

**New Series: Last Days – 2 Peter
“False Teachers” – Pt. 2
2 Peter 2:4 – 16**

Big Idea – Satan is the great imitator

**Deception
Denial**

They deny the Bible, depravity of man, salvation by grace through faith, eternal destiny in heaven or hell, but big thing they deny is the deity of Christ. So they are lost, unsaved!!

compared to pigs & dogs, not sheep – vs. 22

2 Peter 2:22 These proverbs have come true for them: “A dog goes back to its vomit,” and “A sow that has been washed goes back to roll around in the mud.”

Jude 19 says they "have not the Spirit."

If a person does not have the Spirit of God within, he is not a child of God (Rom. 8:9).

How were they “bought” by the Lord? when it comes to efficacy, His death is sufficient for the whole world. (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2). However, it doesn't one any good unless it is believed and acted upon.

He purchased even those who reject Him and deny Him! This makes their condemnation even greater.

He is the Son of God and God the Son. He is the only Savior. To deny this is to condemn your own soul.

Immorality

Pernicious ways means "licentious conduct." Jude accused the false teachers of "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness" (Jude 4).

Now we understand why they deny the truths of the Christian faith: they want to satisfy their own lusts and do it under the guise of religion. The false prophets in Jeremiah's day were guilty of the same sins (Jer. 23:14, 32).

The fact that many follow the evil example of their conduct is proof that people would rather follow the false than the true, the sensual rather than the spiritual. These false teachers are very successful in their ministry!

They have glowing statistics to report and crowds gather to hear them! But statistics are not proof of authenticity. The broad way that leads to destruction is crowded (Matt. 7:13-14). Turn to Matthew 7 please...

Many will claim to be true servants of Christ but will be rejected on the last day (Matt. 7:21-23).

Apostasy – "the falling away"

What happens to their followers?

For one thing, they bring disgrace to the name of Christ.
The Christian faith gets a bad name because of their filthy lives.

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"
Titus 1:16

"For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you"
Romans 2:24

Few things hinder the cause of Christ like the bad reputations of professing Christians who are members of orthodox churches.

Greed

False teachers are interested in one thing: making money. They exploit ("make merchandise of) ignorant people and use their religion as "a cloak

of covetousness" Contrast this with what Paul said to the Greeks at Thessaloniki

1 Thessalonians 2:5 "For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness--God *is* witness."

Our Lord was a poor Man, and so were the Apostles; yet they gave of themselves to minister to others. These false prophets are rich men who cleverly get others to minister to them!

Micah described these false prophets in his day:

"Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, her priests instruct for a price, and her prophets divine for money" Micah 3:11

Often said that immorality, love of money, and pride have been the ruin of many people. These false teachers were guilty of all three!

They use their "plastic words" as well as "great swelling words" (2 Peter 2:18) to fascinate and influence their victims. They flatter sinners and tell them the kind of ego-building words that they want to hear

They will scratch the itching ears of people who reject the truth of the Bible and turn to fables (2 Tim. 4:1-4). Turn to 2 Tim 4

Doom – examples of judgment – vs. 4-11

Angels who sinned

Revelation 12:4 suggests that 1/3 of the angels fell with Lucifer, who became Satan, the adversary of God.

Where are these fallen angels now? We know that Satan is free and at work in the world 1 Peter 5:8 – your Adversary the devil like a roaring lion

he has an army of demonic powers assisting him (Eph. 6:10-12), who are probably some of the fallen angels.

But Peter said that some of the angels were confined to Tartarus ("hell"), which is a Greek word for the underworld. Tartarus may be a special section of hell where these angels are chained in pits of darkness, awaiting the final judgment.

Jude 6 -

God judges rebellion and will not spare those who reject His will. If God judged the angels, who in many respects are higher than men, then certainly He will judge rebellious men.

World in Noah's day

Genesis 6:3 indicates that God waited 120 years before He sent the Flood. All during that time, Noah ministered as a "herald" of God's righteousness. If you want to read a description of the world before the Flood, read Romans 1:18ff.

Gentile civilization had become so corrupt that it was necessary for God to wipe the earth clean. He saved only eight people, Noah and his family, because they had faith in God (Heb. 11:7).

But nobody believed Noah's message! Jesus made it clear that people were enjoying their normal lives up to the very day that Noah and his family entered the ark! Luke 17:26-27 "...as it was...so shall the coming of Son of man be."

No doubt there were plenty of "experts" who laughed at Noah and assured the people that a rainstorm was out of the question. Had anybody ever seen one? The apostates in Peter's day used that same argument to "prove" that the Day of the Lord would not come (2 Peter 3:3ff).

When you compare our world with Noah's world, you see some frightening parallels. The population was multiplying (Gen. 6:1), and the world was filled with wickedness (Gen. 6:5) and violence (Gen. 6:11, 13).

Lawlessness abounded. True believers were a minority, and nobody paid any attention to them! But the Flood came and the entire population of the world was destroyed.

Sodom & Gomorrah

The record is given in Genesis 18-19, and God's opinion of the people of these cities is found in Genesis 13:13—"But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." Peter said they were "ungodly," and Jude said they were given to "fornication and going after strange flesh" (Jude 7). The men of Sodom practiced filthy behavior and unlawful deeds (2 Peter 2:7-8).

Since the Law of Moses had not yet been given, the word unlawful cannot refer to some Jewish law. In what sense were their filthy deeds "unlawful"?

They were contrary to nature (see Rom. 1:24-27). The flagrant sin of Sodom and the other cities was unnatural sex, sodomy, or homosexual behavior, a sin that is clearly condemned in Scripture

Lev. 18:22;

Romans 1:24-27;

1 Corinthians 6:9

In spite of Abraham's intercessory prayer (Gen. 18:22ff) and Lot's last-minute warning, the people of Sodom perished in fire and brimstone. Again, up to the very minute that Lot left the city, the people were confident that everything was safe; but then the fire fell (Luke 17:28-29).

God did not spare them, nor will He spare sinners today who willfully reject His truth and deny His Son. God buried Sodom and Gomorrah, probably under the Dead Sea. They are examples to sinners today to beware the wrath to come.

Having cited these three examples of certain judgment, Peter then applied the lesson to the subject at hand, the false teachers (2 Peter 2:9b). God has reserved the unjust for special punishment on that day of judgment. The false teachers may seem successful (for "many" follow them), but in the end, they will be condemned.

Their judgment is being prepared now ("will not be delayed" 2 Peter 2:3), and what is prepared will be reserved and applied on the last day.