

Some Important Questions for Truth-Seekers

Is faith alone enough?

James 2:14-26 (esp. 17, 20, 26, “dead”)

Does zeal guarantee our salvation?

Jews – Romans 10:1-3² They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Can we trust our emotions?

Jacob – Genesis 37:31-35; 45:26 Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

Does following our conscience guarantee our salvation?

Paul – Acts 26:9-11; Acts 23:1 I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

Does it matter whom we worship?

Exodus 20:1-5; 34:14; Matthew 17:1-8; Acts 10:25-26; Acts 14:8-15; Revelation 22:8-9
Matthew 4:10 ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’

Does it matter how we worship?

Cain and Abel – Genesis 4:1-7; Hebrews 11:4

Nadab and Abihu – Exodus 24:9-11/Leviticus 8:22, 24, 27, 36; 10:1-3 “[They] offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.² So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them

True worshippers – John 4:24 “Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Does it matter what we teach?

Matthew 15:1-9⁹ ‘In vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

Galatians 1:6-9⁹ If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Ephesians 4:4-6⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Can we be deceived?

Eve – Genesis 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:14 “The woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

1 Timothy 4:1-6; 16¹ The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. ... for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

How narrow is Jesus?

Matthew 7:14 Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Can we trust a preacher, as long as he's using the Bible?

False teachers

Matthew 15:13 [Jesus] answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind...."

Acts 28:29 "Savage wolves will come in among you.... ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."

2 Peter 2:1 There were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies.... ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

False brethren

2 Corinthians 11:26; Galatians 2:4

False apostles

2 Corinthians 11:13 [Compare to **2 Corinthians 12:12** Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.]

False prophets

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 – [A prophet whose word does not come to pass]

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 – [A prophet who performs "a sign or a wonder," but says something different from God's word that was already revealed]

1 Kings 13, especially verse **18** "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD...." (He was lying to him.)

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Even Satan quoted Scripture!

To Eve - **Genesis 3:1** "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

To Jesus – **Matthew 4:6** "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give his angels charge over you,' and, 'in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

What can we do?

Love the truth **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**; Zechariah 8:19

Be skeptical/Test the spirits/Test those making claims

1 John 4:1-3 "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world..."

Revelation 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars."

Know God's word for yourself

Acts 17:11 [These Jews] were more fair-minded ... They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Watch out and grow

2 Peter 3:16 Some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore ... beware lest you also fall ... being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.