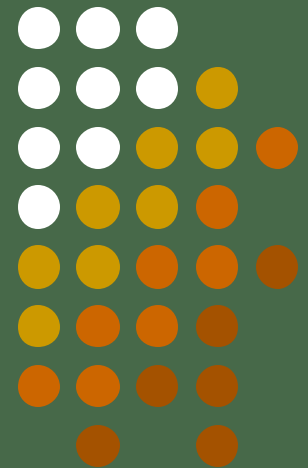


# Spotting A Counterfeit

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Spotting false religion, false prophets,  
and false religious teachers.



# False Religion



- **James 1:26** *"If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless."*
- What is religion?
  - Threskeia ~ expression of devotion to transcendent beings, especially as it expresses itself in cultic rites, *worship*, (BDAG)
  - signifies "religion" in its external aspect, "religious worship," especially the ceremonial service of "religion"; it is used of the "religion" of the Jews, Acts 26:5; of the "worshiping" of angels, Col. 2:18, which they themselves (angels) repudiate (Rev. 22:8, 9); (Vines)

# True Religion



- True Religion or Worship serves God, not angels or man.
  - **Acts 26:5** *"since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion."*
  - **Col 2:18** *"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,"*
  - **Rev 22:8-9** *"I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."*

# False Religious Teachers



- **2 Peter 2:1** *"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves."*
- What are heresies?
  - 1 - a group that holds tenets distinctive to it, *sect, party, school, faction.* (BDAG)
  - 2 - that which distinguishes a group's thinking, *opinion, dogma, a way of thinking.* (BDAG)

# Teachers Must Teach The Word



- **2 Timothy 4:1-3** *"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, "*

# False Prophets



- **1 John 4:1-6** *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."*

# Tested Against The Witnesses



- **1 John 4:1-4** *"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete."*