

"Characteristics of False Teachers"

Part 2

2 Peter 2

Introduction: Last week we started in 2 Peter 2 where we find a detailed description of false teachers. Let us do a quick review of what we looked like.

I. The Warning of their Arrival

Notice 2 Peter 2:1

Peter was straight up with his readers. Just as there were false prophets in the Old Testament so there were sure to be false teachers in the church. Jude wrote six years later and confirmed their arrival.

Jude 1:4

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Their Stealthy Ways.

Notice 2 Peter 2:1 again.

Peter tells his readers that they would come in privily and would bring damnable/destructive heresies. Last week we looked at what Paul wrote to Timothy to see just how dangerous false teachers are.

2 Timothy 2:15-18

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

¹⁶ But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

¹⁸ Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

False teaching is compared to gangrene in the body. It corrupts the entire body when it gets in. It will spread and contaminate just as cancer does in the human body. False teachers cannot be tolerated. False doctrine is far too dangerous and destructive. This brings us to where we are tonight in our study.

III. Their Heart

Notice 2 Peter 2:1 again.

We need to notice the statement "***even denying the Lord that bought them.***" These false teachers were NOT saved so we must ask the question, "What is Peter saying here?" This verse contains one of the clearest pieces of evidence of the Truth that Jesus Christ died for ALL mankind. There are those in the reformed camp and many of them teach and believe in limited atonement. In other words they believe the Jesus only died for the elect and NOT for all sinners. But here in this verse we see that the Lord paid the price even for the sins of the false teachers. Now, I know someone would respond and push back by saying that if Jesus paid the price for even the sins of the lost people, then why are they not saved? While Jesus died for the sins of even the sinner in hell, he or she was not saved because they did not exercise their free will and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. You see, Jesus died for all as we shall see, but His blood is only applied to the lives of them who accept Him as their Savior. Let us notice some verses.

John 3:14-17

¹⁴ *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

¹⁵ *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

These verses are all very clear that Jesus Christ died for the sins of all sinners. There is yet something else to consider that truly confirms that Jesus died for all.

Mark 16:14-16

¹⁴ *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

¹⁶ *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

We are commanded to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone. The Gospel is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again for our justification. Now if Jesus only died for the elect and not every sinner then when we obey this command, we are lying to those who are not the elect. Even worse than that, Jesus ordained the lie. I show you all of this because when someone believes in limited atonement it corrupts their evangelism. They cannot share the Gospel with everyone because they do not know if Jesus died for the person they are speaking to. If you accept limited atonement, then your theology is flawed. Jesus died for all and so we can tell LL people that God loves them and provided a Savior for them, and He died in their place on the cross to pay for their sins and offer to them eternal life.

Getting back to the false teachers, their hearts are unclean because they have not been saved.

IV. Their Popularity

Notice 2 Peter 2:2

Here we see that MANY will follow their pernicious/destructive ways. This tells us several things.

- 1. These false teachers will be very deceptive with how they present their lies.**

We must not underestimate these false teachers. Let us understand that they are serving their father the Devil and he is the father of lies. Let us notice what Paul said concerning false apostles.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

¹⁴ *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Let us notice what Jesus said concerning the first part of the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:7-11

⁷ *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*

⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

⁹ *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

¹⁰ *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

¹¹ *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

The Tribulation will be a time of great deception and we can be sure the world will see deception increasing in the days leading up to the Rapture.

2. False teachers gather large followings.

Notice the words of another teacher:

"The most distressing aspect of the work of false teachers is not that they are among you. False teachers always have been and always will be among Christians. The most distressing fact is that so many Christians will follow their destructive ways."

One of the reasons for the large following is because of their message. False teachers will not take a hard stand against sin, and in the case of the Gnostics they were teaching that

grace was a license to sin. In other words the Gnostics taught that it was just fine to enjoy sin because it was the fault of the body not the soul. Therefore, the false teachers have large gathering because they will not condemn the sin of their followers.

Paul spoke against using grace as a license to sin.

Romans 5:19-21, 6:1-4

¹⁹ *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

²¹ *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹ *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

² *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Notice 2 Peter 2:2b again.

Here peter tells his readers what happens when believers get caught up in the false teaching. It hinders the testimony of the Gospel, the church, and the believer.

Let us notice the conversation between David and Nathan after Nathan confronted David concerning his sin.

2 Samuel 12:

⁷ *And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;*

⁸ *And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.*

⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

¹² For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

¹⁴ Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

David gave GREAT occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme. Let us notice what Paul said to the Religious Sinner in Romans 2.

Romans 2:17, 23-24

¹⁷ Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

²³ Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

²⁴ For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

Conclusion:

One of the reasons Satan uses false teachers is to destroy the testimony of the Bible, the church, and believers who get caught up in the teaching.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: