

## Lessons from Church History “Nothing New Under the Sun”

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*When it comes to false teaching, there is nothing new under the sun*

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### I. Gnosticism—Then and Now

- **Basic Beliefs...**
  - 1) Created world is a bad and spiritual is where it is at...
  - 2) Salvation comes from spiritual enlightenment.
  - 3) Elitist knowledge
- **How does it twist Scripture/the Gospel?**
- **Where do we see this today?**

“The critics of modern American religion are basically on target in describing the entire religious landscape, from New Age or liberal, to evangelical and Pentecostal, as essentially Gnostic” (Michael Horton)

- **Things to learn...**

### II. Marcionism—Then and Now

- **Basic Beliefs...**
  - 1) **Of God(s):** Bad Creator God/Good Loving Father
  - 2) **Of Salvation:** The loving Father sent his Son to save creation from material world
  - 3) **Of the Bible:** Only accepted Paul’s letters/parts of Luke
- **How does it twist Scripture/the Gospel?**

- ***Where do we see this today?***

When one asks who is one of the most influential thinkers in the modern evangelical church, one might be given names such as Jim Packer, John Stott, and Don Carson. I would like to suggest, however, that there is one whose influence is perhaps much greater than we are aware of, yet whose thinking all but pervades the modern evangelical church: Marcion. He's the man who gets my vote for the most profound influence on evangelicalism, from canon to theology to worship practices. You never see his books on the shelves in your high street Christian bookshop; you never see him advertised as preaching in your local church; but his spirit stalks those bookshops and pulpit" (Carl Trueman, *The Marcions Have Landed!*)

- ***Things to learn...***

### **III. Arianism—Then and Now**

- ***Basic Beliefs...***

- 1) Jesus Christ was not God but the first created being and most like God.
- 2) "There was [a time] when he was not..."

- ***How does it twist Scripture/the Gospel?***

- ***Where do we see this today?***

- ***Things to learn...***