

2 Peter 2:1-10

The Lord Knows How to Rescue

Peter warns, unmask, and exposes the nature and motive of false teaching. How do we distinguish between truth and falsehood? Reality and Counterfeits?

Pay attention to the truth, because false teachers and teachings are dangerous . . .not every message is inspired or divine or illuminating;

God sees absolutely clearly, all the way to the heart ; their hidden agendas are known and judged by Him - Psalm 44

Peter is nearing death, concentrating and fueling the mind and soul as to what matters most:

- The Truth is Christ and His Word; the Person and Work of Jesus for us (v.16-21)
- The Word is like a lamp shining in a darkness as these truths rise in your heart (v.19)
- You will do well to pay attention . . . *with all the noise and confusion* . .
- They were casting doubt on the inconvenient and costly truth, to “liberate” themselves

Who are these false teachers? Why are they dangerous?

Schreiner: Peter describes the false teachers as believers because they made a profession of faith and gave every appearance initially of being genuine believers. They appear to be believers. As time elapses and difficulties arise, it becomes apparent that they are wolves in the flock (Acts 20:29-30), that though they called on Jesus as Lord, their disobedience shows that he never knew them (Matt. 7:21-23), that they are like the seed sown on rocky or thorny ground that initially bears fruit but dries up and dies when hard times come. (Matt 13:20-22)

1. The Ruin of the Wicked (v.1-3)

- a. This is who they are; this is what they will do.
 - i. Heresy/False Teaching deviates from the truth as a result of inner sinful motives of the heart.
- b. Denied the coming and power of Jesus
- c. Fruit will that reveal hidden agendas, thus exposing the pretenders
 - i. **Destructive Deception:** Gen. 3:1: the cunning serpent
 1. Secretly introduce: subversive; hidden; smuggle; creep in undercover; nefarious
 2. Destructive: divisive: tears people apart; disunity; chaos
 3. They bring the way of truth into disrepute
 4. Secrets have power . . . bring to light; become light
 5. Crafty, cunning, subversive . . . *to put people under a spell* . . .
 - ii. **Shocking Denial** - “even” - *next level* - deny Jesus, the first love
 1. Delusion: destructive: things got tough - the way of the cross
 2. So they sprouted up - then denial, like seed on rocky ground,
 3. Deny the Master who bought them: a redemptive term . . .
 4. God had brought them out of slavery.
 5. Why are they imagining these strange notions? You cannot suppress the truth by denial
 6. *They rejected the moral authority of Jesus*
 - iii. **Malignant Sensuality**, (unbridled living), which is malignant
 1. v. 18: enticing: magnet: I have an inner magnet. .my fallen cravings: (See 1:4; 2:10) many . . . impact . . . influence
 2. In 2:19: “slaves of corruption.” (Lust of flesh; eyes; pride)
 3. result/effect: the truth will be maligned, mangled, and distorted
 - iv. **Harmful Greed:** exploiting
 1. Hawking goods for their own pockets . . .
 2. What story was made up? There is no judgment; Jesus is not returning . . . eat, drink and be merry; this is all there is
 3. Rather than loved, people are exploited, and that’s not why other people are here with you
 4. Experts in greed: 2:14
 5. Greed is idolatry - you will do anything to get it

- d. Judgment is slow but sure; not asleep; not idle. God is waiting patiently:
 - i. His holiness and vengeance demand justice
 - ii. Their judgment from long ago is not idle . . .(Psalm 73)
 - iii. Their destruction is not asleep

 - e. Jerry Bridges: Four helpful questions for knowing right and right . . .
 - i. Is it helpful? Edifying? (1 Cor. 6:12)
 - ii. Does it bring me under its power? (1 Cor. 6:12)
 - iii. Is it harmful to others? (1 Cor. 8:13)
 - iv. Can I glorify God for it? (1 Cor. 10:31)
2. **The Rescue of the Righteous (v.4-9):** Peter presents a historical timeline to prove that God will judge the wicked and rescue the righteous
- a. **Exhibit A:** Genesis 6:1-8
 - i. Fallen Angels: Gen. 6:1-4: they took, for themselves whomever they chose; evil in the heart of man continually; taking . . . choosing
 - ii. Angels who had intercourse with women and God then judged . . .
 - iii. He judged the angels and bound them, where they wait for their ultimate and final judgment (*Tartarus*- not hell, but temporary confinement)

 - b. **Exhibit B:** Genesis 6:9
 - i. Noah and the flood; evil and corruption were spreading throughout the earth; pride and sin and rebellion; corruption and violence
 - ii. God gave Noah instructions. Noah obeyed. Grace
 - iii. Noah and his family were saved.

 - c. **Exhibit C:** Genesis 19 - Sodom and Gomorrah - filled with sin and corruption
 - i. At the root of it all was pride . . . define ungodliness:
 - ii. Exploiting people in every dimension . . .
 - iii. Lot was rescued . . .

 - d. Only by the grace of God: some are godly, righteous, true, and sincere . . .
 - i. He preserved Noah: God's favor; a humble man; a faithful man; a godly man, yet sinful and limited
 - 1. Preached righteousness . . .(Noah's wife, three sons, plus wives)

2. The ark was a refuge in judgment . . .(Genesis 6)
- ii. He rescued Lot . . . relatively righteous . . .(Genesis 19)
 1. Tormented and oppressed. . . by the sensuality and unprincipled men; conviction like Paul among Athens (Acts 17).
- iii. Theology: the weight of which should cause us to pause and think
 1. The Lord makes a distinction between the righteous and the wicked (Mal. 3:18)
 2. The judge of all the earth will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. (Gen. 18:25)
 3. There will certainly be a judgment of the righteous and the wicked (Ecc. 3:17)
 4. God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)
- iv. God will hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment: (v.9)
 1. They are already bound with no escape, and suffering temporal limits and punishment - so the delay is actually (Psalm 73)
 2. Sexual deviation (10a) was in exhibits A, B, and C -
 3. Despise authority (v.10a) - "These people will not submit to anyone, being supremely confident of their own intellectual ability." (Schreiner)
- v. The Lord knows how to rescue! **And He rescues only through the righteousness of the One Jesus Christ.** (2 Peter 1:1) God rescues the righteous by the righteous God and Savior . . .a pure servant and Son
 1. Isaiah 53 (Prophet; Priest; King) more than a prophet . . . HONEST; TRUTHFUL ; SACRIFICIAL; GENEROSITY: the rightful king will have healing hands; scars - Mark 10:45
 2. "External situations which are difficult and could lead to or may tempt to sin."
 3. D. Moo: "all those challenges to faith that Christians experience in the world";
 - a. they will not fall away or apostasy; God will keep them and preserve them till the end.

- vi. He comes to us; seeks and pursues us: Luke 19:10
 - 1. From bondage to freedom; Embrace the Master who bought you: this glorious master dies for us in order to save us
 - 2. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)
 - a. He is the Righteous God and Savior (1:1)
 - b. He is Powerful: 1:16
 - c. He is Lord: 1:16
 - d. He is Christ: 1:16
 - e. He is Majestic: 1:16
 - f. He is Honorable and Glorious: 1:17
 - g. He is Beloved Son: 1:17
 - h. He is Favored: 1:17
 - i. He is the bright and morning star. 1:19 (Rev. 22:16)
 - j. He is the Master who redeems us and sustains us.

- e. Jesus will sustain the righteous in tempting times: The marks of the Godly: striving with effort against the world, flesh, devil - adding to faith the effort to have knowledge, etc., all the way to love
 - i. Rather than deception, there will be transparency and honesty
 - ii. Rather than denial, there will be confession and repentance
 - iii. Rather than sensuality, there will be sacrifice and serving (Mark 10:45)
 - iv. Rather than greed, there will be generosity and selflessness

 - v. "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3)

Jude 16-25

1 Peter 4:9-11

“How would you judge the lawfulness or unlawfulness of 'pleasure?’”

Use this rule:

Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sight of God, takes from you your thirst for spiritual things or increases the authority of your body over your mind, then that thing to you is evil. By this test, you may detect evil no matter how subtly or how plausibly temptation may be presented to you.” **Susanna Wesley**

In chapter 9 of their 1985 book *Habits of the Heart*, [Robert N. Bellah](#), [Richard Madsen](#), [William M. Sullivan](#), [Ann Swidler](#), and [Steven M. Tipton](#) discuss how religion in America has moved from being highly public and unified, as it was in [colonial New England](#), to extremely private and diverse. To demonstrate the shift, they quote a young nurse, to whom they gave the name Sheila Larson:

I believe in God. I'm not a religious fanatic. I can't remember the last time I went to church. My faith has carried me a long way. It's Sheilaism. Just my own little voice ... It's just try to love yourself and be gentle with yourself. You know, I guess, take care of each other. I think He would want us to take care of each other.

Bellah et al. suggest that Sheilaism creates the logical possibility "of over 220 million American religions, one for each of us," and they see Sheilaism as "a perfectly natural expression of current American religious life".