



# Guarding Against False Prophets 3 2 Peter 2

October 24 & 25, 2009

## Introduction:

Mankind appears to have a positive genius for twisting truth until it ceases to be truth and becomes downright falsehood. By overemphasizing in one place and under emphasizing in another the whole pattern of truth may be so altered that a completely false view results without our being aware of it. A.W. Tozer

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

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

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

False teachers are given freedom to sow the seeds of heresy for a period of time, but they eventually get what they deserve.

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

A. Immoral (Vs. 10, 13-14)

B. Greedy (Vs. 3 & 14)

C. Dishonest (Vs. 3)

D. Arrogant & Self-Willed (Vs. 10)

They “*think more highly of themselves than they ought to think.*”

E. Reject \_\_\_\_\_ (Vs. 10)  
 (“*despise authority*” 1 Peter 2:10, “*reject authority*” Jude 8)

Only God is accountable to no one. No one else should be trusted with absolute authority.

F. Revile Angelic Majesties (1 Peter 2:10-11; Jude 8-10a)

“*Angelic majesties*” are fallen angels or demons.  
Why are they described as, “*angelic majesties*”?

False teachers then and now do what angels, even the Archangel Michael would not do.

G. Divisive (Jude 19)

H. Barren/ Unfruitful (Vs. 2:17; Jude 12,19)

False prophets are like clouds that provide no rain and trees that bear no fruit.

V. The Dangers of Following False Prophets (Vs. 20-22)

Who is the “*they*” in verse twenty?

What do the terms “*escaped the defilements of the world*” (Vs. 20) and “*know the way of righteousness*” (Vs. 21) mean?

“Corruption” means...“being brought into an inferior or worse condition.” (2 Peter 1:4; 2:12,19)

“Defilement” means “to stain, pollute or soil,” or “the vices of the ungodly which contaminate a person.”

In 2 Peter 1:4, Peter is addressing those who have escaped from spiritual death, corruption and destruction.

In, 2 Peter 2:20, Peter is addressing those who have escaped from some of the vices or defilements of the world.

The phrase “*know the way of righteousness*” is referring to something less than salvation.

The statement “*the knowledge of the Son of God.*” (Vs. 21) describes a superficial knowledge of Him rather than a saving knowledge.

# SOAP- Small Group/Individual Study Questions

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:105)

**SCRIPTURE:** Read this week's passage, 2 Peter 2

**OBSERVATION:**

- Read Numbers 22 - What is the significance of Balaam in 2 Peter 2?
- Read Genesis 3 - How is the promise of false teachers the same as the lie in the Garden of Eden?
- Read Proverbs 26:11 - What does this say about false teachers in 2 Peter?

**APPLICATION:**

- What will you do to be confident in your faith when false teachers come?
- Read Matthew 26:41 and Ephesians 6:12-13. Discuss the war we are engaged in.
- What corruption of the world has Jesus saved you from?
- How do you keep from being entangled in them again?
- If scripture helps us discern truth, how much time do you spend in scripture? Do you need to make any changes in this area?

**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