

Welcome to Grace Christian Fellowship

Jesus is Lord! (Romans 10:9)

Topic:

2 Peter 2:10 - 22
- Peter vs. the false teachers

- All verses are from the *ESV* unless otherwise stated
- [Brackets] are used to show other, alternative translations
- For 1 & 2 Peter we will be using the *NLT*

1

Last time ...

Peter's eye-witness testimony of the Transfiguration of Christ while on the mountain was truthful, from his own experience, and shows what the *Parousia* Kingdom will be like.

2 Peter 2:1-17 has an overlap in Jude 1:4,6-9,12
Recognize false teachers who spread doubts about clear teachings, divide the church and approve of sin.
They deny their Master, Jesus, by their rejection of the Lordship of Jesus.

During Jesus' last week he foretold the coming of false prophets.

2

Topic for today ...

Continuing with Peter's counsel to deal with false teachers

False teachers may imagine they are doing the right thing, they mean well.

But they are destructive and bring sin into the church.

They appeal to people because they are arrogant, boastful

3

Context from 2 Peter 2:1-

2 ¹ 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. ² Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. ³ In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money.

But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed. ⁴ For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, [tartarus], in gloomy pits of darkness [chains of gloom], where they are being held until the day of judgment. ⁵ And God did not spare the ancient world — except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood.

4

Context from 2 Peter 2:1-

⁶ Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. ⁷ But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. ⁸ Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

⁹ So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.

5

2 Peter 2:10-22 - Watch out for false teachers

¹⁰ He is especially hard on those who follow **their own twisted sexual desire**, and **who despise authority**. These people are proud and arrogant, daring even to scoff at supernatural beings [wicked angels?] without so much as trembling. ¹¹ But the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, do not dare to bring [(from / to) the Lord] a charge of blasphemy against those supernatural beings.

False teachers despise authority

- God has granted angels and people to have authority although they may not deserve it or be qualified for it.

False teachers are typically arrogant

Even angels are hesitant to speak on their own to condemn the demons
Some in the congregation are outspoken about condemning others rather than focusing on just their sin.

6

2 Peter 2:10-22 - Watch out for false teachers

¹² These false teachers are like **unthinking animals**, creatures of **instinct**, born to be caught and destroyed. They **scoff** at things they **do not understand**, and like animals, they will be destroyed. ¹³ Their destruction is their reward for the **harm they have done**. They love to indulge in **evil pleasures in broad daylight**. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They delight [in deception] even as they eat with you in your fellowship meals.

Yet they are in the congregations, even in the fellowship meals.
They scoff at what they do not understand.
There they use their influence to corrupt and harm others.
They may even sin openly.

7

2 Peter 2:10-22 - Watch out for false teachers

¹⁴ They commit adultery with their eyes, and **their desire for sin is never satisfied**. They **lure unstable people into sin**, and they are well trained in **greed**. They live under God's curse. ¹⁵ They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to **earn money by doing wrong**. ¹⁶ But Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice.

See Numbers 22-24

The prophet Balaam, who knew of Yahweh, was tempted by King Balak to curse Israel for a bribe. God told Balaam not to curse Israel.
God saw Balaam's secret desire for the bribe, so he sent an angel to oppose Balaam through his donkey.

The message is false teachers are often greedy and seek bribes.

8

2 Peter 2:10-22 - Watch out for false teachers

¹⁷ These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are **doomed** to blackest darkness. ¹⁸ They **brag** about themselves with **empty, foolish** boasting. With an appeal to twisted **sexual desires**, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. ¹⁹ They **promise freedom**, but they themselves **are slaves of sin** and corruption. For **you are a slave to whatever controls you**.

False teachers offer refreshment but really have none to offer. They offer to new believers freedom from restrictions that prohibit sexual sin.

Their future is alongside the doom of the demons (verse 4,9).

9

2 Peter 2:10-22 - Watch out for false teachers

²⁰ And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by **knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before**. ²¹ It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to **know it and then reject** the command they were given to live a holy life. ²² They prove the truth of this proverb: "A dog returns to its vomit." [Proverbs 26:11] And another says, "A washed pig returns to the mud." *

* Thought to be a pagan proverb

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Concluding comments

False teachers

- typically despise authority
- are typically arrogant & ignorant
- use opportunities in close fellowship to corrupt and harm others
- scoff at what they do not understand
- may sin openly
- are often greedy and seek bribes
- offer refreshment but really have none to offer
- offer new believers freedom from restrictions that prohibit sexual sin

They are worse off than before.

It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness

Do not get into the habit of labeling everyone who is different from your tradition as a false teacher.

- Compare what 2 Peter says are the identifying marks.

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