

“To Tell the Truth”

Discerning Damnable Heresies

II Peter 2:1 – 10 text (11 – 22 for Study)

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church Ministers’ School 2023

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Added prior to presentation: I Promise to Tell the Truth; Integrity is of utmost importance for the Minister of God!

1956 – 1968 “Classic game show in which a person of some notoriety and two impostors try to match wits with a panel of four celebrities. The object of the gameshow is to try to fool the celebrities into voting for the two impostors.” **Our goal in life is to find out the one telling the TRUTH. How? By prayer and meditation. Jesus is the TRUTH. Added John 14:6...**

Introduction: Text Scriptures: II Peter 2:1 – 3 “...even as there shall be false teachers amount you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies (introduce), even denying the Lord, that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”

Verse 3... **feigned words;** Artificial or (figuratively) fictitious (false)... Logos (doctrine, preaching, tidings, God’s Word...

How can a person tell when another person is telling the TRUTH (speaking the truth) or smoothly introducing “damnable heresies”?

Speaking Russian Disinformation: “Doverayay, no proveryay” (доверяй, но проверяй):

“Trust, But Verify” is a Russian rhyming proverb (*Doverayay, no proveryay*). You may remember it quoted by President Ronald Reagan, who used it on several occasions in the context of nuclear disarmament discussions with the “former” Soviet Union.

Added: Do You want to be happy in Jesus? “Trust and Obey, for there’s no other way; To Be Happy in Jesus, but to Trust and Obey”

Define VER'IFY, v.t. [L. verus, true, and facia, to make.] **1. To prove to be true; to confirm. This is verified by a number of examples. 2. To fulfill, as a promise; to confirm the truth of a prediction; to show to be true. The predictions of this venerable patriot have been verified. Genesis 42. 1 Kings 8. 3. To confirm or establish the authenticity of any thing by examination or competent evidence.** The first act of the house of representatives is to verify their powers, by exhibiting their credentials to a committee of the house, or other proper authority. (Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary)

King Solomon's Prayer of Dedication: I Kings 8: 22 – 26. "And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven: And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart: Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me. And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father."

*Hebrew - H539 (Strong) /אָמַן / 'âman / **aw-man**' / A primitive root; properly to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; once (in Isa 30:21; by interchange for H541) to go to the right hand: - hence assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful (of long continuance, stedfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the right.*

The Ministry of Reconciliation. II Corinthians 5:11. "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we **persuade** men; but we are made **manifest** unto God; and **I trust** also are made **manifest** in your consciences."

- **Persuade:** to convince - Greek peitho G3982
- **Manifest:** to render apparent – Greek phaneroo G5319 unto God & In Our Moral Consciousness. Paul uses this word 2x's
- **I TRUST:** to expect or confide – Greek elpizo G1679 from G1680 meaning confidence
- **Consciences:** moral consciousness – Greek suneidesis G4893

I. Origin of Damnable Heresies from Genesis (Beginning)

Genesis 3:1 – 5. "And the serpent said..." And you believe HIM? Here we find five false statements from the serpent, all from eating the fruit of The Tree of the Knowledge of good and Evil in the midst of the garden, whom God had given to Adam (see Genesis 2:17).

Eve:

- "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden..."
- "But the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden..."
- "God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it..."
- "Neither touch it..."

- *"lest ye die..."*

Serpent:

- *"Ye shall not surely die:..."*
- *"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof..."*
- *"then your eyes shall be opened..."*
- *"and ye shall be as gods..."*
- *"knowing good and evil..."*

ADDED: John 8:44 – 47. Jesus exposes the source of LIES, from Good Moral People... *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."*

II. Successions of The Seven Abominable Things The Lord Hates Proverbs 6:16 – 19.

- *"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*
- *1. "A proud look"*
- *2. "A lying tongue"*
- *3. "And hands that shed innocent blood"*
- *4. "An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations"*
- *5. "Feet that be swift in running to mischief"*
- *6. "A false witness that speaketh lies"*
- *7. "And he that soweth discord among brethren."*

III. Benajah Harvey (B. H.) Carroll, PhD. (December 27, 1843 – November 11, 1914)

NOTE: Over 100 years ago, BH Carroll made these comments...

Summary of II Peter 2: *(A careful comparison Study of the Books of Numbers 22; Jude 1 – 25, and Revelation 2:12 – 17 [Church of Pegamos ~ Satan's seat ~ them that hold the doctrine of Balaam] is highly recommended)* *"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Verse 4.*

A Recent... Our Daily Bread Devotional: "The book of Numbers records the mercenary exploits of Balaam and how God **hijacked his plan to curse His people (God used a *Talking Female Donkey!!!!*)** see Numbers 22–24). Through another Balaam-devised strategy, however, the children of Israel were led astray (see 31:16). Three times in the New Testament, Balaam's waywardness and the consequences thereof are used to warn and divert believers in Jesus from unrighteousness. Second Peter 2:15 speaks of "the way of Balaam . . . ***who loved the wages of wickedness***," Jude 11 notes "Balaam's error," and Revelation 2:14 warns of "the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin."

Go to Page IV for Webster's Definition of Gnostics (Then & Now comparison)

"Chapter 2 of this letter is devoted to false teachers. The teachers here referred to are the Gnostics, and in the letter to the Ephesians and Colossians I have already explained the Gnostic philosophy; that, as a philosophy, it attempted to account for the creation, and for sin; that it claimed to have a subjective knowledge and was more reliable than the written word of God. That I made Christ a subordinate eon or emanation from God, and that inasmuch as sin resided in matter, one from in which this philosophy shaped itself was that there was no harm in any kind of sensual indulgencies. That the soul could not sin, and that the body was just matter, and so it made no difference if one did get drunk, or if he did go into all forms of lasciviousness and sensuality. Inasmuch as he is a child of God, he will be saved. One might do just whatever he pleased to do, since he is not under law at all, but free. Now, that was the philosophy and, as explained in the other discussions, the method of this philosophy was not by public teaching, but by private teaching. They would come to families or to individuals and say to them: 'Gnosticism is only for a cultured few, and we will initiate you into its mysteries at so much a head. Let the great body of common people come together in assemblies if they want to. **You don't need to go to church. You don't need anything of that kind.**' That philosophy started in Proconsular Asia, and Peter is addressing his two letters to that section of the country. He says there were false prophets in old times, and that there were false teachers among them, and in this letter and in Jude we have a very vivid description of these teachers and the errors of their teaching, and the most vivid description setting forth their doom. In chapter 2, then, we have these false teachers presented as follows:

1. What they teach is false.
2. In their character they are lascivious or sensual.
3. They are covetous, and they are teaching things in order to make money.
4. They despise dignities or dominion. They set at naught the apostolic offices of Paul and Peter: they disregard church government. A pastor doesn't amount to anything; they are just like beasts that have no reason.

In other words, as a wolf follows his own blood lust, these men follow their instincts. They revel in the daytime. Then he sets them forth in pictures. He says they are wells or springs without any water in them. They are mists driven by the storm. They are like the dog that returneth to his vomit, and the sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire. They are very powerful descriptions. Nowhere in the Bible is such language used to describe the false teachers as in 2 Peter and in Jude. He then tells us about their methods. They come in privily. These are the abominable heresies

they teach: **the denial of the Lord, the subordinate place in which they put Him, and His word, it makes no difference how one lives. They come offering liberty when they themselves are the slaves of corruption.** The whole chapter is devoted to them.

He replies to their teaching and of the life that follows such teaching by citing certain great facts. The first fact is that God has demonstrated in the history of the past that whosoever goes into heresy and teaches abominable doctrines shall certainly be punished, and fearfully punished, and he takes as his first example: 'If God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved unto judgment; if the angels the bright shining spirits that stand around his throne, cannot escape sharp eternal and condign punishment, how can these men expect to escape?'

The next example that he cites is the case of the antediluvians. These people lived before the flood. They would not hear Enoch, they would not hear Methuselah, they would not hear Noah. They gave themselves up to this world. There were giants among them. The whole earth was filled with violence. There was no purity left upon the earth. Homes were defiled, honor lost. A woman's name was held as an outcast thing, and they lived like wild beasts, and God swept that world away.

THE TELL OF TWO Preachers, Compare Noah Preachers to Lot Preachers

The next fact that he cites is the case of Sodom and Gomorrah. We find the account of it in Genesis, and reference to it in a number of the prophets, particularly Isaiah. Sodom and Gomorrah had a preacher, Lot. His righteous soul was vexed by the fearful crimes that he witnessed every day. They paid no attention to his warning. All of the cities of the plains were given up to the most abominable vileness of life, so shameful that I cannot speak about it. It would make a man blush to read it off by himself. It won't do to talk about, even when men are talking to men. He says those cities were swallowed up in the wrath of God, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire, and on those three great facts—the punishment of the angels, the punishment of the antediluvians, the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah, we do know that God can take care of his people and punish the wicked. He saved Noah, and he saved Lot. The others perished.

Added Hebrews 13:5 – 21, note verse 1 "Let Brotherly LOVE Continue"

There is one other thought in the chapter that needs to be brought out. It is presented in verses 10 – 11: 'Daring, self-willed, they tremble not to rail at dignities; whereas angels, though greater in might and power, bring not a railing judgement against them before the Lord.' Peter seems to refer to this remarkable passage in Zechariah 3: 'And he showed me Joshua, the high priest, standing before the angel of Jehovah, and Satan standing at his right hand to be his adversary. And Jehovah said unto Satan: Jehovah rebuke thee, O Satan; yea, Jehovah that hath chosen Jerusalem, rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before him saying: Take the filthy garments off of him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with rich apparel. And I said, let them set a clean mitre upon his head, etc.'

There the high priest, Joshua, and Zerubbabel were endeavoring to rebuild the Temple and the case came up before God. The devil appeared as an accuser, and reviled the high priest, saying that those people were not worthy of restoration. The angel of the Lord says, 'The Lord rebuke thee, Satan.' He did not bring a railing accusation against him like the devil had brought against Joshua, but he says, 'God rebuke thee.' Now, says Peter, when the angel would not rail at Satan, not assuming to judge Satan, but

said, 'God rebuke thee, Satan,' these men that he is discussing here, they rail at dignities. Here were these apostles who God had appointed; here were these pastors of the church whom they disregarded, the discipline of the church that they set aside. They had no reverence for official position of any kind."

B.H. Carroll – An Interpretation of the English Bible, THE PASTORAL EPISTLES ~ TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS, pages 244 - 247

IV. Identifiable Marks of the Gnostics (Then & Now) Two Spirits – The Gnostic System is spiritual in nature. See I John 4:6

GNOSTIC, n. nostic. [*L. gnosticus; Gr. to know.*]

The Gnostics were a sect of philosophers that arose in the first ages of Christianity, who pretended they were the only men who had a true knowledge of the Christian religion. They formed for themselves a system of theology, agreeable to the philosophy of Pythagoras and Plato, to which they accommodated their interpretations of scripture. They held that all natures, intelligible, intellectual and material, are derived by successive emanations (**origins**) from the infinite fountain of deity. These emanations (**origins**) they called Aeons (**simply put, gods or spirits...**). These doctrines were derived from the oriental philosophy.

GNOSTIC, a. nostic. Pertaining to the Gnostics or their doctrines. Noah Webster's 1828

Satan's tactical forces work underground; on the ground; and by airwaves to lure souls away from the Truth of The Gospel of God.

Ephesians 6:12 – 19: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,..."*

- V. Simon (Peter) & Simon (The Magician) Acts 8:9 – 25. The difference between Truth and Delusions. The Apostle Peter Calls out delusions & deceptions by rebuking Simon the Magician.**

See Verses 8:20 - 23.

The Gift of God cannot be purchased with Money & Make SURE Our hearts are right in plain sight of God!

Simon Peter perceived (*passively to appear: - behold, perceive, see, take heed.*) Simon the believing magician that thou art in...:

- **Poison G5521; or The Gall of Bitterness G 4088.** See Hebrews 12:15, Romans 3:14, Ephesians 4:31, same word used 4x's by the Apostle Paul.
- **Bond G4886 of Iniquity G93** a joint tie, that is, ligament, band, bond. **"The Apostle Peter describes Simon's offer as poison and a chain."** AT Robertson ~ Word Pictures of the New Testament. Page 283

VI. Are We Displaying the Life of a Living Sacrifice. See Romans 12:1 – 2. In particular, "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Conclusion: It all boils down to "Seeking the Holy Spirit led Truth".

NOTES & MEDITATION THOUGHTS: Title: To Tell The Truth...Damnable Heresies

1. Let's be careful NOT to Follow the crowds to Swift Destruction...
2. Verify - defined and applied Holy Spirit discernment. "Trust, But Verify"
3. Prove what is GOOD. Romans 12:1-2
4. Be on Alert! WATCH per Jesus Reminder: Matthew 24:42 – 51.
5. Be Aware. Origins of heretical doctrines. (Always presented by human thinking, and will not harmonize with Biblical Principles)
6. God's True Saints are being sought and are targets of captivity by The ENEMIES of JESUS CHRIST: See Jeremiah 29: 7 – 23. Live your lives NORMAL even in captivity, Seek Peace, identify the false prophets for WHO They are, Fight the Good Fight with FAITH AND TRUTH, For The Lord has thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give us an expected end. REMEMBER to always search out the Lord's Will, with ALL YOUR Heart!

4 KEY Reminders:

- **Take on the WHOLE Armor of God to be able to STAND.**
- **Display a Humble Life of a Living Sacrifice**
- **Prove what is Good and Acceptable to God**
- **The Lord has thoughts of PEACE, not of Evil for Each of Us striving to Engage the Lord's Work**

Brother Ron Spurgeons' 32 Brief Examples of potential heresies:

1. Accept Christ, or receive Christ, Decisions are dangerous terms.
2. Baptismal Regeneration does NOT wash away sin.
3. Baptist verses Protestant., Baptist have been since Christ and Apostles. Protestants have been since protesting catholic system.
4. Body of Christ for Lord's Supper Is not the physical body as eating His flesh, and the wine drinking His blood. See Article 14 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
5. Being born Again is a Spiritual Birth, not just a mental decision. See Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.

6. Catholic is a universal system, not a True Church of Christ. See Article 13 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
7. Discipline - Formative and Corrective is a Biblical Doctrine to be adhered to as a Church Body, and by individual Sanctification. See Article 10 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
8. Faith and Repentance versus Repentance and Faith. Modern thinking states "just have faith, or just believe", but in spiritual conversion reality **REPENTANCE AND FAITH ARE INSEPARABLE GRACES, WROUGHT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.** Conviction of Sin, and True heart-felt (cordial penitent) Repentance will always proceed just having "faith or believing" from a carnal mind. The devils believe and tremble... See Article 8 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
9. The Family Unit, and Parenting was created by Our Creator with distinct Biblical instructions.
10. Gender Identity has been chosen by Our Creator.
11. Good works to gain and retain salvation. See Ephesians 2:10 & Matthew 7:22.
12. Heaven - watered down doctrine of Paradise. Heaven is Eternity, and a prepared place for a blood-bought prepared people. See Articles 17 & 18 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
13. Hell - Has become a watered-down doctrine versus a literal burning hell for lost souls. It was prepared for the devil and his angels, and all who get saved (during a lifetime on Earth). See Articles 17 & 18 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
14. Human Secularism. The carnal mind is enmity against God. See Romans 8:7.
15. Immaculate conception - Mary Mother of Jesus (Rosery). Mary is a wonderful Mother, but Exodus 20:3. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."
16. Infant Baptism is not Scriptural. Baptism by total immersion and is only permitted for Born Again Essential Conversion Experienced people. Those who can give evidence of a conversion experience. See Article 14 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
17. Invisible church does not exist. See Article 13 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
18. Just say Yes is not salvation.
19. Make a Commitment for Christ. Making a commitment for Christ, is not salvation.
20. Make a Decision for Christ. Making a decision for Christ, is not salvation.
21. Marriage is between a human biological man, and a human biological woman.
22. Purgatory is a very false teaching. When a person dies, it's either Heaven or Hell, period.
23. Prosperity Gospel "Cheerful heart giving is Scriptural. It's not that generous giving makes one righteous; rather that one who is RIGHTEOUS will give generously."
24. Relativism and human secularism are demonic systems.
25. Religious Education - strongly encourage religious education, but caution to ensure it is Holy Spirit inspired, and proven. (AGAIN, TRUST, BUT VERIFY)
26. Righteousness - SELF versus God's Imputed. There is a difference.
27. Scriptural Circumcision - circumcision of the heart necessary for Salvation, not of the circumcision of the flesh.
28. Security of the believer - Falling from Grace is a very false doctrine. See Article 11 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
29. Sin - "... is the transgression of the law." I John 3:4
30. True Religious beliefs on Separation of Church & State - no government mandated so-called church (see quote in Bill of Rights) See Article 16 of the True Baptist Articles of Faith.
31. WOKE - See Romans 1:20 - 25. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and serve the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."
32. AI (Artificial Intelligence) - automated chatting with very secular ideology (Anti-Christ & Anti-God)

Definitions Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

BETRA'Y, v.t. [L.traho.]

1. To deliver into the hands of an enemy by treachery or fraud, in violation of trust; as, an officer betrayed the city. The son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men. Mat 17.
2. To violate by fraud, or unfaithfulness; as, to betray a trust. If the people of America ever betray their trust, their guilt will merit even greater punishment than other nations have suffered, and the indignation of heaven.
3. To violate confidence by disclosing a secret, or that which was entrusted; to expose; followed by the person, or the thing; as, my friend betrayed me, or betrayed the secret.
4. To disclose, or permit to appear, what is intended to be kept secret, or what prudence would conceal. Be swift to hear, but cautions of your tongue, lest you betray your ignorance.
5. To mislead or expose to inconvenience not foreseen; as, great confidence betrays a man into errors.
6. To show; to discover; to indicate what is not obvious at first view, or would otherwise be concealed. Nor, after length of years, a stone betray. The place where once the very ruins lay. This river betrays its original in its name. All the names in the country betray great antiquity.
7. To fail or deceive. But when I rise, I shall find my legs betraying me.

TELL

TELL, v.t. pret. and pp. told. [L. telum; L.appello and peal, L. pello.]

1. To utter; to express in words; to communicate to others. I will not eat till I have told my errand. Gen 24.
2. To relate; to narrate; to rehearse particulars; as, to tell a story. Gen 37. And not a man appears to tell their fate.
3. To teach; to inform; to make known; to show by words. Tell us the way. Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Gen 12.
4. To discover; to disclose; to betray. They will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. Num 14.
5. To count; to number. Look now towards heaven, and tell the stars. Gen 15.
6. To relate in confession; to confess or acknowledge. Tell me now what thou hast done. Josh 7.
7. To publish. Tell it not in Gath. 2 Sam 1.
8. To unfold; to interpret; to explain. Ezek 24.
9. To make excuses. Tush, never tell me. [Not elegant.]
10. To make known. Our feelings tell us how long they ought to have submitted.
11. To discover; to find; to discern. The colors are so blended that I cannot tell where one ends and the other begins. Tell, though equivalent in some respects to speak and say, has not always the same application. We say, to tell this, that or what, to tell a story, to tell a word, to tell truth or falsehood, to tell a number, to tell the reasons, to tell something or nothing; but we never say, to tell a speech, discourse or oration, or to tell an argument or a lesson. It is much used in commands. Tell me the whole story; tell me all you know, or all that was said. Tell frequently has the sense of narrate; which speak and say have not.

TELL, v.i. To give an account; to make report. --That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving and tell of all thy wondrous works. Psa 36. To tell of. To tell on - to inform. You must not disobey; I will tell of you if you do. This is a common popular use of the word. To tell on, is quite vulgar as well as improper.