

The Letters of **Peter**



Lesson 7-The Perils of False Teachers!

Focus: 2 Peter 2:1-22

- **False Teachers should be expected to be among us (v.1-3)**
 - This whole chapter parallels with the letter of Jude so you may look there for more details. It is believed that one of the authors, perhaps Jude had copied from the other, or that they used a common source when they wrote this portion of their text.
 - *Certainly, we should not believe every person we hear! Jesus warned us that there would be many false teachers and false prophets that would come along! In fact, Bible history reveals clearly that this kind of thing has happened repeatedly among God's people! Many times in the history of God's people, including in the days of Jesus Christ, there were often more who were teaching falsely than truly!! In the days of Elijah on Mount Caramel there were 850 false prophets on the mountaintop as opposed to just one true prophet up there (1 Kings 18:19). Most of the people had followed their false ways too! Among the people there were about 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to false gods, and the number of true prophet leaders was quite a bit smaller than that (Romans 11:4; 1 Kings 18:4).*
 - Jesus warned us to be on the lookout for false prophets and teachers! So did Paul, John, and Peter (as you see here) (See Matthew 24:4, 5, 24; Acts 20:28-30; 1 John 4:1).
 - We must therefore **test all by the living word of God!** (See Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11)
- **God knows how to punish them and all the wicked (v.4-9)**
 - God has made judgment on the wicked throughout all the past and it will certainly come to those who are teaching falsely and wickedly today! Christ warned scolded the Pharisees of His day who were teaching false things that they surely would not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and unfortunately, neither would those who followed their wicked teachings and examples (One would have to escape from the errors and falsehoods to be able to experience rightly the salvation God has been offering us). **(Matthew 23:13-15).**
 - Righteous Lot and Noah witnessed so many evils in their days, and we can expect to see the same kinds of things. "In seeing and hearing" it vexed their righteous souls! It was a hard thing to see all the wickedness and evil around them, which they as righteous followers of God had learned to deeply hate and despise (hating not the people, but the sin, as is also the case with God's hatred). Our souls should also be vexed to put such evil before our eyes and ears! We ought to be very careful what we put in front of our eyes and ears! We ought to have a hatred for sin! We should not love sin or ever call it "entertainment" for such is an abomination and an offense to God!
 - **God knows how to deliver those who trust in Him!** (Yes, even from false teachers and teachings, but we must "love" and prize the truth of God more than anything else!

- **These false teachers are walking and living in sins (v.10-14)**
 - Our speaking should be pure and not evil towards others. These false teachers are speaking things which they should never be speaking! The example here goes back to that of God's angels or messengers. Jude makes a special reference to "Michael the Archangel" (Jude 1:9).
 - (v.13) These ones try to feast at our spiritual feasts or gatherings, but they are not truly the faithful among us. They may come to the gatherings for hearing God's word, that is, but they **are not truly among us in heart** and mind! Their sinful soul is not truly united with the people of God or the mind of Christ!
 - They commit adultery and follow the way of other false teachers like Balaam who seduced Israel into sinning and losing their favor with God. He taught Balaac, the enemy of God's people, how he could destroy the people of God by seducing them into sin. The basic story is found in Numbers 22-24.
- **Speaking false words and alluring to destruction (v.15-22)**
 - These false teachers lead people into the pollutions of the world and of sin by their false teachings! Remember, that is the bottom line! Satan and his evil teachers will lead you to disrespect and disobey the word or the commandments of God! Do not listen to them! Stay away from such evil! Follow holiness! Follow God! Follow the Bible! (not false teachers!) (See the warnings given to us in Genesis 3:1-6 how Satan lead people to sin and disobey God, and also 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you study and live by God's word diligently, being on the lookout for false teachers? ____