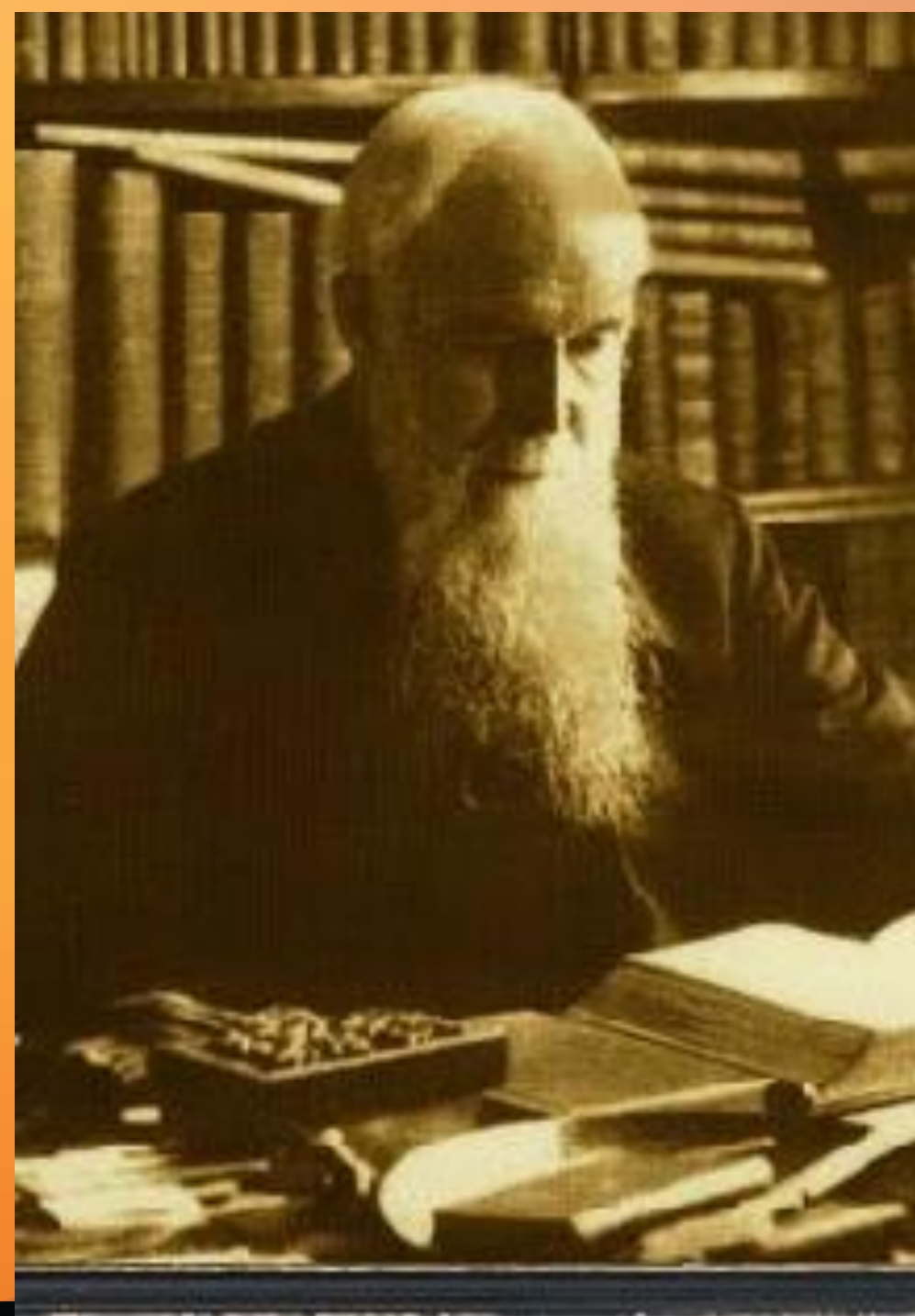
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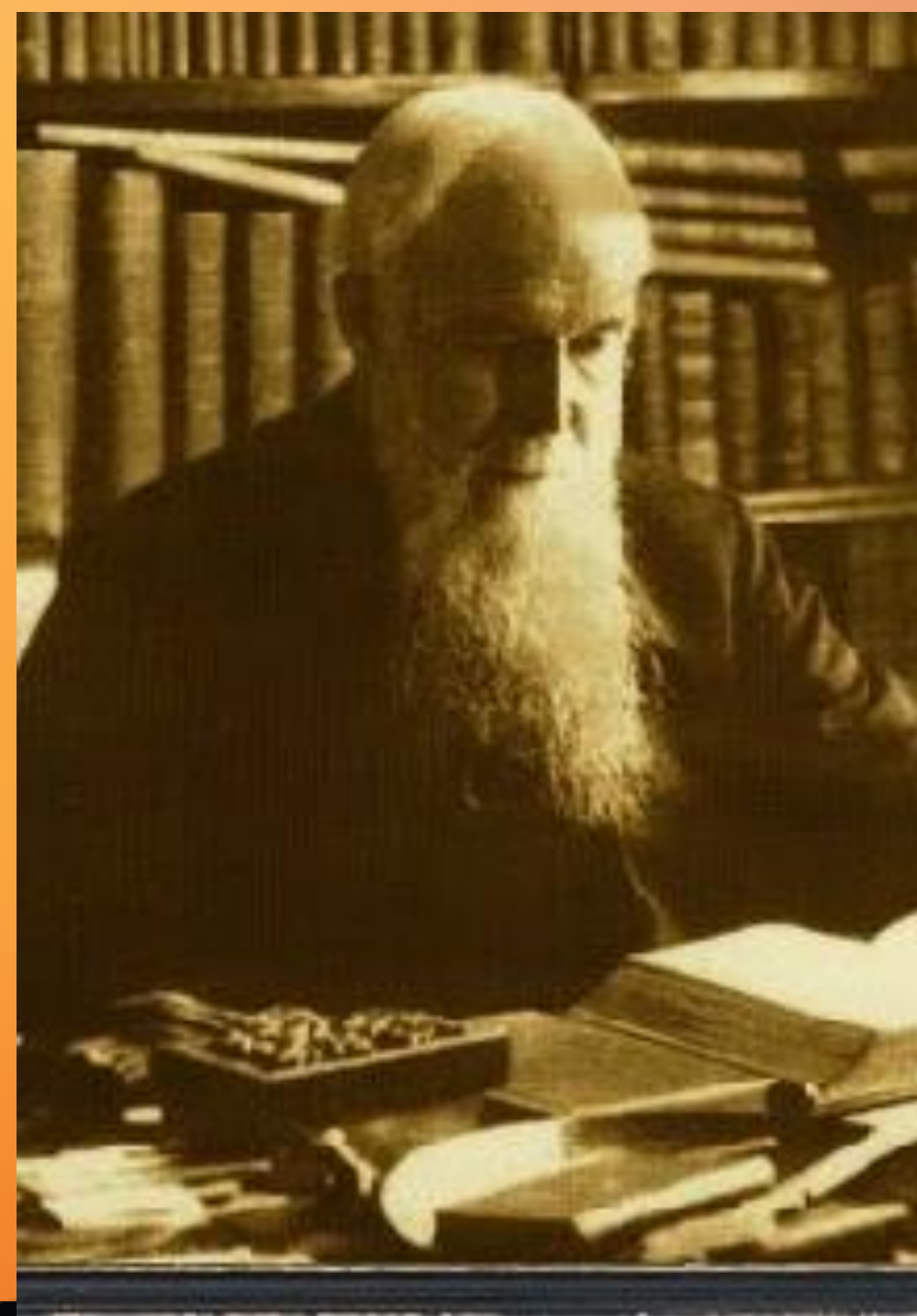
“Happy would it have been for the Church of Christ if this passage had been more deeply pondered and the spirit of it more implicitly obeyed. The Pharisees are not the only people who have imposed austerities on others,...

**J.C. Ryle,  
Matthew Commentary**



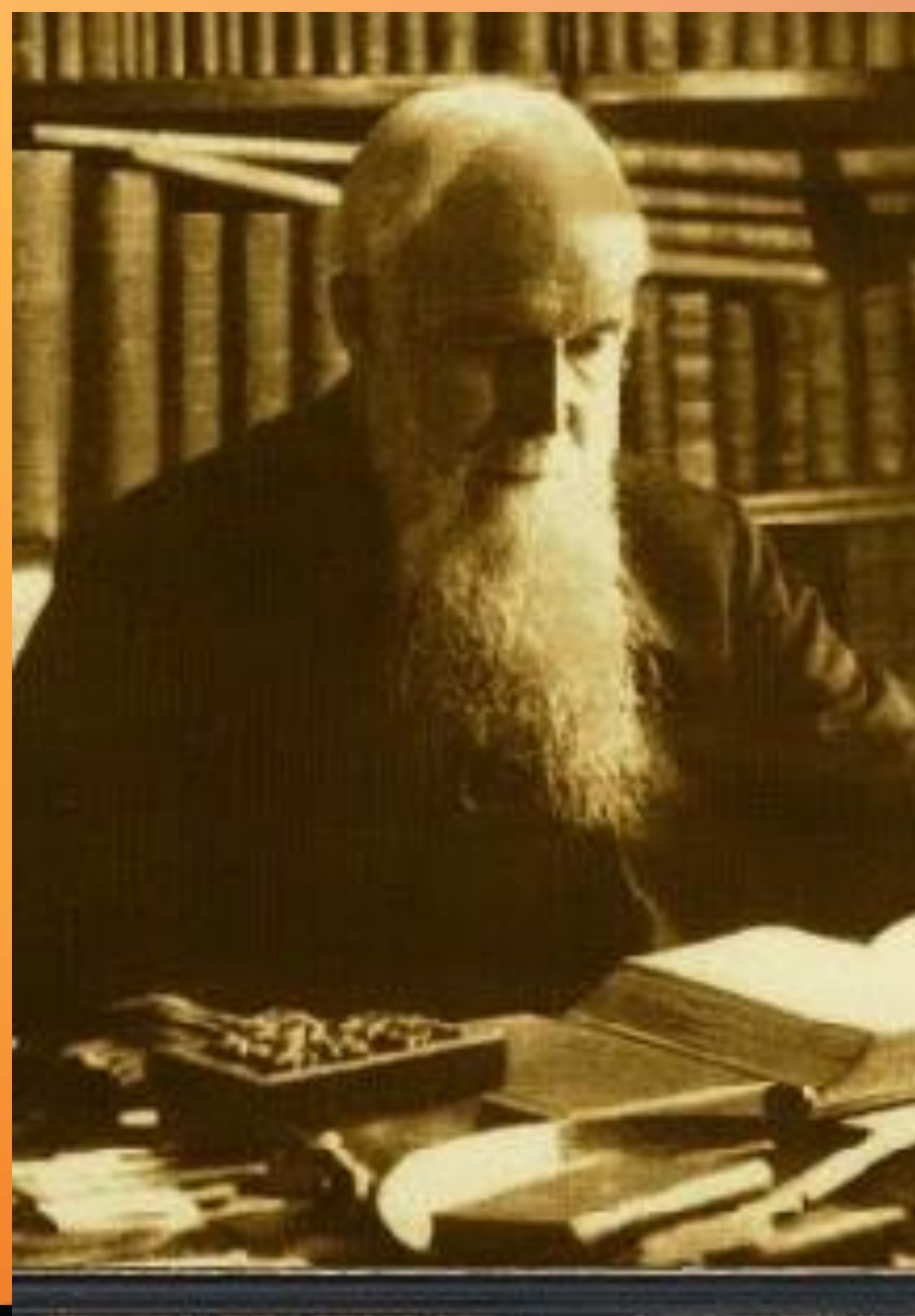
“...and affected a sanctity of apparel, and loved the praise of men. The annals of Church history show that only too many Christians have walked closely in their steps. May we remember this and...

**J.C. Ryle,  
Matthew Commentary**



“...be wise! It is perfectly possible for a baptized Englishman to be in spirit a thorough Pharisee.”

**J.C. Ryle,  
Matthew Commentary**





*<sup>3</sup> “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,...*

**I Timothy 6:3-5**



*...<sup>5</sup> and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.*

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6. A false teacher pursues positions and titles (vs. 8-10).

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*and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.*

**I Thessalonians 5:13**





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Wants positions and titles	Mission more important than title (II Corinthians 8:9)

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6. A false teacher pursues positions and titles (vs. 8-10).
7. A false teacher doesn't serve (vs. 11-12).

**What Does a False Teacher  
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*<sup>1</sup> So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;*

**I Peter 5:1-6**



*...<sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

**I Peter 5:1-6**



*...<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,*

**I Peter 5:1-6**





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Wants positions and titles	Mission more important than title (II Corinthians 8:9)
Doesn't serve	A ransom (Mark 10:45)

1. Warn other Christians

(Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29-31; Philippians 3:18;  
II Peter 2:1, 3; I John 4:1).

**What Should We Do About  
False Teachers?**



1. Warn other Christians  
(Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29-31; Philippians 3:18;  
II Peter 2:1, 3; I John 4:1).
2. Avoid them (Romans 16:17-18; III John 10-11).

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3. Confront them (Jude 3).
4. Remove them from the church (Titus 3:10-11).

**What Should We Do About  
False Teachers?**





*By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us,  
guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*

**II Timothy 1:14**

