

LESSONS LEARNED FROM FALSE TEACHERS

2Tim 3:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Years ago, we witnessed PTL scandal & those who sought to take it over as well as other so called "TV ministries"
- B. Our text seems perfect description of the kind of "religious" circus we have witnessed in the past and continue to see
- C. Especially v. 9 "For their folly will be manifest to all."
- D. What are some lessons we learn from that "media mess"?

DISCUSSION:

I. **BE SURE YOUR SINS WILL FIND YOU OUT Num 32:23**

- A. From the beginning man has tried to hide his sins from others and from God.
 1. Adam and Eve Gen 3:8-19
 2. God's admonition to Cain Gen 4:6-15
 3. Achan at Ai Josh 7:1-26
- B. Sin many times exposes the one who commits it!
 1. Pre-marital sex -- unwanted pregnancy, disease, etc
 2. Illegal drug use -- physical & mental problems, even death
 3. Alcohol use -- car accidents, family abuse, etc
- C. But even if we could hide our sins from men, we cannot hide them from God! Psa 33:13-15; Gal 6:7

II. **LOVE FOR SILVER WILL NOT BE SATISFIED Eccl 5:10**

- A. This is an age-old problem -- money is thought to be the answer to every problem!
- B. God's word shows that this is not the case. Lk 12:13-21; Lk 18:18-25
- C. The Bible contains many warnings against striving too hard for worldly possessions 1Tim 6:6-10, 17-19

III. **SOME RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ARE HYPOCRITES**

- A. An apt description of many TV evangelists Matt 23:27
- B. Some TV preachers were speaking out against sins while committing the same sins themselves
 1. Adultery; Alcohol & drug abuse; Lying; Stealing (IRS investigations) money for private use
 2. Down through the centuries, many documented cases of religious fraud (Simon in Acts 8:9-11)
- C. Certainly not new to students of N.T. Matt 23; Lk 11
 1. Some 21 times in the N.T. Jesus called an individual or a group "Hypocrites"
 - a. Scribes and/or Pharisees - 15 times
 - b. Sadducees - 1 time
 - c. Jews in general - 1 time
 - d. Rulers or members of synagogue - 4 times
 2. At least 20 out of 21 times He was referring to popular religious leaders of His day

V. **THE BIBLE IS NOT THE ONLY STANDARD OF AUTHORITY FOR RELIGIOUS PEOPLE Matt 15:9**

- A. When one does not regard the Bible as the final revelation from God to man, he can claim anything
- B. Look at incredible confusion during problems several years ago related to some of the so-called religious ministries.
 1. Jerry Falwell claimed God told him Jim Baker was his "brother in Christ," even though Falwell a Baptist and Baker a Pentecostal
 2. Jim Baker claimed God showed him Falwell is his brother, but Jimmy Swaggart & John Ankerberg are not!
 3. John Ankerberg believed Falwell and Swaggart are his brothers, but Jim Baker is not
 4. Jimmy Swaggart said God told him none of these where his brethren
 5. Where does this leave Oral Roberts, who thought Jim Baker is ok, but others were not
 6. These statements changed as time went by, but supposedly they were from God.
 7. The Bible contends that God is not behind all this foolishness 1Cor 14:33
- C. This is nothing new, on several occasions in the N.T. Jesus accuses religious leaders of His day of not being familiar with the Scriptures Matt 21:42; 22:29; Jhn 5:39
- D. Bible is what it claims - all sufficient revelation of God to man for everything man must know 2Tim 3:16,17
 1. N.T. claims all truth has been revealed 2Pet 1:3; Jude 3; Jhn 16:13
 2. Either this is true, or the apostles were liars
 3. The N.T. is God's final revelation given through His Son to mankind Heb 1:1,2
 4. When we read it, we can understand it Eph 3:3-5
- E. Even some brethren make the claim: "we do many things for which we have no authority."
- F. If we do we had better repent or else we will be lost!

CONCLUSION:

- A. We learn several important lessons from these problems of modern religions. All of them are negative
- B. However, there is scriptural precedent for using this kind of example 1Cor 10:1-12
- C. As N.T. Christians, let us heed Paul's warning **"Let God be true but every man a liar!" Rom 3:4**