



Therefore, false prophets are part of Satan's world system that is hostile toward God. They have bought into it, they promote it, and they want others to buy into it too.

And you know what? "The world listens" to these charlatans! Their message is popular! Their message is compelling! (**1 John 5:19**). This means it isn't a little problem affecting only a small group of people. On the contrary, there are so many false prophets and religions in the world that there is literally something for everyone.

False prophets have been successful in this world because people don't want to hear the truth (**2 Tim. 4:3 – 4**).

If a false teacher would stand up and say, "Hello everyone, I'm a false teacher! What I am about to tell you is a lie. If you believe what I say, you will go to hell." But sadly, false teachers don't have a sign on their back telling us who they are.

In fact, Jude says that false teachers are very sneaky. **Jude 4** says they "creep in unnoticed." So, these false prophets have not only "gone out into the world," but they have infiltrated the church of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28 – 30**).

Satan is so cunning that he will raise up men and women who like to be with Christians, they talk like Christians, and they want to be identified as Christians. But like their master, Satan, false teachers are deceptive, disguising themselves as messengers of Christ, angels of light, and servants of righteousness (**2 Cor. 11:13 – 15**). Currently, these false prophets preach and serve on staff in churches, teach at universities, host radio and television programs, write books, and record music. False teaching is so prevalent that your spiritual antenna always needs to be up and running.

#### **V. The Confident Certainty of Scripture (v. 6)**

John begins **verse 6** by saying, "We are from God." Who is the "we?" To answer that, let's back up a minute. In **verse 4** John says, "You are from God." The "you" John refers to those who are born again believers. In **verse 5** John says, "They are from the world." "They" refers to all false prophets. So here in **verse 6** when John says, "We are from God." The "we" are the apostles.

In other words, if you know God you will listen to the apostles. Therefore, true Christianity is apostolic Christianity (**1 John 1:3**). John is telling us to place our confidence in the Scriptures. The Scriptures are God's revelation to man (**2 Tim. 3:16 – 17**).

While it is Satan's nature to lie and deceive, the Bible tells us that God only speaks truth (**Heb. 6:18; John 14:6; 16:13; 17:17** – truth comes from above).

**John MacArthur** says, "Believers must be able to pick out the voice of the Good Shepherd and His genuine under-shepherds amidst the howls of Satan's wolves (**John 10:27**)."

#### **Questions**

- 1) We have the truth in God's word. Is Scripture alone sufficient for what believers need to live a life pleasing to Him? Why or why not?
- 2) When it comes to biblical truth, is the statement "*If it's new, it ain't true!*" a good rule to live by? Why or why not?
- 3) If a person is persuaded to turn from the basic truths of Christ's divine person, work, and Word, is there evidence in that person's life of genuine salvation?