

“Disciples, Beware of False Teachers” (lesson #16)

2 Peter 2

1. What is the warning of verse 1?

“**But** there were also false prophets among the people, even as **there will be false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies.”

Who are “the people”? – Israel (2 Chron 18:1-7; Ezek 13:1-9; Isa 9:13-16; Jer 23:11-40).

a. What was the Lord’s warning in this same regard (Matt 7:15-20)?

False teachers appear as sheep, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Inspect their fruit.

Discussion: Give examples of the type of fruit a false teacher would bear.

1. They reject apostolic authority & refuse to submit (3 Jn 9-11; 1 Jn 4:1, 6).
2. They do not “speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet 4:11).
3. They do not “hold fast the pattern of sound words” (2 Tim 1:13).
4. They “twist to their own destruction...the Scriptures” (2 Pet 3:16).
5. They are of the sort to prey on the gullible (2 Tim 3:1-6).
6. They possess one or more of the traits listed in (2 Tim 3:2-4).
7. They “love the praise of men more than the praise of God” (Jn 12:43).
8. They leave behind them a path of destruction & misery (Acts 13:50; 14:2, 19).
9. They “hinder [people] from obeying the truth” (Gal 5:7-10).
10. They “walk in the flesh” producing the “works of the flesh” (Gal 5:19-21).

Should we mistake the respect & loyalty some may have for a false teacher with the bearing of good fruit (Lk 6:26; Lk 9:61; Lk 14:20, 26)?

b. John also made this warning in (2 John 9-11).

Never accept any teacher on the basis of his external qualities.

Always compare his doctrine to what is revealed by the apostles.

A corrupt doctrine indicates a corrupt heart, unless he is willing to be taught “the way of God more perfectly” as was Apollos (Acts 18:26).

We are warned not to, in any way, condone or support the teaching efforts of the false teacher.

c. What was Paul’s response to false teachers (Gal 2:5; Acts 13:4-12)?

Judaizers: “To whom we did not yield submission even for an hour”

Why did Paul react in this manner? **Was** he just being narrow minded? “That the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal 2:5).

Elymas (Bar-Jesus: sorcerer & false prophet on Cyprus @ Paphos): Paul looked him in the eyes & called him what he was (Acts 13:10).

2. Identify the doctrines & actions of a false teacher (vss.1-3).

False teachers follow this course of action:

- 1) Secretive in regard to their motives
- 2) Deceptive in the manner of their teaching (1a)
- 3) Denial of truth (1b)
- 4) Appeal to base desires (2)
- 5) Motive is financial gain & widespread acceptance (3)

b. Destructive heresies (vs. 1) –

“**Destructive**” – apoleia (ap-o’-li-a); spiritual ruin or loss

Thayer: “**Heresies**” – hairesis (hah’-ee-res-is) –

1. Act of taking, capture
2. Choosing, choice,
3. That which is chosen, a chosen course of thought & action
4. A body of men separating themselves from others & following their own tenets (a sect or party)
5. *Dissensions arising from diversity of opinions & aims:* (Gal 5:20; 1 Cor 11:19).

Can you name a few? **The** tenets of Calvinism, which have led to a diversity of doctrines taught & commonly believed today; **also**, premillennialism, open fellowship with the denominations, etc.

c. Denying the Lord (vs. 1) –

“**Denying**” – is used of those who by cherishing & disseminating pernicious opinions & immorality are adjudged to have apostatized from God & Christ (Titus 1:16; 2 Tim 2:12; 1 John 2:22; Eph 5:23).

d. Destructive ways (vs. 2) –

“**Destructive**” or “**Pernicious** (kjv) – aselgeia, aselgeias – unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence (Mark 7:22; Jude 4).

e. Deceptive words (vs. 3) –

Thayer: “Deceptive” – *plastos, plastee, plaston*; from which we derive our word *plastic*.

1. **Moulded**, & formed [words to accomplish intended purpose]
2. **Tropically** [*trope* from the Greek *tropos*: means *a turn; a turning or changing; something that turns or changes*], feigned:

Choosing words & giving meaning to those words to suit one’s evil purposes

1) What motivates these teachers (vs.3)?

Financial gain & widespread public acceptance (1 Thess 2:5)

2) What is their reward?

Judgment – *krima* (kree’-mah); a decision

Destruction – *apoleia* (ap-o’-li-a); ruin or loss (ph, sp/et; Jude 6-8; 14-15)

3. What 3 examples of God’s wrath prove the certainty of their reward?

God’s judgment of the following:

Angels that sinned (they had lived in the most wholesome & beautiful surroundings)

Ancient world of Noah’s day (given 120 years to repent @ the preaching of Noah)

Sodom & Gomorrah (they had Lot’s influence at the gate of his city)

4. How can we live righteously while surrounded by ungodliness & wickedness (vss. 7-9; Jude 7)?

Lot lived in closer proximity to evil, but he paid a heavy price.

If you can improve your circumstances, by all means do so.

“Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but **if you can be made free, rather use it**” (1 Cor 7:21).

“The Lord knows how to deliver” us from the impending doom of the world around us.

“ [We] are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials” (1 Pet 1:5-6).

5. What are the terms used in condemning the mockers/false teachers (vss. 10-19)?

{**Read & discuss** the long list.}

The reasons for their success:

Eloquence in speech (18); **Appeal** to the base appetites (18); **Preying** on the weak (19).

Their teachings cannot set anyone at “liberty” because they themselves are enslaved to sin due to the error of their own words.

Balaam said that he wanted to die the death of the righteous (Num 23:10), but he would not live the life of the righteous (Num 22-24).

6. Describe the sorrowful state of those who know the way of righteousness yet return to the defilements of the world (vss. 21-22).

As a dog returning to its vomit – **As a washed sow** returning to the mud

“**As a dog** returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly” (Prov 26:11).

False teachers & the doctrines they propagate will lead many away from the pure doctrine of Christ & the pure life that ensues from it.

Gospel preachers ought to preach

...to EXPRESS NOT to impress

...to COMMUNICATE NOT to manipulate

It is the work of a gospel preacher to take what Jesus & the apostles taught, without any alterations, & hand it over to the listening ears & receptive hearts of the elect.

True Gospel preaching makes no allowance for heresy (2 Tim 2:2; 4:1-5).