

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 not neutral, but dangerous and destructive . . .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 44:20-21

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)
- God's Word is like a lamp shining in a dark place, as these truths rise in your heart (v.19)
- You will do well to pay attention . . . *with all the noise, deception and confusion . .*
- False teachers were casting doubt on the "inconvenient and costly truth", to "liberate" themselves:
 - 2 Peter 3: The letter's context reveals that they were denying the future judgment
 - *Mockers will come following their lust . . . "Where is the promise of His coming?"; "All is like it has been since the beginning of creation."*

Who are these false teachers? Why are they dangerous? (apostasy- flaw from first)

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)

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 Sheilism. 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. (Sheila Larson)

1. **The Ruin of the Wicked (v.1-3)** The root, fruit, and destiny of the ungodly
 - 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, and appeals to our sinful appetites
 - b. Fruit will reveal hidden agendas (roots), 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; 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. (Master, Redeemer)
 5. Why are they imagining these strange notions? You cannot suppress the truth by denial
 6. *They rejected the moral authority of Jesus, that He is Lord*
 - 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; false teaching is thus very appealing and alluring
 - iv. **Harmful Greed:** exploiting (Andy Stanley - nobody admits greed)
 1. Hawking goods for their own pockets; using people as things to prop themselves up
 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

- c. (v.3) Judgment is slow & sure; not asleep; not idle. God's waiting patiently:
 - i. His holiness and vengeance demand justice - and His goodness
 - 1. Lies, denial, lust, and greed - demand retribution
 - ii. Their judgment from long ago is not idle. (Psalm 73)
 - iii. Their destruction is not asleep
 - iv. The wheel of God grinds slowly, but exceedingly fine
2. **The Rescue of the Righteous (v.4-9):** Peter presents an historical timeline to prove that there WILL be a judgment.
- a. **A Fall:** Gen. 6:1-8: In pride, angels abandon roles/position/bounds (see Jude 6: they didn't keep their sphere; now in darkness, not glory)
 - i. God's ordained role was rejected because of pride and lust
 - ii. Fallen Angels: they took (lust) for themselves whomever they chose; evil in the heart of man continually; taking; grasping.
 - iii. Spirits took *possession* of evil men, and through this had intercourse with women; God then judged
 - 1. (As Satan entered into Judas, John 13)
 - iv. He judged the angels and bound them, where they wait for their final judgment (*Tartarus*)- not hell (Gehenna), but temporary confinement; chained in a spiritual prison of darkness
 - b. **A Flood:** Genesis 6:9
 - i. Noah and the worldwide flood; evil and corruption were spreading throughout the earth; pride, sin, and rebellion; corruption and violence; "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen. 6:5)
 - ii. God gave Noah instructions, and he obeyed and preached righteousness
 - iii. Noah found favor with God, and his family was saved. (Eight)
 - c. **A Fire:** Genesis 19; Ezk 16:49-50 (Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed)
 - i. Filled with sin and corruption: lack of care for the needs of others; sexual immorality; indulgence; homosexuality; perversion; rampant
 - ii. At the root of it all was pride and rebellion against righteousness
 - iii. Exploiting people in every dimension, neglect and abuse; Lot was rescued . .

d. **God's Gracious Rescue:** The Necessity of Grace

- i. **GOD is our Refuge:** He preserved Noah: God's favor; a humble man; a faithful man; a godly man, yet sinful and limited
 1. Preached righteousness, warning clearly (Heb. 11:7)
 2. The ark was a refuge in judgment.(Genesis 6; John 10)
- ii. **GOD is our Rescue.** Lot was relatively righteous (Genesis 19)
 1. Tormented and oppressed. . . by the sensuality and unprincipled men; conviction like Paul in Athens (Acts 17)
- iii. **God will hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment:** (v.9)
 1. They are already bound with no escape, and suffering temporal limits, gloom, and punishment, so the delay is actually because of his patience and mercy for the living. (Psalm 73; Romans 12)
- iv. 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)
 5. Life Implications? How God's ultimate judgment is good news:
 - a. God is Just
 - b. Life matters
 - c. Evil will be ultimately punished and eradicated
 - d. Eternal Hope is Alive
 - e. Grace remains a possibility for the living
 6. God is patiently warning people currently. (Psalm 103)
 - a. He has not rewarded us according to our sins
 - b. He has been merciful and patient
 - c. Life, if you notice, is a series of tests to prep us for the ultimate final appearance before God's throne
 - i. Heb. 9:27

- ii. What is our only Hope?
 - 1. Not my self-righteousness
 - 2. Not my self-preservation
 - 3. Not my self-promotion

- v. **The Lord knows how to rescue His own, and He rescues only through the righteousness and redemption of Jesus Christ.**
 - 1. (2 Peter 1:1) Our righteous God and Savior
 - a. Prophet, Priest, and King
 - 2. How does He do it? (Matt. 1:21)
 - 3. The one righteous prophet: his qualities and characteristics through whom God is active and intervening
 - a. He comes to us, seeks and pursues us:
 - i. Luke 15; 19:10
 - ii. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)
 - b. Truth is a Person:
 - i. He is the Righteous God and Savior (1:1)
 - ii. He is Powerful: 1:16
 - iii. He is Lord: 1:16
 - iv. He is Christ: 1:16
 - v. He is Majestic: 1:16
 - vi. He is Honorable and Glorious: 1:17
 - vii. He is Beloved Son: v.17
 - viii. He is Favored: 1:17
 - ix. He is the bright and morning star. 1:19 (Rev. 22:16)
 - x. He is the Master who redeems us and sustains us. Embrace the Redeemer! We cannot escape His omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, immutability. .
 - xi. Phil. 2: every knee shall bow, every tongue
 - 4. First, He must count them as righteous. 2 Cor. 5:21
 - a. None righteous, not one. Romans 3:10;23
 - b. Jesus absorbs the lies, denials, lust, and greed.
 - c. Isaiah 53: the suffering servant is . . . HONEST; TRUTHFUL ; SACRIFICIAL; GENEROUS
 - d. Now, no fear in judgment; Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4; Romans 8:1)

5. Second, He saves and sustains the godly in a world of iniquity, ungodliness, and unrighteous people and situations.
 - a. "External situations which are difficult and could lead to or may tempt to sin." (Schreiner)
 - b. D. Moo: "all those challenges to faith that Christians experience in the world";
 - i. 1 John 4:4; John 10 - the sheep are kept!
Jude 24
 - c. They will not fall away or apostasy; God will keep them and preserve them till the end. (Jude 24)
 - d. All the way through the journey to Home, the celestial city. (So do not FRET- Psalm 31:23-24; Ps 37)
 - e. God will bring us through test after test . . . and these tests of life are evidence of a final test - and this final test will result in glorious good for the righteous.
 - i. A new heaven and new earth in which everything is right; the way it's supposed to be: righteous- Isaiah 65: IT ENDS WELL
- e. Jesus will sustain the righteous in tempting times: false doctrine, mockers, etc. (*All the way, my Savior leads me*), and will mature them:
 - i. The credentials, marks of the Godly: striving with effort against the world, flesh, devil -
 1. diligently adding to faith the effort to have knowledge, all the way to love - be sure! (2 Peter 1:1-11)
 - ii. Rather than deception, there will be transparency and honesty
 - iii. Rather than denial, there will be confession and repentance
 - iv. Rather than sensuality, there will be sacrifice and serving
 - v. Rather than greed, there will be generosity and selflessness

"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)

Ungodliness: "A refusal in any shape or form to live entirely to God's glory and to the praise of His holy name" (M. Lloyd-Jones)

Godliness: "Devotion (fear and love) to God, which results in a life that is pleasing to Him. (Jerry Bridges)

