





Hurricane Destruction



Two Lights: Jesus and the Scriptures



What light
are you
following?

Can't Trust Everyone

“Wouldn't it be kinder, gentler, more...well, more Christian, to assume that people who claim to be speaking the truth, to be teaching the Christian way, are doing so in fact? Surely we shouldn't have such suspicious minds? Well, the same early Christians who tell us to be kind and gentle also tell us to be on our guard against being deceived. Jesus himself told us to be not only innocent as doves but also wise as serpents.”

N.T. Wright, *The Early Christian Letters for Everyone*

False teachers...

1. Pollute the truth. v.1
2. Practice and promote sensuality. v.2
3. Profit from the unsuspecting. v.3



False Prophets Judged by God

“I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

Deuteronomy 18:19-20

Three Characteristics of OT False Prophets

1. They did not speak with God's authority.
2. Their message was usually upbeat, in contrast to the authentic prophet's warning of divine judgement.
3. They were denounced as worthy of condemnation.

Richard Bauckham, Word Biblical Commentary: 2 Peter

OT False Prophets Preach Peace

“My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations...” “Because they lead my people astray, saying, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall.”

Ezekiel 13:9-11

False Teachers

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Matthew 7:15-16



Are the False Teachers Saved?

“Warren Wiersbe puts it well: ‘The false teachers use our vocabulary, but they do not use our dictionary.’ They talk about ‘sin,’ ‘salvation,’ ‘inspiration,’ ‘God,’ ‘Jesus Christ,’ and ‘resurrection’ – but they don’t mean what the Bible means by these terms. *Sin* may be failing to actualize our human potential. *Salvation* might mean self-actualization...to false teachers today Scripture is *inspired* in the same way great poetry or literature is ‘inspired.’ *God* is often seen as our personal higher power...*Jesus Christ* is viewed as a great moral teacher...*resurrection* is just a metaphor for keeping Jesus ‘alive’ through observing His teachings....False teachers rethink and redefine terms as they encourage us to question long standing doctrines.”

Chuck Swindoll, Swindoll’s Living Insights NT Commentary: 2 Peter

“Destructive Heresies”

“Parents teaching their family traditional views of sex find themselves met with incomprehension by their children who have absorbed far different views from the culture around them...And this is true within the church as it is within wider society. The generation gap is reflected not simply in fashion and music but in attitudes and beliefs about some of the most basic aspects of human existence.”

Carl Trueman, *Strange New World*



What light
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What Do You Think of This Quote?

“The heresy of one age becomes the orthodoxy of the next.”

Helen Keller, Optimism (book)

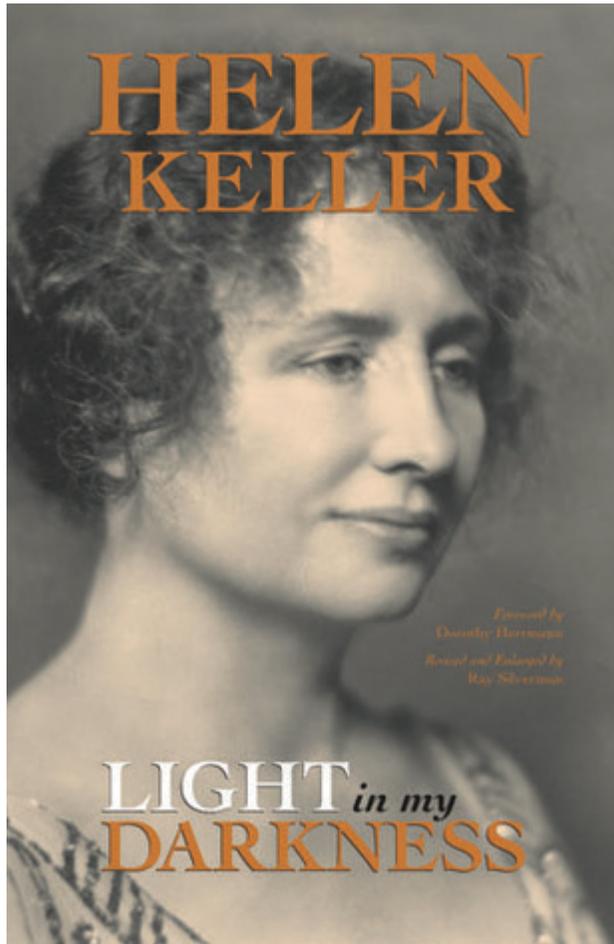


What Do You Think of This Quote?

“The heresy of one age becomes the orthodoxy of the next. Mere tolerance has given place to a sentiment of brotherhood between sincere men of all denominations.”

Helen Keller, *Optimism* (book)





Don't Let Feelings Decide Your Light
"The teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg have been my light... In that state of exhilaration, I had accepted (his) teachings...had drunk in his interpretation of the Bible, fearless, reverent, yet as unconfined as the sun, the clouds, the sea."

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“Depraved Conduct/Sensuality”

ἀσέλγεια

Aselgeia

“A lack of self-constraint which involves one in conduct that violates all bounds of what is socially acceptable; self-abandonment.”

BDAG Greek Lexicon

“Indulgence in sensual pleasure unrestrained by convention or morality.”

Logos Bible Lexicon

In San Diego, Porn Star Preaches Message 'For Sinners By Sinners'

By Sarah Einselen

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Redefining Grace

“To deceivers, ‘grace’ is freedom to do as they wish – when and where and with whom they wish. In contrast, for believers grace is freedom from the punishment of sin and the God-given power to freely love and serve Christ apart from legalistic dos and don’ts.”

Chuck Swindoll, Swindoll’s Living Insights NT Commentary: 2 Peter

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Greedy Teachers

“They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women.”

2 Timothy 3:6



Greedy Teachers

“In Nigeria, these groups of followers do not listen to anyone except their “Papa and Daddy” who are master manipulators...When a pastor tells his followers not to make any major decisions without consulting him first, what does that mean?... I have seen a woman who donated her only car to her pastor who has an entire collection...I have been in a church where our pastor regularly announced that anyone who leaves that church will be under a curse...Their interpretations of the Word always tilt towards earthly gains and the cross of Christ is completely sidelined in their messages.”

Oscar Amaechina, The Christian Post, 9/29/22

Spotting False Teachers (Chuck Swindoll)

STOP!

Put the brakes on! Compare teachings with the Bible and the historic doctrines of faith.

LOOK!

Observe closely! The lives of teachers: point to Jesus or self? Humble or proud? Christlike?

LISTEN!

Listen carefully! “Don’t fall into the trap of judging something to be true because it makes you feel good...lies are crafted to provide false security, freedom to sin, and emotional excitement.”



What light
are you
following?



The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into death.



The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.