

II Peter: Lesson #85 – False Teachers Among You

Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children

For Sunday, Mar. 29th

Read II Peter 2:1-22 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: II Pet. 2:9 “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”

False Teachers

- God wants people to be saved, but the Devil doesn't want anyone to be saved or go to heaven. He wants everyone to be lost, just like he is going to be lost. We know that Jesus has people who work for Him and His church. There are preachers, teachers and elders who do the work Christ wants done on this earth. But the Devil hates Jesus and hates His church. And the Devil has people he uses to work against Jesus and the church. The Devil influences people to teach things different from God, so that they won't believe what God has really said in His Word.
- Sometimes these people the Devil uses will seem to be religious. They may be part of a church. They might quote the Bible. But they will still teach false things that could cause mislead you and cause you to displease God.
- In the Old Testament there was a prophet named Balaam. An evil king asked Balaam to curse God's people and offered him money to do it. Balaam was willing to accept that money and work against God. Even though God spoke to him through a donkey, to warn him, the prophet still went on with his evil ways. Peter says that some people in his time were like Balaam. They taught false things to deceive people because they want to get money from them.
- One of the things that these false teachers in Peter's time taught was that they could go on in sin and God wouldn't punish them. Some religious people still teach that false idea in our time.

God Will Punish Evildoers and Rescue the Righteous

- When people choose to disobey God, He will have no choice but to punish them in the Judgment Day. But God will save those who do what He commands.
- Some people don't really think that God would punish anyone, but Peter reminds us that God has shown His willingness to punish.
 - When angels sinned, God cast them down for judgment.
 - When the ancient world sinned, God flooded it saving only Noah and his family.
 - When Sodom and Gomorrah acted ungodly, God turned them to ashes while delivering Lot.
- So the Lord will punish people who won't follow His truth, but He also knows how to save all those who are righteous.

What Kind of Things Will God Punish?

- Those who live lives where they are only interested in doing what pleases them rather than what pleases God.
- Those who hate authority, especially God's authority. An authority is someone who is over you, who has the right to tell you what to do. Some people don't want God to rule their lives. They want their own way. But God is God and it's our duty to obey Him. He created us and knows what is best.
- People who act more like animals than people. They are wild, uncontrollable. They would be willing to hurt others just to get their way. Such people don't think things through, they just do what they feel like.
- Those who don't restrain themselves. They go out and do sinful things. They party and get drunk and don't care what anyone else thinks about their life.
- People who try to get others to do wrong and lead them into sinful ways.

What Happens if a Christian Turns Back to Sin?

- When someone becomes a Christian, the blood of Jesus washes away all the sins that person has ever committed. But once they get away from that sinful life, what would happen if a Christian decided to quit serving Christ and start living a sinful life again?
- Peter says that if that happens, that person is worse off in God's sight. They are worse off than even before they became Christians. Peter tells us that it would have been better for them never to have known Christ's way than to know it and turn away from His teaching.
- We are shown two ugly pictures of what a Christian looks like that goes back to their sinful ways (now get ready, this is pretty terrible): A dog has eaten something that made it sick. The dog vomits it up, then starts to lick up the vomit. Isn't that horrible! But that's what a sinful Christian looks like to God. The other picture is of a pig that's been cleaned up like it was going to be shown at a livestock show. But then the owner finds his pig back wallowing in the mud and filth. God wants to show off His people, but if they are muddy and filthy with sin, He can't be proud of them.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

There Will Be False Teachers Among You

II Pet. 2:1 As surely as true prophets spoke in ancient times, there were also false prophets that rose up among the people. In a similar way, false teachers will also be among you. They will bring in along side of truth, doctrines they have chosen. These doctrines will lead to a division from those who hold to the truth. Such doctrines lead people away from God's revealed truth into ruin and destruction, even to the point that they would end up denying the Lord who bought them. Those who choose false teachings will bring ruin to themselves very quickly.

2 Large numbers of people will follow their destructive doctrines. And even though these people aren't doing what Christ commanded, they still claim association with Christ, and because they claim to be associated with Him, yet engage in sinful ways, Christ's way of truth will have bad things said against it.

3 These false teachers are greedy. To them you are a way to engage in business and make money. So they mold their words to deceive you. But keep in mind that they will not get away with it. God decided their condemnation a long time ago – their judgment is not idle and their destruction is not asleep.

God Will Punish the Wicked and Rescue the Righteous

4 We know God will deal with them since He wasn't willing to spare the angels when they sinned. He cast these into a place of punishment, delivering them into chains of darkness to be kept in custody for judgment.

5 We also remember how God didn't spare the old world when he brought a flood on that ungodly world. But He did protect that preacher of righteousness, Noah (one of the eight), from harm.

6-8 God's condemnation was certainly seen in the catastrophe at Sodom and Gomorrha when He turned those cities into ashes. That act set an example for any who would become ungodly. And yet God rescued Lot, a man far more righteous who was troubled by Sodom's wicked population that was so open and unrestrained in their sinful lifestyles. Living righteously in that city, day after day Lot saw and heard their lawless deeds and it was torture for a man who wanted to live his life righteously.

9 Since we see how the Lord did all that, then we realize two things:

He knows how to rescue the godly out of temptations.

And He knows how to keep the unrighteous for punishment on Judgment Day.

Why Such People Will Be Judged By God

10-11 But God especially knows what to do about those who follow after the flesh wanting things that are contaminated by evil. They treat authority like it was nothing. They are bold, but in a reckless way. They live only to please themselves.

This kind of people can say terrible things about those in exalted positions, without even trembling. Even angels, who are greater in ability and power, wouldn't bring such slanderous judgments before the Lord about those in exalted positions.

12 But these false teachers and those who follow them act like animals that cannot reason, and are controlled by their nature. Like those animals, they are born to be captured and destroyed. They speak blasphemous words in things they are ignorant about. They will be corrupted and ruined by their own corrupt lives and teaching.

13 They shall receive the wages of unrighteousness. Such people go about thinking it's a pleasure to live their lives indulging every desire, drinking, partying, living luxuriously, all so unashamed that they don't even wait for the night to hide their conduct. They enjoy gathering with you to eat, but they are really only enjoying their deception. They are ugly stains and blemishes among you.

14-16 Having eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning. Using their bait, they trap unstable souls. Their hearts are trained in greed.

These are cursed children who have left and wandered away from the straight way. They followed the path of Balaam, of Beor. He loved the wages of unrighteousness even though a donkey without any ability to speak spoke with a man's voice to rebuke his sin trying to restrain the improper thinking of the prophet.

False Teachers Lure People into Sin Claiming That God Won't Punish

17 These false teachers are wells without any water. They are clouds driven by the storm. The darkest shadows are reserved for these for eternity.

18 For they speak out loudly their high sounding, but worthless words, which are nothing more than bait to catch their victims. They use their favorite bait of lustful desires, promising that people can live sinfully without shame, and with that bait they lure back into sin those who had escaped their lives of wandering.

19 They promise them liberty, but they themselves are slaves to corruption. I call them "slaves" because when sin overcomes you and conquers you, it will make a slave of you.

What God Thinks of Christians Who Return to Sin

20 For if the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ let them escape those things of the world that once polluted and defiled them, but then they get tangled up in them all over again, and are overcome, what they end up being is worse than what they were at first.

21 It would have been better for them never to have even know the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then turn away from the holy commandment which was delivered to them.

22 Now the truth of the proverb has come to apply to them: "The dog has turned again to his own vomit and the pig that was washed has gone back to wallowing in the filth."