

“The Teachers of Error: Their Description and Destruction”

2 Peter 2:1-9

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I. Introduction

- A. Just about everyone has been victimized by a con artist at some time in their life, but the worst of all is religious cons.
 - 1. We come to the heart of Peter’s second letter, where he now warns us of the dangers of false teachers (v. 1).
 - 2. The best defense against false teachers:
 - a) A real faith
 - b) A growing faith
 - c) A grounded faith
 - 3. Peter now moves on to the purpose that he wrote this letter. He wanted the believers to keep standing on the truth of God’s Word and not be deceived.
 - 4. Today, in our text, he does two things:
 - a) He gives us a description of false teachers.
 - b) He pictures their destruction.

II. False Teachers—Their Description (2 Peter 2:1-3)

- A. Deception (v. 1)
 - 1. “Were false prophets also among the people” (v. 1)
 - 2. “Even as there shall be false teachers among you” (v. 1)
 - a) Old Testament false prophets (what the people wanted to hear)
 - b) Illustration- Ahab and Jehoshaphat went out against the Syrians (1 Kings 22)
 - c) New Testament- False teachers
 - 1) “Among you” (v. 1)
 - a. In the church
 - 2) Jesus said, “Wolves in sheep’s clothing.”
 - 3) (Acts 20:28-30)
 - 3. Their deception
 - a) “Who will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (v. 1)
 - b) They were in camouflage (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- B. Denial
 - 1. “...bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who brought them” (v. 1)
 - 2. What does Peter mean by “denying the Lord who brought them?”
 - a) Are these teachers of error saved?
 - 1) No!

- b) They use the same vocabulary but have different dictionaries.
 - c) False teachers are known for what they deny.
- 3. The Bible alone is the inspired Word of God.
 - a) Illustration- Satan tempted Eve (Genesis 3)
 - 1) He questioned God's Word.
 - 2) He denied God's Word.
 - 3) He substituted God's Word.
- 4. They deny the Trinity.
- 5. They deny the deity of Jesus.
 - a) Jehovah's Witness; Mormon
- 6. They deny Christ's substitutionary death.
- 7. They deny Christ's bodily resurrection.
- 8. They deny salvation by "grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone."
 - a) Preach the Word (2 Timothy 4)
- C. Sensuality (v. 2)
 - 1. KJV "pernicious ways"
 - 2. It's sexual license. It is reckless and hardened immorality, and the plural form denotes repeated acts of sexual excess.
 - 3. *"It describes the attitude of a man who is lost to shame; he is past the stage of wishing to conceal his sin and of being ashamed of it."* –William Barclay
 - 4. "Turning the grace of God into lasciviousness" (Jude 4)
 - a) Illustration- Churches today that celebrate sexual immorality
 - b) Cults (Joseph Smith) and The Church of God
 - c) Many follow (it's popular)
 - d) "The way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (v. 2)
- D. Greed (v. 3)
 - 1. For false teachers, it's all about money
 - a) They use the ministry as a cloak of covetousness (1 Timothy 6:5-6)
 - 2. "Covetousness" (v. 3)
 - a) Pastors should feed the flock (1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - 3. "...with feigned words make merchandise of you" (v. 3)
 - a) "Feigned"- Greek *plastos*
 - 1) "Tickled ears" (2 Timothy 4)
 - 2) Illustration- Jesus in the temple- "turned over the money changer's tables"
 - 4. "Whose judgment is coming" (v. 3)
 - a) NLT- "But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed."

III. Peter Pictures Their Destruction (2 Peter 2:4-9)

A. Peter uses three Old Testament illustrations:

1. “The angels that sinned” (v. 4)
 2. “The old world” (v. 5)
 - a) 120 years
 3. “Sodom and Gomorrah” (vv. 6-8)
 - a) The devil (angels that sinned)
 - b) The world (Noah)
 - c) The flesh (Sodom and Gomorrah)
 - 1) God did it before, and He will do it again.
- B. Believers will not face God’s judgment (v. 9).
1. Why? The cross!
 2. Jesus is our “ark of safety.”
 3. Salvation

V. Conclusion

- A. Stop
- B. Look
- C. Listen