

Series "Knowing And Growing In Christ"
"Profile Of A False Teacher"
2 Peter 2:1-3
Study-5

Nothing more offensive to God than the distortion of His Word – Revelation 22:18-19.

Satan is the "great imitator" – 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

The strongest criticism in Scripture is reserved for those that distort the truth! Galatians 1:9 – "Let him be accursed!"

2 Peter 1 – Faith's Convictions: Keep Following Jesus.

2 Peter 2 – Faith's Contentions: Keep Resisting False Teachers, Jude 4-16.

2 Peter 2:1-3 – "Profile Of A False Teacher."

2 Peter 2:4-10 – "God's Judgment On False Teachers."

2 Peter 2:11-22 – "Denouncing The False Teachers."

Thought Of The Passage: "False Teachers Disown The Savior, But Are Made Popular Through Being Sensual And Being Driven By Greed."

1. Verse 1 – Denial

2. Verse 2 – Sensuality

3. Verse 3 – Greed

1. Verse 1 – Denial:

2 Peter 2:1 – "But" – Context – "the bridge of thought;" contrasting the Word of God versus the lies of the false teachers! Peter and the Apostles have been accused of teaching myths – 2 Peter 1:16.

2 Peter 1:16-21 – Peter Speaks of "The Word of God."

2 Peter 1:20-21 – Peter left off with the Old Testament prophets, the giving of Scripture – now, false prophets with false words!

False Prophets Existed In The Past: "false prophets also arose among the people," – Deuteronomy 13:5.

Jeremiah 5:31; 6:14

False Teachers Are In The Present: (History Repeats Itself) – “just as there will also be false teachers among you,” – Paul instructed Titus – Titus 1:9.

Matthew 7:15-20 – Jesus reveals that a false teacher is so, by the Content of their Message and Their Character.

False Teachers who claim special visions, revelations from God:

- **Benny Hinn** – Who visited the graves of AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON AND KATHRYN KUHLMAN – “You—you—you gonna feel the anointing at Aimee’s tomb. It’s incredible, and Kathryn’s. It’s amazing.”
- **Warren Jeffs** – Leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

False Teachers that reject the major doctrines of the Bible: Christian Cults, Quasi-Christian approach – Mormons (Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints); Jehovah’s Witness (Watch Tower Society); Christian Science.

Wind of Doctrine – Ephesians 4:14 – Word Faith, Prosperity Teaching, Health & Wealth.

Their Methods Were False, And Subtle: “who will secretly” – “stealthily, to introduce subtly, covertly”. The metaphor is of “spies or traitors introducing themselves into an enemy's camp”. Jude 1:4 – literally, to bring into by the side of – the literal translation is “They secretly bring in alongside.”

Heresy Is Destructive: “heresy” – originally meant simply “to make a choice”, but then it came to mean “a sect, a party”. Promoting a party spirit in a church is one of the works of the flesh – Galatians 5:20.

“destructive heresies.” – “utter ruin, eternal destruction” – “bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

Openly Deny The Truth: – “even denying the Master” – “disowning the Lord Jesus.”

These False Teachers Are Unsaved: “even denying the Master who bought them,” – “bought” – “paying a price for redemption” – 1 John 2:2.

When it comes to application, our Lord's atonement is limited to those who believe.

John 3:16-18

False Teachers are compared to dogs and pigs, not to sheep – 2 Peter 2:22. Jude 19 – “having not the Spirit.” – Romans 8:9.

They Earned Punishment: "bringing swift destruction upon themselves." – "swift" – sudden, soon: Sodom & Gomorrah – flood of Noah's time. Peter used this same word regarding his own impending death – 2 Peter 1:14 – "imminent," – "shortly, soon, swiftly" – "as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me."

"upon themselves." – Their "disowning the Lord Jesus" – Their stealth, sneaky, purposefully lying to deceive, to lead people to hell has earned them destruction.

2. Verse 2 – Sensuality:

2 Peter 2:2

Unashamed Sensuality: "sensuality," – "licentious conduct, blatant immorality, reckless and hardened immorality," Jude 1:4.

They promote counterfeit grace – Romans 6 – True grace means being freed from sin to obey Jesus Christ. False teacher's view of grace is twisted to mean – freedom to do as one pleases. – "Many will follow"

"Many will follow their sensuality," – Matthew 7:13-14.

"and because of them the way" – the term "the way" – was a 1st century term for Christianity. Acts 9:2 – the way of the truth – What a contrast between – "their sensuality," – "reckless and hardened immorality."

Heresy Is Defamatory: "of the truth will be maligned;" – Evil spoken of. If so-called Christians (Christ-like) live unrighteous lives, what good is their religion?

Romans 2:23-24; Titus 1:16

3. Verse 3 – Greed:

2 Peter 2:3 – "greed" – "mine, to have, one eager to have more, especially of that which belongs to others" – Covetousness.

They Live For Greed: "and in their greed they will exploit you" – False teachers are interested in: Getting more and making more money.

"they will exploit you" – "make merchandise of, to make money from, to traffic in, to deceive for one's own advantage" – Micah 3:11.

1 Thessalonians 2:5; 1 Peter 5:2

“with false words;” – “feigned words” – The Greek word is “plastos” from which we get our English word “Plastic” – Not authentic.

2 Peter 2:18 – “arrogant words” – “swelling, bulging words;” to fascinate and influence their victims – 2 Timothy 4:2-4.

The false teachers use our vocabulary, but they do not use our dictionary.

2 Corinthians 4:2

“their judgment from long ago is not idle,” – Psalm 73:18-19.

“and their destruction is not asleep.” – Not inactive; there is the certainty of the coming judgment will eventually come and consume them – 2 Peter 2:4-6.

Application:

1. Don't Blindly Accept Someone Else's Teaching Just Because Someone Said They Were Blessed By It. Take Time To See What They Are Teaching. Does It Line Up With Scripture?
2. Take A Good Look At The Life Of The Teacher. Is The Fruit Of The Spirit There? Don't Fall For The Polished Presentation, Intellectual Words, And Phrases.
3. Take Note Of The Words And Terms Persons Use; Make Sure The Words Are Defined With The Same Definitions Of Scripture. Don't Base Your Decision On Feelings. Think. Make Judgments Based Upon Scripture.