

Three Major Characteristics of Preachers Who Have Fallen Away and Abandoned God's Purpose

Any preacher or minister who turns back and forgets their divine calling becomes a false prophet. It is important to note that when the Bible speaks of a false prophet, it is not only referring to someone with the gift of prophecy. Rather, the term is broad and can refer to a false teacher, a false pastor, a false apostle, a false evangelist, or even a false worship leader. All of these are considered false prophets according to Scripture.

Today, we will learn the three main characteristics of preachers who have fallen away. Recognizing these traits will help us guard ourselves against their deception and spiritual ruin.

1. They Do Not Preach or Love to Preach About the Last Days

The first sign is that such preachers avoid preaching about the end times. They neither warn nor emphasize that we live in the final days. The Bible commands believers to stay watchful and ready because Christ's return is imminent and unpredictable (Matthew 24:44, ESV):

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"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

2. They Attack Ministers Who Preach About the Last Days

The second characteristic is that they criticize or oppose faithful servants who boldly preach about the return of Christ. Instead of encouraging readiness, they discourage others, saying things like “Jesus will not return soon” or “Live your life as usual.” This opposition is a clear warning sign that they have turned away from God’s truth (2 Timothy 3:13, ESV):

“While evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

3. They Are Lovers of Pleasure and Worldly Comforts

The third sign is their love for luxury and worldly pleasures, either

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openly or secretly. Such ministers prioritize material gain, popularity, and status over the spiritual well-being of the flock. Their messages focus on worldly success—getting rich, acquiring homes, cars, or wives—rather than on holiness and readiness for Christ's return. This is a fulfillment of Paul's warning about those who "have a form of godliness but deny its power" (2 Timothy 3:4-5, ESV):

“...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

The Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Matthew 24:45-51, ESV)

Jesus gave a clear example to His disciples about such unfaithful servants:

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find

so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

In this parable, the “master” represents Christ, who has entrusted His servants (ministers and leaders) with the care of His “household” (the church). The faithful servant diligently feeds the household spiritually, staying alert and responsible, knowing the master’s return is imminent.

In contrast, the unfaithful servant becomes careless, abusive, and indulgent, assuming the master’s return is delayed. He even mistreats his fellow servants (other faithful workers) and indulges in worldly pleasures, symbolized by eating and drinking with drunkards. This servant faces severe judgment because he is double-minded—pretending to serve God while serving his own desires.

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Application and Warning

If you observe a preacher or leader:

- Who ignores or rejects the doctrine of Christ's imminent return,
- Who attacks and disrespects faithful ministers preaching readiness,
- Who openly loves luxury and worldly pleasures more than godliness,

beware! This person has fallen away from their calling and is walking the path of destruction. Jesus warned that His return will be sudden and unexpected, and those unprepared will face judgment.

This is a call for all believers to examine their leaders and

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themselves. Are we, as ministers or followers, faithfully awaiting Christ's return? Are we living holy, sober, and ready lives? (1 Peter 4:7, ESV):

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers."

The Times We Live In

We live in perilous times, as described in Scripture (2 Timothy 3:1-5, Luke 21:11). Signs such as widespread disease, moral decay, and geopolitical events like the restoration of Israel as a nation show we are approaching the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Call to Repentance and Salvation

If you have not yet received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, now is the time. Repent of all sin, turn away from worldly desires, and follow Jesus wholeheartedly (Acts 2:38, ESV):

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"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

As you walk by faith, the Holy Spirit will confirm His presence by giving you peace, joy, and the power to overcome the world (John 16:13-14).

May the Lord bless you and keep you steadfast in His truth.

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