

2 Peter 2:17-22

Remembering Truth When it Really Counts

"...a primer to guard against false teaching"

Understanding Our Adversaries

False Teachers are Devastating

Understanding Our Adversaries (2:1-22)

1. Their Infiltration (2:1-3a) – False Teachers are Deceptive
2. Their Iniquity (2:3b-10a) - False Teachers Will be Judged
3. Their Impurity (2:10b-16) – False Teachers are Perverted
4. **Their Impact (2:17-22) – False Teachers are Devastating**

Today's Learning Objective:

That God's people and the Church of Jesus Christ would heed Peter's clear warning to stay away from false teachers and be _____ of their _____ and _____.
They cannot be tolerated, they promise what they _____, and their end is
" _____"!

Deceptions of False Teaching (2:17-22)

17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. 18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

- **Tolerance and Indifference Can Mark the Church**

- As we consider 2 Peter, we need to be mindful of the attitude of tolerance and basic indifference that characterizes some aspects of the church today. This attitude of indifference toward purity of the Word of God and failure to live in subjection to the Word reveals a lack of depth and/or passionate love for God and His Word that makes Him known. (See Ps. 119) A few observations from the psalmist's heart and passion...

1. The Word of God is more _____ (Ps. 119: 127)
2. An _____ and _____ and
live out the Word in life. (Ps. 119:11; 101)
3. _____ for God's Word produces a _____ for
those who _____ it. (Ps. 119:118; 136, 158)

In 2 Peter, chapter 2, Peter is writing about the danger of false teachers and the corruption they will work in the church. **Why is he giving extensive consideration of this warning?**

- **False Teachers Promise What They Cannot Deliver (vs. 17)**

- The false teachers from verse 1 who will “secretly introduce destructive heresies”, who promote ungodliness in doctrine and in lifestyle, are described as

_____. (Jude 12)

What do they mean in the context of this passage? (In contrast – see John 4:14; 7:37-38)

- False teachers _____, but are unable to _____.
- Why are false teachers so popular?** False teachers have _____ (Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 3:5)

- **Black Darkness Awaits False Teachers (vs. 17)**

- Peter reminds us again of what awaits these false teachers at the end. It is darkness, destruction and an eternal hell. (Jude 6)

- This black darkness has been _____ for them.
- Jesus spoke of the blackness of hell. (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30)
- “reserved” – is in the perfect tense and refers to something that took place and continues on into the present. Darkness that is _____ and _____ for them. (In contrast – see 1 Pet. 1:4)

- **False Teachers Cannot Be Tolerated (vs. 18-19)**

- After Peter elaborates on the two metaphors describing false teachers, he now provides examples of what they do – note the word “for”:

- They are _____. (Jude 16)
- They have the ability to _____. (2:Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:3)
- They speak with _____.
- They will say words that _____ (2 Pet. 2:14) “entice” – means to _____.
- In verse 18 - ...”those who barely escape from the ones who live in error.” **Who do you think Peter is referring to?**

- vi. They target _____ or those whom may be _____ their way toward salvation. (2 Pet. 1:4)
- vii. They promise a _____ they have not experienced – they are _____. (Rom. 6:16; John 8:36)

- **False Teachers are Deceptive (vs. 20-21)**

- Peter further elaborates on these false teachers and gives further confirmation of their hopeless condition and enslavement to sin. This passage makes clear that it is far better that one never hear a verse of Scripture than hear and not submit and believe.
 - i. ***How do you think these false teachers were able to infiltrate the church so effectively?*** (2 Pet. 2:1-3)
 - ii. Peter identifies these false teachers as, “those who after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” ***What do you think this means?*** (Tit. 1:10-11,16)
 - iii. In 2 Pet. 2:20, Peter said, “they are again entangled by them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.” ***What is the point Peter is making?*** (See Matt. 12:43-45; 23:27,28; Heb. 6:4-5)
 - iv. Peter closes with two proverbs that give the same point. “A dog returns to its vomit,” and “a sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.” ***What do they represent about false teachers?*** (Prov. 26:11; Matt. 7:6; Phil. 3:2; Rev. 22:15; 2 Pet. 2:12)
 - v. Points to ponder:
 - 1. Is there great danger in moral reformation? What happens when the Church focuses on this and loses its hold on its’ responsibility to be the pillar and support of the truth? (1 Tim. 3:15)
 - 2. With increased knowledge is their increased responsibility? (Luke 12:47-48)
 - 3. Can you disassociate character from conduct? (Matt. 7:15-23)
 - 4. How has the hearing of the Word impacted your relationship to the living God?