

Studies in 2 Peter (11)  
The Character of  
False Teachers (2)  
**2 Peter 2:10-17**

## 2 Peter - Previously

- We are continuing our examination of false teachers in **2 Peter 2**.  
In our last lesson, we began noting the corrupt character of these false teachers:
  - They walk in lusts and uncleanness
  - They despise authority & speak evil of what they do not understand
  - They are presumptuous and self-willed
- Today, we continue to examine their character.

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- They walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness
- Noted in our last lesson, we find many of these living corrupt and immoral lives.  
NOTE: If one does not respect God's boundaries of His word, why would it surprise us if they do not respect His boundaries concerning godly living.
- Sadly, we have heard of spiritual leaders caught up in immoral practices and the damage it does to the cause of Christ.

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- They carouse even in the daytime (**13**)
- Descriptive of a life that is out of control.
- Typically, immoral behaviors are associated with darkness - **cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7, Romans 13:11-13, etc.**
- Here, one openly and unashamedly engages in sinful conduct. He doesn't care what others think (**cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2**)

## The character of false teachers - **2:10ff**

- Spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions (**13**)
- They are lying to themselves AND to others and exploiting them.

These take advantage of the gullible -  
**cf. 2 Timothy 3:6, 2 Peter 2:18**

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- Eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls (**14**)
- Lit. “Eyes full of an adulteress”. Descriptive of one looking to engage in immoral practices.  
**Cf. Proverbs 7:4ff**
- “enticing unstable souls”, same as exploiting the gullible. Found here, **vs. 18 & James 1:14** – the “baiting” of Satan

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- Eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls (**14**)
- They are so caught up in their sin they cannot (do not want to) stop.
- The Bible continually warns against lusts - **1 John 2:15-17, James 1:12-15** – the process of temptation leading to spiritual death.
- **Matthew 5:27-30**, Jesus warned against sensual lusts beginning in the heart! A big concern today!

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- Hearts trained in covetous practices (**14**)
- Another “lust” - the desire for more, especially that which they are not entitled to.  
**1 Timothy 6:6-10, Colossians 3:1-7** – describes covetousness as idolatry.
- Jesus also warned against this in His Sermon on the Mount - **Matthew 6:19-21**.  
**Luke 12:15**, Take heed and beware of covetousness...



## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- Hearts trained in covetous practices (**14**)
- Often covetousness is behind the motives of false teachers. He is willing to compromise truth for material gain.
- He will exploit others for more personal gain.
- E.g., the “health and wealth” preachers with extravagant lifestyles.

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- They are accursed (**14**)
- Meaning, to God they stand condemned. And they ought to stand condemned by us also (elders, preachers, teachers, faithful saints).
- Recall **vs. 11**, “like natural brute beasts caught to be destroyed.. they will utterly perish in their own corruption.”

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- Gone astray like Balaam (**15-16**)
- WE read of Balaam in **Numbers 22-25** and find his greed.
- Hired by King Balak of Moab, while he is unable to curse Israel as a prophet, he finds a “work around” (**ch. 25**). 24,000 Israelites die!
- **Numbers 31:16, Revelation 2:14**, it was through his counsel that Israel sinned.

## The character of false teachers - 2:10ff

- Gone astray like Balaam (**15-16**)
- **Vs. 16** mentions Balaam's conversation with his donkey, **Numbers 22:22-30**.
- Why is this mentioned? Consider the blindness of Balaam. This describes the lengths to which one blinded FROM the truth will go (**cf. 2 Peter 2:10**)

## Further descriptions - 2:17

- They are wells without water (**17**)

Also described as clouds (mists) carried about by a tempest.

**Jude 12-13** adds, *These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

## Further descriptions - 2:17-18

- They are wells without water (**17**)

These are all descriptions of useless things. They offer promise but deliver nothing.

They speak “great swelling words of emptiness” (**18**) - when they speak, they may sound good, but when wisely measured, they are empty.

Proverbs 18:17, *The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him. (cf. Ephesians 5:11)*

How do we protect ourselves  
from such false teachers?

The ONLY way is to be  
grounded in the faith

**2 Timothy 2:15,  
Ephesians 4:11-16, etc.**

Can you spot the false  
teacher?

Are you grounded in God's  
word?



Let us pray!