

SERIES: 'NEVER HEARD THAT' - -9/8/24 (#3)

PASTOR LEE

- Lori Mason, CFC's Women's Lead, opens up Service with a preliminary introduction of Samantha Bement, a member of our CFC family.....and cites today's Scriptural reading: Peter 2: 1-3.

(1) But false prophets also arose amongst the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. (3) And in their greed, they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

- Lori solicits Samatha's testimony who speaks to her transformation from Mormonism (Church of the Latter-day Saints) to Christianity and to placing her complete trust in our Lord. By way of examples, she explains some of the differences.....1. while believing in Jesus per se', the Mormon notion of God's nature is very different- -eg.....taking away His sovereign nature and elevating their own after-life nature. 2. They revere Joseph Smith as founder of their church (which began in 1830), the assembler of the Book of Mormon and a prophet.
- Samantha expounds: Joe Smith's prophecies are more highly regarded by his followers than the Bible as are the tenets contained in his Book of Mormons and supplemental rules in pursuit of (un-doable) 'perfection'. She now, as a true believer in Christ, knows our Bible to be inerrant and the 'to-be-relied-upon' inspired Word of God.

- Pastor Lee: opens by praying for truth in faith. He introduces his message with modern examples of how truth can be distorted (jokes about his own substitute teaching experience....and speaks to internet 'influencers' whose distortions can really negatively effect childrens' thought processes and lead them astray).
- He relays further, after re-reading this morning's Scripture: he wants to share 3 core things surrounding these verses : (1) How to spot false teaching; (2) Review current false teaching that is being popularized; (3) How to find a Church that does not encourage/ ascribe to false teaching.
- If you were one of Jesus' disciples.....imagine being taught by God....perfect teaching....and some were the exact people who turned around and wrote Scripture....such writing is inspired/breathed by God....see 2 Peter 1: 20-21.
- BUT!!!....Continuing with the start of Ch. 2, "..... FALSE PROPHETS AROSE AMONGST THE PEOPLE.....". So, for some and notwithstanding the Author, they would change and/or add to the Bible!!! And- - they "SECRETLY" bring forth these distortions- -whether they be big or small- -ALL destructive!! Guised as charmers, charismatic and/or good looking, projecting power, etc, they serve to destroy truth in faith. Even to the point of denying Jesus, denying salvation, etc.

- When things don't quite pass the 'sniff test'...ask...."who do you say Jesus is"if that's wrong....everything else follows. Don't be tricked by a false teacher! And watch out for over- sexualization!
- In our modern, digital world, finding truthful, authoritative (bible-based) viewpoints are difficult to discern.....we need to pray on this (discernment) as we are exposed to various view points.
- V 2-3 Re-read....how to spot false teaching.....it can be very attractive (particularly related to sensuality/sexuality- -greed/\$\$\$).....have your 'radar up'!

2 Timothy 4: 3-4 - 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.

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- False teachers, on their pedestals of power and using all their attributes (wrongly) will manipulate....and do so to many willing ears seeking to satisfy their passions, ie. greed, sex, etc. On the false premise that we all 'deserve more', they often preach (more) wealth, blessings, etc through acceptance of their teachings. Ironically but not coincidentally, they-themselves want more.....a money goal!

2 Peter 2: 15- - Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beer, who loved gain from wrongdoing.

Some modern preachers.....Cult leaders.....money oriented....you are the target. Fine line: Church encourages contributions/tithes, etc. ...how is that money used?.....is the focus on Christ.....the Church.....or personal enrichment. See 1 Cor 9:14 ".....the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel. False teachers, Peter is saying, will teach-potentially-to amass wealth as their focus/objective.....so its a question of focus and motivation.

- **PRAY.....PRAY.....PRAY.....FOR DISCERNMENT!**
- There are 'red flag' kinds of terms/thought processes that are being popularized and are seeping into our Christian culture that are really, at their core, false teaching. Terms that are repeated enough times that we can get anesthetized and/or duped by them.
- Examples: 1. 'Could much of what I have relied upon as fact be lies'? (Scripture is not myth!) 2. 'You can't know with certainty that anything is true' (in which case, we are left with nothing - -no right or wrong even!). 3. 'This is my truth'....as opposed to 'your truth' (Scripture can always be counted on as 'true'!).
- See 2 Peter 1: 20....".....no prophesy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation". It isn't about YOUR truth, its about 'THE TRUTH'....God's truth (ie. Scripture). 'Your truth' brings death....'God's Truth' brings life!
- A true irony.....the growing belief that those who believe in the literal Word of God are not safe (toxic), unkind people!! Self love is big right now.....we all witness that....yet the Bible says, in the last days, there will be 'lovers of self'. Juxtaposed to that ego-centric self-love, the Bible says.....'take up your cross and follow me'.

-Running from the notion of self-love, consider Phil 4: 8....

”Finally, brothers and sisters, what ever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

- One last ‘red flag’”love is love”extrapolated from “God is love” in our Church/faith setting. But remember.....He is also the God of justice, righteousness, mercy, et al.! If He ‘just’ loved you....without all His other perfect attributes.....wouldn’t that be a license to sin?
- _ Stay tuned for more messaging re: the issue of finding a true and right church for you.

RESIST FALSE TEACHING.....PRAY TO GOD FOR DISCERNMENT