

May 20, 2018

2 Peter 2:1-22

Beware of False Teachers

A wolf in sheep's clothing; a Trojan horse.

Both of those phrases bring to mind something that appears innocent and harmless, but is actually very dangerous. The results can be devastating. A disguised wolf could easily kill one or more unsuspecting sheep. Greek legend says Troy was captured and burned by soldiers hiding within the great wooden horse.

Deception has been the devil's primary tool since the Garden of Eden and he still uses it today. As you study **2 Peter 2** you will find that he still uses deception and disguise to trick believers today. You will discover the answers to four main questions.

Will There be False Teachers Today?

2 Pet. 2:1 There were false prophets among God's people in ancient times. Who will be among us?

Since 2 Peter was written to Christians (1:1), the words "*among you*" refer to the church – the body of baptized believers. This verse promises that **there will be** false teachers within the church. The rest of the verse summarizes their activities: "Who privily shall bring in damnable _____, even denying the _____ that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift _____."

False teachers deny such basic doctrines as the virgin birth and the deity of Jesus, salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and the authority, inspiration, and accuracy of the Bible. Please understand this: **those who deny such fundamental doctrines are not saved** – they are masquerading as Christians in order to deceive people.

2 Pet. 2:2 Will anyone follow them?

How will this affect the church's reputation?

2 Pet. 2:3 What do they try to do to believers?

The Bible makes it clear there **will be** false teachers in the church.

What Will Happen to False Teachers?

2 Pet. 2:4 Did God spare the angels that sinned?

2 Pet. 2:5 What happened to the old world?

2 Pet. 2:6 What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah?

2 Pet. 2:7-8 What did God do for Lot?

2 Pet. 2:9 What two things does the Lord know how to do?

God will certainly judge false teachers, but He can preserve righteous people at the same time. This is comforting!

How Can We Identify False Teachers?

2 Pet. 2:10 “But chiefly them that walk after the _____ in the lust of _____, and _____ government. _____ are they, _____, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”

2 Pet. 2:11 They do something even angels don't do!

2 Pet. 2:12 What are they compared to?

What do they do?

What will happen to them?

False teachers are **proud and arrogant**.

2 Pet. 2:13 They come to church but live like the world.

2 Pet. 2:14 “Having _____ full of _____, and that cannot cease from _____; _____ unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with _____ practices; _____ children.”

False teachers are **hypocrites**, talking one way but living another.

2 Pet. 2:15 What have they forsaken?

2 Pet. 2:16 Balaam was a prophet for hire, more interested in saying things people wanted to hear (and would pay him to say) than in speaking the truth. God used Balaam's donkey to rebuke him (**Num. 22:22-31**).

False teachers are **greedy for money**.

2 Pet. 2:17 They are like wells without _____.

False teachers are **worthless and useless**. God lets us know that we can identify false teachers by their outward behavior. **If a teacher's lifestyle is not in line with scripture, then his or her teaching cannot be trusted either!**

What Will False Teachers Do?

- 2 Pet. 2:18** False teachers are smooth talkers. What do they do?
- 2 Pet. 2:19** What do they promise others?
- What are they still the servants of?
- 2 Pet. 2:20** False teachers know about Jesus Christ and once forsook some of their sin, but later returned to it.
- 2 Pet. 2:21** They knew the right way, but they turned from it.
- 2 Pet. 2:22** What animals are they compared to?

Concluding Thoughts: The four truths in this lesson are:

1. There will be false teachers in the church.
2. God will judge false teachers.
3. We can identify false teachers by their outward behavior.
4. False teachers allure people with their great-sounding words to return to a life of sin.

False teachers will infiltrate the church. Do you think there might be some in our church? A false teacher doesn't have to be a pastor or Sunday School teacher; he or she could be just an influential person who seeks to lead others astray.

The assurance that God knows how to protect the righteous while judging false teachers means we don't have to become entangled in their web of influence. God will protect us if we stay close to Him.

You can identify false teachers by their behavior – things like lust, sin, and greed. If you see those fleshly faults in someone, reject their teaching or supposed “wisdom.” They try to allure immature believers with their flowery words, but they lead them back to sin.

If you encounter a false teacher (in your church or over some form of media), avoid that person like the plague. Thank God for enlightening you and protecting you. You have been warned. If you continue to listen to a false teacher after receiving this warning, you will reap the fitting reward for your foolish choice.

If by chance **you** are a false teacher, please confess your sin, read the verses printed on the back of this book, and humbly ask Jesus Christ to save your soul. He can do it – it is not too late!

Project: Memorize **2 Peter 2:9**. Beware of false teachers this week. Look for opportunities to tell others who listen to false teachers about the things you have learned from **2 Peter 2**. Ask God to show them the truth.