

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 6TH - 7TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

### WARNING (2 PETER 2:1-10A)

#### AN ADMONITION

In the first chapter, Peter describes the inspiration of Scripture and why it's important (2 Timothy 3:16). This is so important because Scripture is our foundation. Jesus told His disciples that false prophets and teachers would come, and now Peter sees it coming true. **Truly, nothing has changed.**

#### "DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES"

These are not just misinterpretations. They were spreading teaching that minimized the significance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. These are teachings that result in the moral and spiritual destruction of those who follow them.

- **We have to be careful who we follow.**

#### "MANY WILL FOLLOW"

Peter points to the fact that they're easy to fool, and so they follow eloquent teachers pretending to be Christ followers but denying that Jesus is the Savior.

- **False teaching has become more popular than the truth. What is taught must line up with Scripture** (2 Timothy 4:3).

#### "WAY OF TRUTH WILL BE MALIGNED"

The impact of false teaching was luring Christians into immorality, maligning the reputation of all believers and, ultimately, Christ! **The way we live matters.** The call from Peter was that their testimony should reflect the change Jesus has made in their lives. **Christ followers act differently from the world.**

#### FOR THEIR OWN GAIN

Peter isn't condemning that teachers be paid an honest wage (1 Timothy 5:17-18). These teachers were more interested in making money than teaching truth. They commercialized religion for their advantage. And Peter mentions their destruction is imminent.

#### EXAMPLES

Peter gives three examples to warn us that God will judge sin, and those who refuse to repent will face judgment.

- The pride and rebellion of angels
- The disobedience of people in Noah's day
- The sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah  
Notice the reduction in scale.
- These arrogant teachers thought they were beyond God's judgment. That is the height of sin and rebellion.
- God will not allow the scales of justice to forever remain out of balance. That would compromise his integrity. **We cannot escape the judgment of God** (Romans 14:12).

#### BUT GRACE

Peter doesn't leave them in despair. He describes the grace of God extended to rescue Noah and Lot. Their rescue emphasizes God's promise to "rescue the godly." **God's grace is always available.** In the midst of trials, God is able to deliver and preserve those who follow Him.

### CORRUPTION (2 PETER 2:10B-16)

#### PRIDE

Peter points out the audacity of these teachers who are prideful enough to mock what they don't understand. Despite their claims to have special knowledge, they speak out of ignorance and extreme arrogance.

- **Truth is not subjective. If your truth doesn't align with Scripture, it's not truth.**

#### NO SHAME

Peter describes them "like irrational animals" guided by instinct who are born only to be slaughtered. They brazenly sinned in broad daylight, "delighting in their deceptions," not understanding it was to their destruction.

- **Living in sin will eventually lead to destruction.**

#### IT GETS WORSE

He says they have "eyes full of adultery." They had become experts in greed; training themselves to fool and seduce others. This isn't just about false teaching. They were trying to lead others away from Christ.

- **We need to be wary when teaching exalts the teacher and not the Father.**

#### A FAMILIAR STORY

Peter uses the story of Balaam, who was a prophet bent on cursing Israel though God had forbidden it. So, God uses Balaam's donkey to stop him.

- God will use anything to get our attention. What has your attention? **God is pursuing us and has a plan for us** (Jeremiah 29:11).

### EMPTY PROMISES (2 PETER 2:17-22)

#### "SPRINGS WITHOUT WATER"

Peter is done mincing words. A well with no water is useless. These teachers have nothing to offer but empty promises. They're all about deception. How can people who are slaves of sin themselves ever set anybody else free? **If we want to help others find freedom, we need to experience it ourselves.**

#### TWISTED FREEDOM

These teachers promised freedom but sold them slavery. We are slaves to whatever controls us. Freedom doesn't mean we can do whatever we want. If we refuse to follow God, we are slaves to our own sinful desires.

- **We serve Christ out of thankfulness because Jesus set us free.**

#### A CLEAR DISTINCTION

The knowledge in vs. 20 was a head knowledge, not a change of heart. **There is a difference between knowing who Jesus is and having a relationship with Him.** We have been given His divine power (2 Peter 1). The problem is we don't know it because we don't know the Word.

#### AFTER KNOWING RIGHTEOUSNESS

They knew the "way of righteousness" but rejected it for their own desires. This is the difference between the knowledge of God that may produce temporary lifestyle changes but no change of heart. **God isn't interested in behavior modification. He wants to change your heart.**

#### COSMETIC CHANGE

Peter points out there is no real change. The church had fallen prey to imposters who used religion for their own gain, and he calls them to return to the gospel.

- The world is looking for the real thing. Of all the places where people should be able to find "real" or "genuine" should be the church.

#### FREEDOM

- Are we really free? We have been given everything we need (2 Peter 1:3).
- The only way of escaping the slavery of sin is by accepting the freedom provided by the grace of God.
- **True freedom comes through a relationship with Jesus.**

#### KNOWLEDGE VS. RELATIONSHIP

- Knowing about Jesus doesn't make us Christ followers (James 2:19).
- We cannot escape the judgment of God.
- **There is grace. A relationship with Jesus begins with confession.**
- A relationship grows. When will you get serious about your relationship?

#### FALSE TEACHERS

- How are we developing discernment?
- Don't be fooled. There is no "new truth." Sound teaching must align with Scripture.
- We must have more than a cursory knowledge of God's Word. **The best way to guard against false teachers is to know the truth. Get in the Word.**