

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 7TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 2 PETER

NO REST FOR THE WICKED (2 PETER 2:1-3) A FACT, NOT A POSSIBILITY

Peter essentially says, "make no mistake, there are false prophets and teachers **among you.**" There are people **within the Church and not just outside of it** that wish to "exploit" us for their own personal gain.

- Peter is describing someone that willingly deceives and not someone who is ignorant to the truth or is deceived themselves.

HARMING OTHERS AND EVENTUALLY THEMSELVES

The false doctrines that are smuggled into the Church are not harmless. They are "destructive heresies" that deny the sovereign Lord who "**brought them.**"

- Though they claim to love and serve Christ, **their actions and what they teach show that they actually serve themselves, an entity, or false ideology.**

"MANY WILL FOLLOW"

It is often the "good" men teaching lies that do the most damage. Their lies are usually more palatable and accepted because of their appearance of a "good" character.

- **Just because something is attractive, popular, and sounds good does not mean it is of God.**

THEY BRING SWIFT JUSTICE UPON THEMSELVES

Though it may not seem fast enough by our standards, we can be certain that God will deal with those who teach false doctrines that deceive His children.

- Though there is a judgment "pronounced" long ago, for these false teachers, there is also a level of accountability on the hearer. **We must be familiar with the Truth.**

PROTECTION AND PUNISHMENT (2 PETER 2:4-10A) GOD IS CONSISTENT

Peter gives three illustrations from the past to show that God is consistent in dealing with evil and continues to do so.

- These events from the past are meant to be used as "examples" of God protecting and saving those that follow Him and punishing those that reject Him. The word "examples" used in the text means to set "a pattern."

THE FIRST ILLUSTRATION

The angels, who once had a "high position," were removed and bound for judgment because of their rebellion. This shows us that no one is spared from judgment, not even the angels who once were in Heaven with God.

- **The false teacher who appears to be in a "high position" and successful will eventually be brought to justice.**

THE SECOND ILLUSTRATION

Peter uses the flood in Genesis 6:5 to further communicate how God will provide a vessel to save anyone who believes in the truth.

- Those that accept God's grace will be protected from the coming judgment. However, those that reject God and truth will exclude themselves from being spared from destruction.

THE THIRD ILLUSTRATION

Peter references the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which in Scripture represent sin and rebellion, to again establish a pattern of God bringing destruction to those that disregard Him and His law.

- **God, being just, will not allow the scales of justice to forever be out of balance.**

DRAGGING OTHERS DOWN (2 PETER 2:10B-22) IDENTIFYING THE UNGODLY AMONG THEM

Peter wants the Church to be able to identify the false teachers among them. He says these teachers will walk according to the flesh and not the Spirit.

- They will despise authority with **boldness and arrogance.** Their feeling superiority and lack of restraint will lead them to "slander the glorious ones."

"GLORIOUS ONES"

These false teachers will have no true regard for unseen spiritual powers and go so far as to slander some of these spiritual powers, which even the angels themselves dare not do.

- Though we have been given authority to trample over the enemy's power, we do not delight in it. Instead, we delight that our names are written in Heaven (Luke 10:19-20).

THEY ARE CLUELESS

Peter likens these false teachers that give in to the flesh, not the Spirit, as "irrational animals."

- Like an animal, they aim to achieve whatever brings personal satisfaction and self gratification. Though they claim to be mighty and powerful, they are ignorant of true might and power.

"DELIGHTING IN THEIR DECEPTIONS"

Where the pagans (unbelievers) typically practiced their sins under the veil of darkness, these false teachers boldly and arrogantly commit their sins in broad daylight.

- Without shame, they practice their deceit unveiled and **we are seduced by it because we are unable to discern the evil that "feast with [us]."**

COVETOUS EYES

Having "**eyes full of adultery**" is not just describing physical adultery but spiritual adultery toward God.

- It is a **general covetous nature that "never stops looking for sin."** They claim to be the bride of Christ but then give themselves over to other fleshly desires, thereby committing spiritual adultery.

"CHILDREN UNDER A CURSE!"

Peter carefully points out that these false teachers "**seduce the unstable and have hearts trained in greed.**"

- They **prey on the ones who are weak in Spirit, those "prone to change, fail, or give way."** As for their greed, **they always desire more.** The term used is borrowed from describing a well-trained athlete.

BALAAAM AND HIS DONKEY

Peter tells the story of Balaam from Numbers 22-24. Balaam was claiming to be a prophet of God, but his love of money caused him to pursue fortune and notoriety over God.

- The common thread between Balaam and the false teachers in Peter's time is **that they both were leading others into sin for their own gain while ignoring God.**

NO REAL SUBSTANCE

Peter describes the false teachers as "**springs without water and mist driven by a storm.**"

- **They give nothing of any real substance,** like a mist quickly dissipated by a storm or a dry spring. Like a mist or fog, **they are temporary,** as the "gloom of darkness has been reserved for them."

PROMISES OF SOMETHING THEY CAN'T OFFER

There is an allure to the message that these false teachers will bring. Typically, the allure plays into the pleasures of the flesh and twists the concept of Christian liberty into something it is not.

- They will promise freedom but can't deliver because **freedom is found in the Spirit, not in the flesh.**

"ESCAPED SOME CORRUPTION"

The last verses, Peter points out a distinction between those who are *in the church* and those who *are the church.*

- The knowledge described in v.20 is a head knowledge that never traversed to the heart. They were exposed to the truth, but **they were worse off in the end because they chose to reject the truth presented to them.**

INVENTORY

- There is not much more that defames the name of Christ and hinders the ministry of Christ like the bad reputation of those that claim to follow Christ.
- **Are we mindful that it is not just our name that gets tarnished by hypocritical living?**
- **Have we made it a priority to bring glory to name of Jesus?**

WE CANNOT SLUMBER

- In verse 3b Peter said, "their (false teachers) destruction does not sleep." Evil does not slumber, slow down, or take a break.
- **Why do we view the Christian walk as something we can turn on and off?**
- **We must wipe the sleep from our eyes and be diligent because the enemy doesn't sleep!**

TRUE FREEDOM

- **Are ingesting things that are no good for us, making us sick? Do we continually return to what is making us sick out of ignorance?**
- **Are we seeking freedom in the wrong way and thereby becoming "slaves of corruption"?**