



Guarding Against False Prophets 2 2 Peter 2

October 17 & 18, 2009

Introduction:

Is it harder to fool people today than it was 31 years ago?

Are people more discerning?

In spite of how many of these false teacher are exposed, there are always others waiting to take their place.

I. The Reality of False Prophets (Vs. 1a)

False prophets and teachers have always been present and they will be present until Jesus returns.

II. The Strategy of False Prophets (Vs. 1b-3)

A. They Deceive “...*who will secretly introduce destructive heresies...*”

B. They Deny “...*even denying the Master who bought them...*”

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’” (Matthew 7:21-23)

C. They Mislead “...*many will follow their sensuality...*”

D. They Exploit “...*in their greed they will exploit you with false words...*”

III. The Destruction of False Prophets (Vs. 3b-9)

If God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into pits of darkness...

If God did not spare the rebellious people during the days of Noah but destroyed them with the flood...

If God's patience finally ran out with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and He reduced them to ashes because of their disobedience...

Notice how many times Peter repeats this warning:

"...bringing swift destruction upon themselves." (Vs. 1)

"...their destruction is not asleep." (Vs. 3)

"... the Lord knows how... to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment..." (Vs. 9)

"...these, like unreasoning animals... will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed..." (Vs. 12)

"...suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong." (Vs. 13)

"...for whom the black darkness has been reserved." (Vs. 17)

God is able to both rescue the godly and punish the wicked.

Don't think for a moment that you are an exception. Eventually we all reap what we sow.

IV. The Characteristics of False Prophets (Vs. 10-19)

Immorality

2 Peter - "*Sensuality*" (Vs. 2)

"indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires" (Vs. 10)

"revel in the daytime" (Vs. 13)

"eyes full of adultery" (Vs. 14)

"entice by fleshly desires" (Vs. 18)

"slaves of corruption" (Vs. 19)

Jude - "*licentiousness*" (Vs. 4)

"indulge in gross immorality and went after strange flesh" (Vs. 7)

"following after their own lusts" (Vs. 16)

"For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things." (Philippians 3:18-19)

"Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

(Galatians 5:19-21)

Greed (Vs. 3, 14, 15)

Definition: *“One eager to have more, especially of that which belongs to others.” “Craving more of what you have enough of already.”*

“There are two ways to get enough: One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less.” G.K. Chesterton

The “health/ wealth gospel” does not come from scripture, it comes from hearts that are “trained in greed.”

Dishonesty (Vs. 2 & 13)

These guys are hypocrites.

Arrogance/ Self-willed (Vs. 10 & 18)

These people are filled with pride and it is reflected in what they say and how they say it.

SOAP- Small Group/Individual Study Questions

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

SCRIPTURE: Read this week’s passage, 2 Peter 2

OBSERVATION:

- What is the guarantee Peter makes in Verse 1?
- What are some of the ways false teachers use to draw people away from the truth?
- What sort of company does Peter put exploitive people in?
- What will happen to false teachers?

APPLICATION:

- How does this warning open your eyes to teachers you listen to?
- Which false teachings are the hardest for you to detect?
- How do false teachers use sensuality to entice you?
- How do you discern truth?
- Read Ezra 7:10. If you were Ezra, what changes would you make in your life?

PRAYER:

- How can others pray for you in regard to this week’s study?

*(Source for many of the questions and further study -
Trial:8 Witnesses from 1 & 2 Peter Mars Hill Church)*

For more information on joining a Small Group,
please visit the Small Groups Counter in the Lobby