

## False Teachers - cont.

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“Sure, I can read his writings, and expose any error revealed therein, but I see little value in calling him a “false teacher” and ratcheting up the vitriol (Matt Hennecke, *Think*, Vol. ? No. ?).

Some argue that we must use the words “false teacher” the way the Bible uses it. True, we must never misuse Bible words! However, it is not just a matter of using Bible words correctly; it is a matter of fellowship. Removing the label of “false teacher” allows some brethren to continue their fellowship with the one teaching error.

Remember, all the high morals and ideals that a false teacher may possess cannot make his false doctrine TRUTH! Here are some other points to remember as we close:

- Teaching what is false makes one a false teacher, not his motives.
- False teaching will damn both the teacher and his students.
- False teaching is just as false among brethren as it is among the denominations.

- Chris Reeves -

## - Word of the Week -

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“Pattern” (Gr. *hupotupōsis*) is a word that speaks of following an example carefully. It referred to a child learning to write letters by copying carefully the letters of his teacher. Paul is our “pattern” (1 Tim. 1:16) and we need to copy his example and the NT is our “pattern” (2 Tim. 1:13) and we need to follow it carefully. Let’s all follow the NT teaching carefully this week.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## False Teachers and False Teaching - Part 4

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*But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”*

- 2 Peter 2:1 -

With this article, I conclude my series of lessons on false teachers.

### **Answering Some Arguments**

( from the book “Who Is My Brother?” by F. LaGard Smith )

Smith: “But Homer did make one big mistake. He wrote one book too many. Or at least the wrong book. Or at least a book in which he might have been wrong. Or partially wrong. Or maybe not wrong at all ... And for this one mistake, Homer was immediately castigated as a false prophet!” (p. 207).

My answer: F. LaGard Smith is purposely vague. He will not be definitive about Homer Hailey. He raises doubt and questions, but no definitive answers. Homer Hailey did not just write a book, he taught error about MDR and about the length of hell for the wicked.

Smith: “Any number of preachers,

elders, and other brothers and sisters would agree with his basic position, if perhaps not all of his arguments” (p. 208).

My answer: Numbers do not determine truth, God’s word determines truth (Jn. 17:17).

Smith: Homer Hailey was given “no credit for years of faithful service” (p. 208).

My answer: God does not work on a credit system where false teaching is traded for years of faithful service.

Smith: “...we simply have to get away from the simplistic conclusion that anyone who teaches anything false (as we see it) is therefore a false teacher” (p. 209).

My answer: False teaching and false teachers are determined so by God’s word, not “as we see it”.

Smith: F. LaGard described Hailey as “a godly man” ... “a spiritual giant” ... “a towering man of God” ... “a widely-respected teacher” ... “a pillar of the church” ... “aged mentor” ... “one of God’s finest” ... “great servant” (pp. 206-208).

My answer: Keep in mind that this man so described above, taught people a doc-

trine that leads them to adultery and damnation (1 Cor. 6:9-10). And, he taught that hell is not eternal for the wicked. According to Hailey, the wicked suffer only for awhile and then they are completely burned up and annihilated.

### **Why Have Some Taken This Approach to “False Teachers”?**

Applying the term “false teacher” to someone with bad character only, allows brethren to fellowship certain preachers who teach a false doctrine and maintain friendships with them. Consider the following quote:

“If, at some point the motives of one who teaches that which is “false” becomes obvious, then they qualify for the label “false teacher;” but until then I feel inclined to avoid a label that only polarizes” (Matt Hennecke, *Think*, Vol. 36, No. 1).

Applying the term “false teacher” to someone with bad character only, allows brethren to separate in their mind false teaching (error) from a “false teacher” and keep from being offensive. Consider the following quote:

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