

Metro Women's Bible Study 2 Peter 2:1-11

Lesson 4

As Peter continues to *establish us in the present truth* (1 Peter 1:12b) he tackles the destructive ways of the false teachers in the church. Peter knew that the truth of God's Word and the false doctrines of the heretics simply could not coexist. There can be no compromise, any more than a surgeon could compromise with a cancerous tumor in a patient's body. But, graciously, Peter does not stop with the condemnation of the ungodly, but reminds the true believers that God knows how to deliver. Praise Him. Praise Him!

DAY ONE & TWO : Read 2 Peter 2:1-11

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. 2 Peter 2:1-11 has been divided into 2 sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-11

OPTIONAL (but well worth the effort!) At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart. Used in

Previous lesson: *God and Jesus (Lord)*

New to this lesson: *destructive/destruction, deliver(ed)/saved, judgment/punishment, ungodly/unjust, and godly/righteous*

OPTIONAL (but well worth the effort!) Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 2:1-11. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Peter used the contrasting term *but* three times (verses 1, 4, and 5). Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.

The contrast between 2 Peter 1:19-21 and this Chapter is sudden. Peter's central theme is False teachers & prophets. The whole chapter is virtually one long paragraph, but certain stages mark the course of Peter's thoughts.

4. Read 2 Peter 2:1-2. Look up the word false prophet & false teachers in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

False Prophets

False Teachers-

5. What do the following passages reveal about **false prophets & false teachers**?

Lamentations 2:14 ¹⁴Your prophets have seen for you False and deceptive visions; They have not uncovered your iniquity, To bring back your captives, But have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions.

Matthew 7:15-20 ¹⁵Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶Ye shall know them by their fruits. ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

Matthew 24:11 & 24 ¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ¹³For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

6. Let's look at the three marks of false teachers that were introduced and described by Peter in Verse 1. *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."*

Underline what you learn from the passages below.

a. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies. (That is: heresies causing destruction)
Titus 1:10-11 "For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain."

b. They will deny Christ, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them.
Jude 1:4 ⁴For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."

c. Bringing swift destruction on themselves.
Philippians 3:18-19. ¹⁸For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things."

7. What is the **warning** against false teachers in this passage?

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 ⁶Since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from

5. Look up the following words in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Covetousness-

Exploit- (Feigned)

a. After looking up these words, why does Peter want their motives to be exposed?

Covetousness was their besetting sin, the sphere in which they lived. Paul warned Titus against false teachers who taught "things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. It is amazing how many of today's false teachers present a gospel that has self-gratification at its heart. All this is presented with deceptive words, because false teaching never denounces itself. What motivates these false teachers is making merchandise of God's people. Their desire is not to feed the flock, but to fleece the flock!

6. Read Jude 1:16-21 & answer the questions below.

Jude 1:16-21 "16These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. 17But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. 20But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

a. According to Jude 1:16, what is the agenda of these ungodly men?

b. In light of their agenda what is the exhortation to the believers in verses Jude 1:20-21? Underline or highlight what you discover.

MacDonald said, "These false teachers take their place inside the church. They pose as ministers of the gospel. This is what makes the peril so great. If they came right out and said they were atheists or agnostics, people would be on guard. But they are masters of deception. They carry the Bible and use orthodox expressions —though using them to mean something entirely different. The president of a liberal theological seminary acknowledged the strategy as follows: Churches often change convictions without formally renouncing views to which they were previously committed, and their theologians usually find ways of preserving continuity with the past through re-interpretations."

7. According to 2 Peter 2:3b, what does Peter say about their judgment?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 2:4-5

1. Peter illustrates God's judgment against unrighteousness with three cases in verses 4–8 and then draws his conclusion in verses 9 and 10. The first example occurs in verse 4. Read verse 4 using your observation worksheet. What is the example?

John Piper said, “What a lesson there is here! Angels are the most glorious and mighty beings under God. But all their power and dignity was of no use when they sinned. God was unsparing in his sentence. They were cast out of his presence and have been reserved in darkness, until the great day of judgment when they will be consigned to the “lake of fire and brimstone to be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). Think for a moment about the importance and high rank of angels.

2. If God *did not spare the angels who sinned*, what is the implication of Peter’s warning?

3. If you have time, read the account of Noah and the great flood from Genesis 6:5-8 & 17. From your reading, or from what you have learned at other times about this historic event, list some parallels that you see with today’s culture.

4. Record Peter’s description of Noah from 2 Peter 2:5.

5. Why was Noah preserved when God destroyed the world through the flood? Read the passage below.

Genesis 6:6-9. ⁶“And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

a. View Noah through Hebrews 11:7. Think of the humiliation, rejection, and ridicule he must have suffered from these ungodly people as he preached righteousness and built the ark. How does Noah’s example speak to you today?

Hebrews 11:7 ⁷“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

b. A *preacher of righteousness* is one who proclaims *righteousness* (morality, decency, virtue). What does this tell us Noah did for those 120 years while building the ark?

6. The word *saved* in 2 Peter 2:5 is to “*guard a person that he remains safe*”. In what way does the phrase *but saved Noah* minister to you from your past circumstances or at the present time?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 2:6-8 (Review this account in Genesis 18:20-22, 19:1-28)

1. What is the third example Peter used in 2 Peter 2:6-8? Observe and record what 2 Peter 2:7-8 states about him.

a. 2 Peter 2:7-8 in the AMP version reads ...*righteous Lot, greatly worn out and distressed by the wanton ways of the ungodly and lawless ...tortured his righteous soul every day with what he saw and heard of their unlawful and wicked deeds.* Through 2 Peter the Lord gives us a glimpse into the heart of Lot. Share some ways that you relate to Lot's heartfelt feelings over the wickedness of today's world.

b. How does the wickedness of this world compel you to be a brighter light?

2. According to 2 Peter 2:6b, to whom is this *destruction* to be an *example*?

3. What kind of immoral behavior caused God's *judgment*? See Genesis 19:5 & 2nd Peter 2:7-8.

Genesis 19:5-

2 Peter 2:7-8-

a. How should this sobering warning awaken Christians in today's immoral culture?

4. Jesus said, *Remember Lot's wife.* What do we learn about her from Genesis 19:17, 24-26 & Luke 17:32-33 what warning do you receive from remembering her?

Genesis 19:17 ¹⁷"So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Genesis 19:24-26 ²⁴Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

Luke 17:32-33 ³²Remember Lot's wife. ³³Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

5. By personal choice Lot *pitched his tent toward Sodom* (Genesis 13:12b) and *sat in the gate of Sodom* (Genesis 19:1a). In what way did Lot's compromise endanger his family?

a. What can you do to avoid the pitfall of Lot?

6. What is the most important lesson you have learned through the 2 Peter 2:4-8 example?

If God did not spare angels, people who lived before the flood, or the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, he would not spare these false teachers. Some people would have us believe that God will save all people because he is a loving God. But it is foolish to think

that he will cancel the last judgment. These three examples should warn us that God judge's sin and unrepentant sinners will not escape.

DAY SIX: Read 2 Peter 2:9-11

1. Write 2 Peter 2:9a in your own words.

“Then” is added by the translators to help us see that Peter is now drawing a conclusion. The Amplified Version conveys the idea well “Now if all these things are true, then be sure...”

a. Observe the word *deliver*. It could also be translated “rescue”. The Lord rescued Lot and *knows how to “rescue” the godly*. How does this encourage you today?

b. *Deliverance* is a part of God's provision for the believer (see 2 Peter 1:3-4). This word *temptation* can also include the idea of trials. In what areas do you feel you need rescuing today?

2. God *knows how to deliver the godly*. According to Titus 2:14, what have we been *delivered* from?
Titus 2:14-

a. How are you encouraged by Christ's sacrifice to be *zealous for good works*?

3. Focus on the last phrase of 2 Peter 2:9. What does it say about the *unjust*?

a. Contrast the words *deliver* and *reserve* by looking them up in your Concordance. Remember that when we contrast something, we are looking for the difference.

Deliver- (Rescue)

Reserve-

The point Peter is making very clearly is that you do not need to be concerned that the wicked will never get beyond God's judicial control and will surely stand before Him in the final day when he will consign them to the final eternal fate that they have "earned". The false teachers may seem successful (for “many” follow them), but in the end, they will be condemned. Their judgment is being prepared now and what is prepared will be reserved and applied on the last day. What a contrast between the false teachers and the true children of God!

4. Read again verses 10-11. How does Peter describe those in verse 10? Highlight or underline what you learn?

2 Peter 2:10 ¹⁰“and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.”

MacArthur adds that “The false teachers identified with Christ outwardly, but they would not live under His lordship. The two major characteristics of false teachers are emphasized in this verse: 1) lust and 2) arrogance.”

5. Contrast those who *walk in the spirit* to those who *walk according to the flesh* using the following passages. Highlight the contrasts in different colors. What do you learn about these?

Romans 8:5-9 “⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Romans 8:13-14 “¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

****** In these verses we see how the false teachers show their arrogance because they dared to assume more liberty than even angels. Read verse 10b-11. Who are these dignitaries Peter is talking about here? There are differing opinions to who they are. Here are a few ideas given below.

Adam Clark—Verse 11 “This is a difficult verse, but the meaning seems to be this: The holy angels, who are represented as bringing an account of the actions of the fallen angels before the Lord in judgment, simply state the facts without exaggeration, and without permitting any thing of a bitter, reviling, or railing spirit, to enter into their accusations. (See [Zechariah 3:1](#), and [Jude 9](#); to which Peter alludes.) But these persons, not only speak of the actions of men which they conceive to be wrong, but do it with untrue colourings, and the greatest malevolence. Michael, the archangel, treated a damned spirit with courtesy; he only said, The Lord rebuke thee, Satan!

Ray Stedman, “Perhaps the false teachers object to the role the angels played in giving the Law to Moses, since that Law (the Ten Commandments) would condemn their immoral and selfish actions. But, in contrast, angels who are much greater and more powerful than men do not behave so disrespectfully even when justly confronting an enemy of the Lord. The reference here is almost certainly to Jude 9 where Michael, the archangel, disputing with Satan over the body of Moses does not revile the Devil but simply says, “The Lord rebuke you.”

Review: 2 Peter 2:1-11

1. We were reminded in 2 Peter 2:1-11 of God’s divine provisions for godly living. In what way is a holy life a powerful antidote to false doctrine?

2. There is an urgent need for believers to recognize the ever-present problem of *false teachers*. According to 2 Peter 2:1-11, what are some ways we can recognize them?

3. Record in your Worksheets what you have learned about **“Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer, and Instructions.”**

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." -2 Timothy 2:19