

## **Session 4. The Rise and Fall of False Teachers**

### **2 Peter 2**

#### **Facts About False Teachers.**

- **Even as there were holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21), so also there were false prophets - and false teachers today.**  
Peter stated this as a fact and not as a possibility; and he said they were among you, not only on the outside of the church.
- **False teachers work secretly.** It isn't that their teaching is secret, but the deceptive nature of their teaching is hidden.  
(No false teacher ever announces himself as a false teacher).
- **False teachers bring in destructive heresies that destroy by telling lies about Jesus Christ and His work for us and in us.** By these heresies people are hurt and destroyed. Heresy isn't harmless.
- **False teachers deny the Lord who bought them.** In this, Peter says that at the very least, they appear to be saved, otherwise Peter would never say that the Lord bought them.
- **Even a person has what appears to be a godly walk and relationship with Jesus Christ can still bring in false teachers.**  
(The worst damage is done by good men who teach lies. Their lies are accepted far more easily because of the good character of the man).
- **False teachers are promised swift destruction,** even though they aren't judged fast enough in the opinion of many.

#### **The Popularity of False Teachers.**

- **Many will follow their destructive ways:** This reminds us that false teachers may be popular.  
Just because something "works" in attracting a crowd of followers, it doesn't mean that it is of God. We know that God's work will always bear fruit, but the devil's work can also increase.
- **When false teachers are at work and when crowds are following them, the way of truth is blasphemed.** God's holy name and honor are disgraced.

#### **The Strategy and Destiny of False Teachers.**

- V. 3, "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."
- **False teachers use covetousness - both their own and in their followers.** Many false teachers, both today and in previous times, present a gospel that has self-gratification at its heart.
  - **Peter assured us that false teachers will be judged.** Even though it seems they prosper, their judgment is not idle. God's wrath pours out on them even in allowing them to continue (they condemn themselves).

***God will be the Final Judge!***

**God knows how to take care of both the righteous and the ungodly.**  
*Heaven or Hell...Life is the half-way house!*

**God judged the wicked angels**

- It is clear that at some time, angelic beings had a period of choosing; of testing when their future destiny would be determined.
- **Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and angels are not.** Satan and his angels resented this plan to create a being that would be more closely connected to God than they were.
  - ❑ **Though mankind is beneath the angels in dignity (Hebrews 2:6-7a, 2 Peter 2:11), it is the job of angels to serve mankind (Hebrews 1:14, 2:7-8, Psalm 91:11-12).**
  - ❑ **Satan and his angels resented a plan that would command them to serve lesser beings.**  
Redeemed mankind will be lifted in honor and status above all angelic beings (1 Corinthians 6:3; 1 John 3:2).
  - ❑ **Those who insist on freedom to do whatever they want are like these angels: so “free” that they are bound with chains of darkness.**
  - ❑ **Angels have a high office and a high service of God; yet it was still possible for them to fall.** We should take ample warning from this.

***True freedom comes from knowing God.***

**Three examples of judgment show us the important principle that Peter wants to highlight.**

1. God judged the angels who sinned, so no one is too high to be judged.
2. God judged the ancient world before the flood, so God doesn't grade on a curve.
3. God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, so even the prosperous and those living in perverted lifestyle can be judged.

**Therefore, what makes the ungodly think they can escape God's judgment? Their coming judgment is certain.**

As Jesus said in Luke 10:10-12, for those who reject the truth it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom.

**The righteous will be judged...but, saved only through the blood of Jesus.**

Lot was righteous in God's eyes, though perhaps it was hard for others to see his righteousness. Observe, however, Lot lost everything else because of his too-close association with those wicked cities.

**The Lord Knows How:**

We can take great confidence in this! Many times we do not know how, but the Lord knows how.

This is a good principle for both life and doctrine.

**The unjust have reservation made for them: they are reserved for the Day of Judgment.....But believers have no such reservation.**

God will deliver us from the very day of judgment, from the very time of wrath that He pours out on the earth (Revelation 3:10). Hallelujah!!