

"Characteristics of False Teachers"

Part 3

2 Peter 2

Introduction: In the past two weeks we have been looking at the characteristics of the false teachers in 2 Peter 2.

I. Characteristics of False Teachers

Notice 2 Peter 2:1-2

Peter reminded his readers that the false teachers were coming and when they arrived, they would come in privately. They would not announce who they were, but they would work their way in and begin to teach their false doctrine. The false teachers would deny the Lord who bought them which means they were not saved. Jesus died for them, but they would not accept Him and His finished work. Peter told his readers that the false teachers would have a large following and their ways would be destructive.

Last week we considered how even believers will follow them. I shared the words of one man who said:

"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."

Acts 20:17, 27-31

¹⁷ And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

³¹ *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

Notice 2 Peter 2:2 again.

When God's people get caught up in false teaching, they cause the "way of truth to be evil spoken of." This was especially true of those caught up in Gnosticism. The unsaved even know that believers/Christians are to be different and separated and when the church is not it causes the world to bring accusations against God Word and His people.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

Notice 2 Peter 2:3

The next point we see about the false teachers is that they are driven by greed, and they will take advantage of their followers. Notice what Jesus said to the religious leaders of His day.

Matthew 23:25

²⁵ *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion [robbery] and excess.*

Getting back to verse 3 the false teachers will "make merchandise" out of their followers. The idea here is they do not care about the sheep. As one man said, "They do not feed the sheep, but they fleece the sheep." They are out to get as much from their people as they can. They will live a lifestyle far above the people they have as followers. They are the exact opposite of Jesus.

John 10:9-15

⁹ *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

¹⁰ *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

¹¹ *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

¹² *But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.*

¹³ *The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*

¹⁴ *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

¹⁵ *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Notice 2 Peter 2:3 again.

They will speak with "FEIGNED" words. This means their words are "moulded or formed." The word "FEIGNED" is the Greek word we get the word "PLASTIC" from. The point to see here is that their words are NOT from God, but they are words that they have formed in order to deceive their followers. Their words come from their own wicked minds. Let me take your mind back to Paul's words in Acts 20.

Acts 20:30

³⁰ *Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

This is the same idea. False teachers are driven by greed and covetousness.

II. Judgment of False Teachers

Notice 2 Peter 2:1, 3 again.

We are told in verse 1 that false teachers will experience swift destruction and in verse 3 we see that their damnation slumbereth not. So this then leads to a question, "Are there any examples?" Yes, there is, and Peter is going to give us three of them.

1. The fallen angels in Noah's day.

Notice 2 Peter 2:4

This is a familiar story to us because we have looked at it before, but we need to see it again. Jude also wrote of these angels.

Jude 1:6

⁶ *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

Now when Satan fell, he took with him one third of the angels.

Revelation 12:3-4

³ *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

⁴ And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Let me show you one more verse before we see the account of Genesis 6.

Hebrews 1:13-14

¹³ *But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

I show you this so that you will know that angels are spirits. Now let us see the Genesis account.

Genesis 6:1-1-5

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

³ *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

⁴ *There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

⁵ *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

¹¹ *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.*

¹² *And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.*

¹³ *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

This group of fallen angels crossed the line when they committed the sins found in Noah's day. God then took them, and they were locked in chains. The last time we looked at this I told you that they will be loosed in the tribulation.

Revelation 9:1-3

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

² *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

³ *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

Getting back to Peter, he points to these angels to show his readers that God dealt with them quickly. They were not permitted to continue on.

2. The unrighteous of Noah's day.

Notice 2 Peter 2:5

In Noah's day there were billions of unrighteous people and only eight righteous. God knew who belonged to Him and after 120 years of grace, warning the people through Noah, God brought the flood that destroyed the unrighteous. He however made a way of escape through the ark for the righteous.

Something very similar will happen at the end of the tribulation.

Matthew 24:29-30, 37-41

²⁹ *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

³⁰ *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

³⁷ *But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Getting back to 2 Peter, he points to this to show that God dealt with the ungodly swiftly in Noah's day.

3. Sodom and Gomorrah.

Notice 2 Peter 2:6

The sinners of these two cities were also dealt with swiftly. Our nation needs to look closely at the warning here.

Notice 2 Peter 2:1 again.

These people will be dealt with swiftly meaning that when God's judgment comes it will be suddenly.

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Conclusion:

Notice 2 Peter 2:9

There will come a day when God destroys the unrighteous and we will be rescued. For now we must stand true to the Word of God.