

QUESTION: Why does God allow people who fake being a Christian to keep doing it, and not be revealed?

ANSWER: Jesus answered this question for us, and warned us that it would happen. Jesus' parables in Matthew 13:24-50 tell us that evil men and false prophets will infiltrate God's kingdom, and **they will look like God's people on the outside**, but they will be false. Jesus says in Matthew 7:21-23 that MANY will say to Him at the judgment that they did many things in His name, but He will say "**I NEVER KNEW YOU!**" (Notice, Jesus says "I NEVER knew you," not, "I USED to know you, but you lost your salvation"). As to WHY God ALLOWS it, we should not waste too much time trying to figure out God's motives, but rather, just **TRUST Him that He knows what He is doing**. It really goes back to **the original "WHY" question of all time**: "why did God create Adam and Eve if He knew they would sin?" The fact is, He DID create them knowing they would eventually sin, and the earth is still under the curse of sin, and that is why there is death, suffering, and **evil men who lead others astray** (just as the serpent deceived Eve and led her astray). Just as Adam and Eve had to have a CHOICE between good and evil **in order to CHOOSE God with their own FREE WILL**, God allows false teaching and evil men masquerading as Christians, **in order for us to CHOOSE the TRUTH** from among all the LIES of Satan. Satan will be destroyed and all evil will be done away with when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on earth, **at "the end of this age"** (Matt. 13:39). Then there will be no more pain, no more sorrow, no more sin (Rev. 21:4), and it is THEN that God removes all the false prophets and false, so-called believers from among His people. All throughout the Bible, God promises that He WILL judge ALL SIN and ALL EVIL, but not until the appointed time, **at the END of this AGE**, at the Day of Judgment. It is because of His grace and mercy that God does not INSTANTLY judge sin and evil, because He is still giving those people **a CHANCE to REPENT** and turn to Him to be saved.

- **II Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slack (slow) concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering (patient) toward us, **not willing that ANY should perish**, but that all should come to repentance."
- **Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-42** "Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the **TARES** also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, '**An ENEMY has done this.**' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, '**No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to BURN them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" "...His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' He answered and said to them, 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, **the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the TARES are the sons of the wicked one.** The enemy who sowed them is the **DEVIL**, the harvest is the end of the age, and **the reapers are the ANGELS**. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be **at the end of this age**. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.'"
- **Read Matthew 13:47-50** (Verses 49-50) "So it will be **at the END of the AGE**. The angels will come forth, **SEPARATE the wicked from among the just**, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Definition: "TARES" - "tares" are a weed-like plant that LOOKS exactly like wheat, but of course does not have the wheat kernel, so therefore it is of no value. Jesus used "tares" as an example of people who would **APPEAR on the OUTSIDE to be saved**, and members of His kingdom, but would actually be empty and false. We have Jesus' own words that there will be **many so-called Christians in the church who are NOT God's people and have NEVER BEEN God's people** - they belong to the devil all along! These are the ones who may clean up their lives temporarily, but they continually fall back into sin, because they have never had a new birth and a heart-change. These are the ones who are MISTAKEN by many to be Christians who have "lost their salvation" and turned their backs on Christ. These are the ones who "cause the Way of Truth to be blasphemed" (II Peter 2:2), because they CLAIM to be Christians, yet do not ACT like Christians, and so others judge the church by them, and say, "The church is full of hypocrites!"

Definition: "LEST you also UPROOT the WHEAT with them" - Lest means "for fear that" something might happen. So God does not immediately uproot the tares for fear that some of the wheat might be uprooted or damaged in the process. Many Christians ("the wheat") are still babies, or are still so immature and unlearned in the word of God (even though they SHOULD be mature) that they would not understand, even to the point of seriously damaging their faith, if God suddenly sent judgment on a number of people in their congregation who were supposedly "good Christians." Instead, God expects us all to grow and mature, and to **STUDY His word**, so that we will have our senses exercised **to DISCERN between the GOOD and the EVIL**.

- **Hebrews 5:13-14** "For everyone who partakes only of milk is **unskilled in the WORD of righteousness**, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use (practice) have their senses exercised **to discern both good and evil**."

In II Peter 2, the Apostle Peter is speaking about false prophets and the people whom they ensnare, entrap, and lure into following their sinful ways. II Peter 2:18-22 is used by some to "prove" that a Christian can lose their salvation by falling back into sin and being "overcome" by it. However, nowhere in these verses does it say these people are saved, chosen, or redeemed, nor does it call them saints or Christians. In fact, verse 22 says, "...a sow (pig), after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire" which sounds to me like the pig was always a pig. In other words, an unsaved person was always an unsaved person. They may have joined a church, been baptized, and done a lot of the outward things Christians do, but they never had a new birth by giving their heart and life to Christ. A true Christian may take a few trips back to the old pig pen, but he will be miserable about it, and will eventually repent and turn away from it. He doesn't feel "at home" in the old pig pen and the mire (mud) anymore, because he is no longer a pig!

- **Read II Peter 2:1-9** "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as **there will be FALSE TEACHERS among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom **the Way of Truth will be blasphemed**. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah.....thenthe **Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations** and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."
- **II Peter 2:20-21** "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have

been better for them NOT to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them."

These are people who have **taken refuge in a FORM of Christianity**, and have cleaned up their lives to some degree, but are not delivered out of the devil's kingdom, and have never truly been saved (II Timothy 3:5). Jesus says in Matthew 13:32, "the **birds of the air** come and nest in its branches," meaning they take refuge or "hide out" within God's kingdom. Eph. 2:2 calls Satan the **prince of the power of the air**, and Jesus says the "**birds of the air**" are **representative of Satan** (see Matt. 13:4 & 19). These are people who heard the gospel, sat in church and listened to God's word preached Sunday after Sunday. They "**KNEW** the way of righteousness" **INTELLECTUALLY**, but never actually surrendered their lives to Christ and entered His kingdom. Judas Iscariot is an example of this kind of person. He sat under the personal teaching of Jesus Himself, and yet never truly believed, because Jesus called him the "**son of perdition (hell)**", meaning that Judas belonged to the devil all along. But did Judas act like and look like the rest of the disciples? Yes, up until the point of the betrayal, because the other disciples didn't even know who Jesus was talking about when He said one of them would betray Him. Judas must have healed the sick and cast out demons along with the other disciples, because if not, they would have known something was suspicious, and would have suspected Judas as the betrayer.

- **John 17:12** "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is **LOST except the son of perdition** (Judas), that the Scripture might be fulfilled."
- **John 6:64 & 70-71** "'But there are some of you **who do not believe.**' For Jesus knew from the beginning **who they were who did NOT BELIEVE**, and who would betray Him." "Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a DEVIL?" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve."
- **Matthew 7:15-17 & 22-23** "Beware of **FALSE prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their FRUITS**. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." (Verses 22-23) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, '**I NEVER knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

Even more difficult to understand than mere false church MEMBERS, is the fact that God allows false preachers and pastors. In the Old Testament, we see examples of **men who were PRIESTS in God's temple**, yet the word of God calls them "sons of Belial" or sons of Satan. Some translations call them wicked men or worthless men, but the literal translation of the Hebrew is "sons of Belial" (Belial is another name for the devil). God says that these false prophets and evil shepherds will be judged and punished in the end, but in the meantime, He also promises that He will raise up GOOD SHEPHERDS, and we must be careful who we follow! Anyone who has ever ended up in a cult for a while knows that they usually LOOK like a Christian group when you first go in. It is only as you get deeper into the cult that you realize how far off from the Bible they really are!

- **I Corinthians 11:13-15** "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, DISGUISED themselves as APOSTLES of CHRIST. And no wonder, for even **SATAN DISGUISES himself** as an **ANGEL of LIGHT**. Therefore it is not surprising if **his servants also DISGUISE themselves** as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds."
- **I Samuel 1:3 & 2:12 & 22** "....And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, **the PRIESTS of the Lord**, were there." "Now the sons of Eli were **sons of Belial**, and **they did not know the Lord.**" "Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons

did unto all Israel; and **how they LAY with the women** that assembled **at the door of the Tabernacle** of the congregation."

- **Jeremiah 23:1 & 4** "'Woe to the shepherds (pastors) who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!' declares the Lord." "**I will raise up shepherds over them** and they will tend them; and they (My sheep) will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing,' declares the Lord."
- **Acts 13:9-10** "Then Saul, who is also called Paul, **FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT**, looked intently at him and said, 'O full of all deceit and all fraud, **you son of the DEVIL**, you enemy of righteousness, will you not cease **PERVERTING** the straight ways of the Lord?'"

Finally, God's word gives us instructions on how to **GUARD** ourselves from being deceived by false teachers. We are to **JUDGE** and **EXAMINE** their teachings to see if they agree with God's word, and we are to **JUDGE** and **EXAMINE** their **LIVES** to see if they are bearing good fruit. Notice in I Samuel 2:22 how the priests, Eli's sons, had sexual relations with women right in the Tabernacle. Many times, false teachers become **so filled with pride** that they think they can even get away with such blatant sins right in the church! Also, John the Baptist judged the Sadducees and Pharisees as **NOT being truly repentant** (he judged by their works - they were **NOT bearing fruits** that showed true repentance), and he called them "brood of vipers" or "bunch of snakes"! Jesus said, "**You will know them by their FRUITS**" (**Matt. 7:15-16**), so we have the right to judge someone's ministry or teaching to see if it is truly from God or not. **The Lord EXPECTS us to be DISCERNING**, and He certainly expects us to check everything out with His word (Hebrews 5:11-14, Acts 17:11). God expects us **to NOT be IGNORANT** of Satan's schemes and tricks! What should our attitude and responsibility be towards false prophets, false teaching, and false believers? We are told to "note and avoid them" in Romans 16:17-18, to take **HEED**, **BEWARE** and **WATCH** in Acts 20:28-31 and Matthew 16:6 & 12, and **to CHECK everything out by the WORD** in Acts 17:11. "**Take heed**" means **to pay attention** or take notice. We must be **AWARE** of what others are teaching, but how can you know if it is right or wrong, if you don't know the word of God? You must **STUDY the word** and **SEARCH the word** to check out whether a certain teaching is from God or not.

- **Matthew 3:7-8** "But when he (John the Baptist) saw many of the Sadducees and Pharisees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'Brood of vipers! Who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore **bear FRUITS worthy of repentance.....**'"
- **Romans 16:17-18** "Now I urge you brethren, **NOTE those who cause divisions** and offenses, **CONTRARY to the doctrine which you learned**, and **AVOID them**. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own belly (appetites), and by smooth words and flattering speech **DECEIVE** the hearts of the simple."
- **Matthew 16:6 & 12** "Then Jesus said to them, '**Take HEED and BEWARE** of the **LEAVEN** of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.'" (Verse 12) "Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of **the doctrine (teaching)** of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- **Acts 20:28-31** "Therefore **take HEED** to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, **speaking perverse (twisted) things**, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore **WATCH**, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."
- **Acts 17:11** "These (the Bereans) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **SEARCHED the SCRIPTURES daily to find out whether these things were so.**"

- **II Timothy 2:15** "Be diligent (STUDY) to present yourself approved unto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY dividing the WORD of TRUTH.**"
- **I John 4:1** "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."
- **II Corinthians 2:11** "To KEEP SATAN from GETTING the ADVANTAGE over us; for **we are NOT IGNORANT** of his wiles and intentions."

Some of the other Bible studies we have done that will help you with spiritual warfare and discerning false religion are: "[How to be Set Free](#)" (Steps To Take in Resisting Satan - Deliverance); "[Walking in Your Deliverance](#)", Parts 1 & 2; "[Knowing Who You Are in Christ](#)", and "[Knowing Who You Are in Christ - Using Your Spiritual Authority](#)", Parts 1 & 2, and "[How to Have a Wonderful Relationship with Your Higher Power - Part 2 - What Is Commitment?](#)"