



After laying a firm foundation on the authority of Scripture in chapter 1, Peter turns his attention to the false teachers.

***2 Peter 2:1-3** 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. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 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.*

Interestingly, the very letter that exposes false teachers is the most refuted letter.

Five **serious** effects of false teaching upon the church... (1) God is dishonored. (2) Truth is distorted. (3) Membership is divided. (4) Leadership is discouraged. (5) Evangelism is discontinued.

Three ways to disobey God's Word:

1. Ignore it.
2. Reject it.
3. Re-interpret it. (re: **Mark 7:11**– The Pharisees use of the word “corban.”)

The claims made by Jesus Christ are either true or false. If false they are of no value and should be ignored. If true they are of supreme value and should be embraced.

***John 16:1-2** “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”*

Paul’s two passions in life were (1) pleasing God and (2) persecuting Christians.

Don’t confuse delayed judgment with denied judgment.

“Speaking the truth in love” is a command of Scripture. This balance of truth and love is not as easy as it sounds to practice. Even done correctly, rarely is it received as loving.

Ephesians 4:11-15** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ **but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

The Truth Claims of Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus claimed to be the only way to eternal life. **John 3:15-16, 5:24, 8:24, 12:48, 14:6** (Peter confirmed this in **Acts 4:12**)
2. Jesus claimed there's an eternal judgment for many (hell/lake of fire).
Matthew 10:28, 23:33, 25:41, Luke 16
3. Jesus claimed full authority of the life of those he redeemed. **John 8:31, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15,**
4. Jesus claimed to know every detail about your life. **Psalm 139:1-4, Matthew 10:30, Luke 8:17, John 1:48, 4:29, 6:70**
5. Jesus claimed that he will judge every person on how they lived their life. **Hebrews 9:27, John 5:22, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11**
6. Jesus claimed he could provide meaning and purpose for our life. **John 4:12, 7:38, 8:12, 32, 10:10,**

We have a wave of pastors of various ages who are embracing five increasingly popular false doctrines within evangelical circles.

1. Hopeful Universalism - Anyone who wishes to get out of Hell can do so.
2. Open Theism - God does not know the future.
3. Prosperity gospel - God's will is for all his kids to be wealthy and healthy.
4. Man-centered gospel - Jesus joins us in our pursuit of the American dream.
5. God supports same-sex marriage. (Scripture does *not* condemn same sex activity)

Why do so many pastors embrace false doctrine?

They allow experiences, emotions, and personal morality to dictate their theology.

Heart-wrenching events set the stage for false preachers to use experiences, emotions, and preferred morality to reinterpret Scripture in a way that makes us feel much better about ourselves and about the God we want to believe in, versus the God who is!

How should we respond?

1. Study Scripture with the motive to know, love, and serve JESUS CHRIST!
2. Show compassion for those who are deceived and hurting regardless of their belief system or lifestyle.
3. Speak the truth in love.

Jesus taught that Biblical Love is the most visible and powerful apologetic to the unsaved world. (Re: John 13:35)

Matthew 22:36-38 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."