

## Be Careful of the Voices

Pastor Craig Sweeney | June 14, 2026

**Thread:** How can we be sure we're engaging with the real, and not the fake?

*"But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money."* **2 Peter 2:1-3a NLT**

*"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a clear mind in every situation."* **2 Timothy 4:3-5a NLT**

*"That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men."* **Acts 17:10-12 NLT**

### What did they do right?

- They were **committed** to a proving process.
- "...not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly." **James 3:1b NLT**
- They weren't **attracted** to a teacher for the wrong reasons.
- "...a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker...However, he knew only about John's baptism." **Acts 18: 24a, 25b NLT**

- "...but when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy." **Galatians 2:11-13 NLT**
- They **listened** carefully together.
- They **searched** the scriptures together.
- "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." **Philippians 4:8 NLT**
- "Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you." **2 Timothy 1:13-14 NLT**

### Challenge:

- I challenge you to study the Bible for yourself. Start with the Gospel of John.
- I challenge you to get into a Life Group and attend a lab to do study in community.
- Be careful about who you allow to speak into you. Make them prove it.

*For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [DougBrittonBooks.com/resource](http://DougBrittonBooks.com/resource).*