

Protecting from False Teachers

Detailed Outline

Part 1 of 4

Introduction

I. Looking at the Ten Descriptions of False Prophets in 2 Peter 2

A. I want to inject a dose of awareness of false teaching. I want to see an increase of sensitivity and discernment of aberrant theology. I want us to be aware of false teaching and the methods of Satan.

1. Satan's kingdom depends on and relies on deception.
2. It is a world of lies. His power is in his lies.
3. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said of this chapter that of all the chapters in the Bible, this is the most terrible. *"Anyone who enjoys reading a chapter like this must surely be abnormal."*

B. Some context

1. God has inspired his Word and his Word is truth, because he is the Truth.
2. There is hardly anything more offensive to God than the misrepresentation of His truth.
3. Satan is a liar and his full-time job is to distort the truth.
4. One of his methods of distorting the truth is by raising up false teachers and false prophets to contradict and distort the Word of God.

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
(John 8:44 ESV)

"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:14)

II. False Prophets Come from Within the Ranks of Christians

A. "There will be false teaching."

1. This is a prophetic guarantee.
2. We are told that false teaching will only be on the increase!
3. False teaching won't diminished, it will gain momentum!

B. False teaching will be part of the church.

1. Peter is saying the same thing as Jesus.

"And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray." (Matt. 24:11)

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15)

- a) Jesus holds back his most fiery statements for those who pervert the truth.

- b) He has no tolerance for false teachers.
- 2. Peter is saying the same thing the other apostles said.

"For many deceivers have gone out into the world . . ." (2 John 1:7)

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons." (1 Tim. 4:1)

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)

"As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:9)

"I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears." (Acts 20:29–31)
- 3. Illustration: *"Our Man in Damascus: Elie Cohn."* It's a fascinating true story of espionage.
 - a) Cohn grew up in Egypt as the child of Orthodox Jews. He fluent in many languages and possessed a ridiculous memory.
 - 1) The Israeli government recruited Cohn and sent him to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to establish his cover as a Syrian immigrant. He was disguised as a wealthy, night-life-loving, huge-tipping, political guru with the Syrian people in Argentina.
 - 2) The government kept his bank account plump to keep his cover. He was eventually invited to Damascus, Syria, and worked his way up the societal and political ranks to become a trusted confidant to the political leaders of Syria who were intent on destroying Israel; in fact, his closest friend ended up becoming the president of Syria.
 - 3) He was the only civilian who joined the tour of officers along the Israeli border.
 - 4) Cohn was told by a minister of defense that the only way their military bases could be destroyed was by direct air attacks.
 - 5) One memorable day Elie Cohn was overlooking the Golan Heights that bordered Israel and suggested to the president that he plant groves of eucalyptus trees near all their military stations to disguise the secret activity that was going on.
 - 6) Cohn was discovered not long after that and hanged. But, during the six-day war that followed shortly after, the Israeli Air Force had little problem knocking out all of Syria's military in the Golan Heights—they were all marked with eucalyptus trees. The Golan Heights today are in the possession of Israel, because of an imposter, disguised as the real thing. He infiltrated the Syrian government from the inside out. His approach: look like one of them, then lead them astray.

- b) The worst attacks come from within. The false teaching of Buddhism or Islam is not nearly as dangerous as false teaching that comes from within our own ranks.

III. False Prophets Secretly Bring in Destructive Heresies

A. They are undercover, secret.

1. This means that they will be inconspicuous.
2. They don't all wear purple shirts that say, "I'm a false teacher."
3. When they give their testimony, they don't usually say, "Oh, and by the way, I also don't think that Jesus' death was sufficient."

B. Secret heresies

1. The heresies they bring in sound pleasant.
2. Heresies aren't like vinegar, YUCK! Heresies aren't generally repulsive.
3. They almost always strike a chord. They almost always sound good and true.
4. They almost always sound similar to Christianity, and many people fall for it.
5. It has all the same lingo and feels and smells the same, but it's an imposter gospel.
6. It isn't obvious. It isn't flagrant. It isn't noticeable.
7. They are inconspicuous. They are camouflage. They are secret.

"For certain people have crept in unnoticed . . ." (Jude 4)

C. "Destructive heresies"

1. Why would Peter say "destructive" heresies? Because they are destructive!
2. To mess with the Person of Jesus or to mess with the Work of Jesus is destructive.
3. It matters eternally what you believe!
4. If a person is led to believe that the "more sure" word of the Bible isn't true, then they will be destroyed.
5. The tendency might be to ignore or downplay heresy. But Peter does the exact opposite! He exposes it!

D. Application: It's not wrong to call destructive heresy "destructive heresy."

1. It isn't wrong to call false teaching "false teaching."
2. It isn't wrong to point out false gospels, false teaching, and false teachers.

IV. False Prophets Deny the Master Who Bought Them

A. What Peter is saying is that their lives reject their Master that they profess to know.

1. They are frauds. And their lives and lifestyles are the proof of such a denial.

2. They are not sub-par Christians on a journey.
3. They aren't believers who have accepted Jesus as Savior, but haven't submitted to his Lordship.

B. Such a life is another indication of a false teacher and false teaching:

1. There is a denial of the Lordship of Jesus, in their LIVES. There is a lip service, but there is no substantial obedience.
2. Most likely, a false teacher will outwardly speak in glowing terms of the gospel, the inerrancy of Scripture, the substitutionary atonement, sanctification, and the physical return of Christ, and give their pledge of allegiance to all of the doctrines of the Bible.

C. The tell-tale signs of an imposter

1. His or her life doesn't match.
2. They speak of Jesus as Lord, but they live like they are the Lord.
3. Their lives reveal the fact that they are unsaved, unregenerate.
4. There is no real interest in submitting to Jesus as Lord.

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V. False Prophets are Popular

A. We are told that in the end times there will be a surge of false prophets.

B. There are *many*.

1. I remember when one pastor's church was in the news because it was the largest church in America. I jokingly said to one of our elders, "Well, he must be doing something right." And he fired back, "No, he must be doing something wrong. Why do you think his church is growing so fast?"
2. If thousands of unconverted people like what you are saying, then there is a good chance you are a false teacher. There is a pretty good chance you are not preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

C. This speaks to their popularity.

1. The masses like it. Their message appeals to the base nature of the unbeliever.
2. Maybe it's really funny? Maybe it promises money? Maybe it downplays sin and makes the unbeliever feel comfortable? Maybe it removes the stigma of sexual immorality.
3. In any case, it will be a message the world likes.
4. It won't be good news because your sins have been atoned for and Jesus is your Lord; it will be the good news that you can get what you want, or do what you want, or be comfortable in sin.

D. An example of destructive heresy

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."
(2 Tim. 4:2-4 ESV)

"False teachers arise when the church begins to embrace the worldly culture around it. As a result, congregations no longer desire to 'endure sound doctrine.' God-centered worship and preaching is replaced by man-centered antics and entertainment. A biblical emphasis on sin, repentance, and holiness is replaced by an emphasis on self-esteem and felt needs. People look for teachers who proclaim only pleasant, positive ideas 'in accordance to their own desires' because they want 'to have their ears tickled.'" – John MacArthur

E. There is a connection between unity and popularity.

1. Beware of the insidious “unity” trump card.
 - a) There is a strong cry for Christian unity today.
 - b) Often proponents of unity will quote John 17.
 - 1) Jesus prays that they may be one, even as He and the Father are one.
 - 2) This isn’t a wish from Jesus.
 - 3) This isn’t a plea for the Baptists and the Catholics and the Liberals to all get along. Or for the Muslims and the Hindus and the Mormons and the Catholics to get along.
 - 4) This prayer was answered when the Spirit came. It’s a fact, not a hope. All who are in Christ ARE one. There is ONE baptism, one spirit, one Lord.
 - c) We must not misunderstand unity.
 - 1) The kind of unity where we throw our doctrinal distinctive out the window and embrace each other can only survive where there is no discernment or scrutiny.
 - 2) The cry for unity is oftentimes a cry for doctrinal ambivalence and tolerance and the tragic result is the destruction of souls.
 - (a) *People have a false sense of security.*
 - (b) *False teachers are given a platform.*
 - (c) *The masses are led astray.*
 - d) Here is what inevitably happens:
 - 1) The moment you start to examine the passages and take a stand, there will be people who cry out and say you are splitting hairs.
 - 2) You are being too ridged. You are being too constrained.
 - 3) Our culture prefers a gentler, kinder Christianity that never has any warnings or rebukes.
 - 4) So we create a Thomas Jefferson Christianity and cut out the parts that make us uncomfortable.
2. The ethos today, the spirit of this world, is to be MUTE to false teaching.
 - a) A unity that puts relationships above truth.
 - 1) Look at Paul. When Peter’s behavior was out of step with the gospel, Paul rebukes him, publicly.
 - 2) Unity is genuine, only when it is a unity around the Truth.
 - b) People get uncomfortable if you start making truth claims, because that inevitably excludes people.

- c) Our culture today is a culture that laments doctrinal clarity and doctrinal statements.
- d) Increasingly, church websites, have dropped doctrinal statements, or simply eliminated them altogether.
- e) There is a growing movement to have a doctrinal statement with the lowest common denominator. It is a diminishing of truth. Peter does the opposite. Jesus does the opposite.
- f) Our culture today is a culture that doesn't want to see separation or division.
- g) Unity at all costs! Relationships above truth!
- h) That all sounds compelling, but the truth of the matter is that certain doctrines destroy! And to ignore that is to aid and abet the problem.
- i) False gospels and false teachers destroy!
- j) This is why there is so much energy behind Peter's words and Jesus' words!
- k) False teachers cannot be tolerated.

1) In fact, this is an indictment from Jesus himself!

"But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols." (Rev. 2:20)

2) The call to the churches from Jesus was to stop tolerating false teaching!

- 3. We need to follow Peter's example, and Jesus example, and call a spade a spade because false teaching destroys people.

VI. False Prophets are Sensual.

A. "And especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion"

B. This word refers to habitual sexuality immorality and conduct.

C. This is what happens when you reject the Lordship of Christ. Your passions are unrestrained.

- 1. False teachers think that because they believe that Jesus is their Savior, they can do whatever they want.
- 2. They have a low view of sin and a low view of Jesus' Lordship.
- 3. Nonetheless, sexual sins are a distinguishing mark of a false teacher.

D. False teachers downplay sexual sins:

- 1. They promote a kind of so-called Christian freedom that is silent on issues of sex.
- 2. They may not outwardly endorse sexual sins.
- 3. They just don't really preach against couples living together.

4. They don't really preach against teenagers having sex; they see it as inevitable.
5. They don't say much about pornography.
6. They don't say anything about homosexuality.

Peter James Lee, one of 60 Episcopal bishops who voted to approve the appointment of Gene Robinson, an openly gay man, as bishop of New Hampshire. *"If you must make a choice between heresy and schism, always choose heresy."*

7. People sitting under their preaching never really feel uncomfortable about sin.
 - a) That's a great sign of false teaching, by the way.
 - b) Do people living in open sin enjoy the preaching? If they do, that's a great indication that they are not preaching the truth.
 - c) So, one of the false teachings that has crept in to the church has to do with sexual immorality.

E. Someone might say, "But does that mean we are to rail against the sinners, preach against the sexually immoral, and condemn the homosexuals?"

1. No. If we understand the gospel, we can't look down our noses. We are exactly like them, in many cases probably much worse.
2. The gospel is for sinners. The gospel is for those who need to be saved, which is every last one of us.
3. So, if we truly love people, and don't want to see them destroyed, we tell them the truth of the gospel!
4. The false teachers speak of love and acceptance, but they actually are destroying people by not telling them the gospel, or by distorting the gospel, or by leaving out sin.
5. Rather, they preach prosperity, or unity, or love, but they never confront sin, including sexual sins.

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VII. False Prophets Bring Reproach on the Name of Christ and the Church

A. This is Satan's ploy.

1. He secretly brings in slick Christian lookalikes to corrupt the church with false teaching.
2. Then, after a little while, he methodically reveals their true colors.

B. It's a double-whammy:

1. The church is damaged because of the bad teaching, and the watching world see this and is repulsed.
2. Unbelievers mock the church, and they mock Christians.

VIII. False Prophets are Greedy

A. Money is another distinguishing mark of their pseudo-ministries.

1. You can spot them with their large 1-800 numbers that you can call and donate to.
2. They will spend a large part of each service or sermon on tithing and giving until it hurts.
3. Meanwhile, they will live in luxury, take extravagant vacations, buy \$400 shoes, and get air conditioning for their doghouses.

B. You will know them by the love of money.

IX. False Prophets Exploit the Weak

A. A Trinity Broadcasting Network disclaimer:

1. There are certainly other pathways for false teachers, but in terms of global impact, TBN is a world leader on exporting false teaching all throughout the globe.
2. When you go to Latin America, Africa, or India, there are Benny Hinn and his comrades.
3. We may not feel it here in the US, where we have a multitude of good Bible teachers. But the rest of the world knows nothing of this. Rather, their TVs air the trash of Word-Faith false prophets.
 - a) Who believe that we are little gods, and we create reality with our words.
 - b) It a practice from the occult.

B. These false ministries are marked by exploiting people, especially the poorest of the poor.

1. Rather than being like Paul, who said He was poor making many rich, these guys are rich making many people poor. They exploit the weak.
2. And the helpless, weak, vulnerable people turn on their TVs and see these guys ask them for money to get God's blessing.
3. It's a Ponzi scheme.

C. Let me just tell you that there is nothing of Christ in that!

1. That has nothing to do with Jesus or his Good News to the world.
2. And yet his Name is used and the Bible is used.
3. But it's false and it's destructive and the weak.
4. The weak give their life savings to the man who owns two jets. And I think God hates that!
5. Health, wealth, prosperity, your best life now is what Satan offers. It's what he tempted Jesus with. The lust of the eyes, the pride of life. It's satanic.
6. Furthermore, any normal natural person would want these things. This is what the unregenerate person wants! That's why it's so popular.

D. John Piper spoke to this.

"I don't know what you feel about the prosperity gospel but I'll tell you what I feel about it: HATRED! It's being exported from this country to Africa and Asia selling a bill of goods to the poorest of poor, 'Believe this message and your kids won't die and your wife won't have miscarriages. You'll have rings on your fingers and coats on your backs.' That's coming out of AMERICA! People that ought to be giving our money and our time and our lives, instead of selling them a bunch of crap called 'gospel'! And here's the reason why it's so horrible. When was the last time an American, African, Asian ever said Jesus is all-satisfying because you drove a BMW? NEVER! They'll say, 'Did Jesus give you that?' Yes. 'We'll take Jesus.' That's idolatry! Not the gospel. That's elevating gifts above giver. I'll tell you what makes Jesus beautiful . . . It's when you smash your car and your little girl goes flying through the windshield and lands . . . dead on the street . . . and you say through the deepest possible pain . . . 'God is enough. God is enough. He is good; He will take care of us; He will satisfy us; He will get us through this. He is our treasure. Whom have I in heaven but you? And on earth there is nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart and my little girl may fail but you are the strength of my heart and my portion forever . . . ' THAT makes God look glorious."

E. The prosperity gospel appeals to people's base nature.

1. "You want to be rich, don't you? Come to Jesus."
2. "You want to not feel guilty your sexual sins? You want to be positive? Come to Jesus."
3. "You want your best life right now? Come to Jesus."

X. False Prophets Despise Authority

A. False teachers can't live under scrutiny.

1. They are usually unaccountable and tend toward singular leadership.
2. They put themselves in the position of a Moses and fire anyone who questions their position.

B. Another way they despise authority is by nepotism.

1. Oftentimes their boards are made up of family members and extended family members.
2. Their spouse is a co-pastor, which means double-salary, and makes it harder to question their authority.
3. They can't stand scrutiny or accountability.

C. They create sub-cultures of naivety.

1. They create a general culture of gullibility.
2. Generally, you will be seen as immature or lacking faith if you question them or challenge them or test them.
3. They despise authority or accountability.

D. A great example of this is Diotrephes.

"I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.¹⁰ So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church." (3 John 9–10 ESV)

1. It's not an overstatement to say, "One the biggest problems in the church today is abuse of authority."
 - a) There is sexual immorality. There is financial immorality.
 - b) One of the biggest problems is authority immorality.
 - 1) Power struggles, abusive leaders, people who control.
 - 2) One-man leadership, top-down, "don't question my title" leadership attitude
 - c) This is one of the reasons Alex wrote *Biblical Eldership*. The New Testament always speaks of a plurality of elders, never one man. Actually the only place there is one leader leading is this passage.
 - d) LBC's leadership structure:
 - 1) We have seven other elders. I am one of them. Collectively, we make decisions.
 - 2) If I were to unilaterally make a decision on some important matter, the other six elders would say, "Dave, sit down and keep your mouth shut, please."
 - 3) The elders won't tolerate this kind of independent behavior.
 - e) I was in a church leadership position earlier in my life, at a different church; and there was virtually no accountability. The system was a set up for failure.
2. For Diotrephes, there was no protocol of authority.
 - a) He viewed himself as an independent, unaccountable agent.
 - b) He didn't submit to the apostle and so he didn't submit to Christ.
 - c) This guy thinks he is untouchable. He is accountable to no one.
 - d) He is a great example of a false teacher.

E. Contrast the false teachers, who despise authority, with Jesus' words to his disciples.

"And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42–45)

XI. False Prophets Will Be Punished by God

A. In verse 3, Peter personifies their punishment as an executioner, ready and waiting and not sleeping, ready to destroy those who distort and misrepresent God's Word.

B. Peter's reasoning goes like this: If x is true, then how much more is y true?

1. God punishes the unrighteous:

a) He punished the angels and sent them to hell and chained them up in darkness.

b) He punished the ancient world with a flood.

1) Noah preached righteousness, but the whole world rejected him and his message.

2) So God brought a flood upon the whole world.

c) He punished Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes.

1) Sodom and Gomorrah was obsessed with sex and every kind of perversion.

2) They became an example of what would happen to the ungodly.

2. He saves the righteous:

a) He saved Noah, who lived in an apostate place.

b) He saved Lot, who endured day after day in a place that was wicked and lawless.

C. God has made a spectacle of false teaching, and he will do it again.

1. False teaching will have its day in the sun, but the Lord knows how to rescue to the godly from trials!

2. The Lord will glorify his Name among the nations and save his people from the corruption.

3. The Lord will be honored.

4. It's about the honor of the Lord, where his Name has been so dishonored.

5. It's about the glory of Christ, where he has been so misrepresented and maligned.

6. It's about the Truth of his Word, where it has been so perverted and minimized and locked up and distorted and de-emphasized.

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XII. Application: Under-Shepherds Have a Divine Mandate to Guard the Flock from Wolves

A. As a parent, I can hardly think of anything that elicits more emotion than a sexual predator.

1. The thought of a molester enticing and deceiving my children for their own sexual pleasure makes me feel emotions that I didn't know I had.
2. Everything inside me wants protect my kids.
3. If I knew they were in danger of being molested, I would do absolutely everything in my power to protect them from the predators.
4. That's the feeling you get when you read this chapter.
5. I remember watching the news last year where they did a study on one particular pedophile who teamed up with his wife, and went to parks, and recorded unsuspecting children. I will never forget the emotion I had hearing about their diabolical and sick ways of exploiting the weak.
6. I can't help but think of Peter and Jesus wanting to guard the little lambs from the wolves.
7. *"Six years ago, Alicia Kozakiewicz says she was just a normal 13-year-old girl. That all changed on New Year's Day 2002. Today, she recounted for Congress how an online sexual predator befriended her in an Internet chat room, then kidnapped her, drove her across state lines and locked her in a cage in his basement, where he beat her, tortured her and raped her." – Matthew Jaffe, ABC News, Oct. 17, 2007*

B. The emotion that we should feel when it comes to protecting our children from that, is the same kind of emotion we should have when we talk about false teachers and false teaching.

1. This doesn't mean that false teachers are beyond repentance, and this doesn't mean child molesters can't receive grace.
2. But what this does mean is that we need to protect ourselves and God's little lambs.

C. This section has three major points: False teachers will be punished, false teachers are arrogant and bold, and false teachers frustrate and mislead people.

"I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears." (Acts 20:29–31)

1. Elders, guard the flock because false teachers are coming!
2. The whole history of the church can be explained with this passage.
 - a) The archenemies of the church are the false teacher and false teaching.
 - b) Acts 20 is the key passage!
3. Elders are to protect the flock!

D. Protecting is the *negative* aspect of eldership and proper shepherding.

1. The New Testament teaches that one of the major aspects of the elders' work is the *protecting*, or the *guarding*, or the *watching ministry*.
2. "Guard the flock," Paul says, and we must be obedient to this command.
3. We must guard the flock!
4. The under-shepherds of the local church are to have a protecting ministry.
5. Part of the overseeing responsibility of the elders is to protect the flock from wolves.

E. This is a qualification for a shepherd-elder.

"He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it." (Titus 1:9)

1. I am amazed at different Christian leaders on the News, or Larry King, who when asked about hell or homosexuality, skirt the issue, or say, "Well, I don't really see that as my job."
2. *"I am frankly amazed and appalled at how many pastors today deliberately shirk this duty. 'It's not for me to criticize what other people are teaching. I just want to be always positive, and we'll let truth and error sort themselves out.' But if you try to do that, you are not fulfilling the responsibility Paul **positively** assigns to every faithful minister . . . No one is a faithful shepherd who refuses to deal decisively with dangers that threaten the flock."*

– Phil Johnson

F. The summary of exhortations on protecting the flock:

1. Be alert (Acts 20:28, 31).
 - a) "Pay careful attention" means to "be on guard" or "pay strict attention" (28).
 - b) It is an imperative verb and implies continuous action.
 - c) The opposite is to be negligent, inattentive, or preoccupied with other matters.
 - d) Bruce Ware spoke at the Bethlehem Baptist Pastor's Conference. That year Bruce was the president of the Evangelical Theological Society.
 - 1) My question: "What's the biggest problem in the [evangelical] church today?"
 - 2) His answer: "Oh, there are many. Pick a doctrine. Pick any doctrine and it is under attack. Like little brush fires. Twenty years ago this was not the case, but today almost every doctrine is under attack."

- e) There is a surge of false teaching and aberrant theology.
- f) Among Bible-believing, conservative Christians, twisted doctrines are exploding.

2. Don't be naïve (Acts 20:29–30).

"I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things . . ."

Clear false teaching: theological liberalism, the prosperity gospel, claims that Jesus isn't God, "good works" religion, Mormonism.

- a) There is a lot of talk today about Mormonism and Mitt Romney. I have no problem seeing a Mormon as president. Makes little difference to me. In the words of Luther, "I would rather have a competent Turk than an incompetent Christian."
- b) But what I DO have a problem with is people like Joel Osteen who this week said that Mormons are brothers in Christ.
- c) I think THAT'S destructive! A bad president can ruin a nation, but a false teacher who distorts Scripture can ruin souls! And I am WAY more concerned about that!

3. Admonish (Acts 20:27, 31).

- a) You protect by admonishing.

"... For three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears."
(Acts 20:31)

- b) The word is "*noutheteō*," which means to instruct, admonish, warn, exhort.

XIII. What is True of the Under-Shepherds of Flock, is Also True of the Shepherds in the Home

A. Parents, particularly dads, you have a responsibility to protect your family from wolves.

1. Maybe you have taken precaution and guarded your home from predators? Maybe your home is burglar proof? Maybe you are ready to guard against the wolves with a round of Remington's?
2. Is your home safe in *other* ways?
3. Is there a safeguard of worship in your home?
4. Is there a safeguard of the Word in your home?
5. Is the TV a wolf in sheep's clothing? Is the internet a wolf of sensuality?

B. The parents have a protecting ministry, just like the church does.

1. What is the condition of the little church, your home?
2. Have destructive heresies crept in unnoticed?

C. Specific application for protecting your family:

1. Examine your family.

- a) Analyze your family. Where is your family vulnerable? Where is your family weak? Where is there trouble?

*“Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds . . .”
(Prov. 27:23)*

- b) Shepherds are to do this, but so are parents.

2. Offer good literature to your kids.

- a) Buy some good biographies. Pay them money to read them!
- b) Read the book of Proverbs. That was the whole point of Proverbs, that parents would teach it to their kids.

3. Teach and model the Bible to your home.

A church is made up of families. If that family suffers, the church suffers.

*“I’ve long thought, as I’ve looked at my parents, that the worst kind of Christian home to grow up in is one where there is large spiritual pretensions but low spiritual performance. The best kind of Christian home to grow up in is where there is low spiritual pretension but quite high spiritual performance because the best stuff is caught, not taught.”
– D. A. Carson*