

Studies in 2 Peter (8)  
False Teachers Among You  
**2 Peter 2:1-3**

## 2 Peter - Previously

- Peter, in this letter, has been encouraging his audience to grow in their faith and have confidence in the word of God.
- As we have noted, his purpose is to prepare them to beware of false teachers.
- We now come to that portion of this letter.

## 2 Peter - Previously

- False teachers and their teaching is a controversial subject.
- We have to determine whether or not something is false doctrine.  
Then there are the motives behind those teaching error.  
What one views as error, another might not.  
Some advocate that motives supersede the message (e.g, “as long as he is sincere...”)

## False prophets among the people - 2:1

- The Old Testament gives many examples of false prophets:

Balaam - **Numbers 22-25**

Prophets of Baal - **1 Kings 18:19-20**

Ahab's prophets - **1 Kings 22:10-13**

Hananiah - **Jeremiah 28:1-5**

Against Nehemiah - **Nehemiah 6:10-14**

## False prophets among the people - 2:1

- They taught error telling the people what they wanted to hear

Greedy - **Jeremiah 6:13, cf. 2 Peter 2:15 - Balaam**

Peace when there is no peace - **Jeremiah 6:14, Ezekiel 13:9-10, etc**

Smooth things - **Isaiah 30:8-10, Micah 3:11**

## False prophets among the people - 2:1

- Warnings against false prophets  
**Deuteronomy 13:1-3, 18:20-22**  
**Jeremiah 23:16-17** – they make you worthless, speaking from their own heart, etc.

## False teachers among you - 2:1

- True then and still true today
- “Among you” - **Acts 20:30**
- The NT lists many false teachers
  - Acts 15:1, 5** - Judaizing teachers
  - 2 Timothy 2:17-18** - Hymenaeus & Philetus
  - 1 John 2:22, 4:2-3** - denied Jesus coming in the flesh
  - Revelation 2:20-21** - “Jezebel”

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- Peter notes how false teachers work
- They secretly bring in destructive heresies -
  - rarely does one declare, “I’m a false teacher” or “What I am about to teach is false doctrine.”
  - YET, many KNOW that what they are advocating will divide and damage the Lord’s body
  - They KNOW they will be challenged by godly, knowledgeable leaders - **cf. Titus 1:9-13**



## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- Peter notes how false teachers work
- They secretly bring in destructive heresies -
- **Matthew 7:15** - wolves in sheep's clothing  
**Jude 3-4** - they creep in unnoticed  
**Cf. 2 Corinthians 2:11, 11:13-15** - as angels of light

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- Destructive heresies
- A transliterated word that describes the party spirit, and those who work to create that division.

**Acts 5:17, 15:5, etc.** - sect

**1 Corinthians 11:19** - factions

**Galatians 5:20** - heresies (a work of the flesh)

- These are destructive - doing great harm to the cause of Christ (**cf. 2 Timothy 4:14**)

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- Even denying the Lord who bought them
- Teachings that are contrary to what Jesus taught, and perhaps even denying His person and character -  
**cf. Hebrews 10:29** - counted the blood of His covenant a common thing.

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- And bring on themselves swift destruction
- False teachers WILL be judged  
**cf. Hebrews 10:29-30**- counted the blood of His covenant a common thing.  
**2 Peter 2:20-22** - this clearly includes these false teachers

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- And many will follow their destructive ways
- A false teacher is somewhat harmless UNTIL he gathers a following.  
Sadly, many are willing to follow!
- We are continually warned to beware  
**1 John 4:1**  
**Acts 17:11**- search the scriptures  
**Ephesians 4:12-15** - grounded so that we are not tossed to and fro...  
**Acts 20:32** - the word of His grace...

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- Because of whom the way of truth is blasphemed (**cf. Romans 2:24**)
- False teachers and their teaching damage our ability to teach and the character of God
- Many mock the divisions among us
  - “Biting and devouring one another”
  - “How can we know truth?”
  - Others are convinced true believers are followers of various false doctrines

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- By covetousness they exploit
- **2 Peter 2:18** - they allure through the lusts of the flesh...
- **2 Timothy 4:2-4** - those who have itching ears
- **Cf. 1 Timothy 6:9-10** - false teachers often appeal to carnal desires. If you are given to materialism, you may more easily be swayed. Cf. Jeroboam and his golden calves - **1 Kings 12:25ff**

## False teachers who... - 2:1-3

- For a long time their judgment has not been idle...
- Peter's message - a day is coming when they WILL be judged and condemned - both those who teach and those who follow their teachings - **cf. Matthew 12:36, James 3:1**



## What about today? 2:1-3

- We still deal with false teachers today, sometimes closer than we care to admit.
- A problem we see today is how some false doctrines are being tolerated or even ignored. IT is often a matter of fellowship.

## What about today? 2:1-3

- A particular concern is that some are advocating that as long as one is sincere (not hypocritical, deliberately deceptive, greedy, and they genuinely believe what they teach) they should not be called a false teacher.
- There are many problems with this view.

## What about today? 2:1-3

If one is sincere does that mean he is not a false teacher? Consider:

- By its very definition, what makes one a false teacher IS that he is teaching what is false!!!!

**Acts 23:1, 1 Timothy 1:13** - Paul was sincere

NOTE: Sincerity IS a factor, as it will consider how one responds when confronted with the truth - **cf. Acts 18:24-26** - Apollos.

## What about today? 2:1-3

If one is sincere does that mean he is not a false teacher? Consider:

- To make this argument calls for us to judge hearts

Jesus could - **John 2:25**

BUT I cannot!!!! And neither can you!

**Matthew 7:15-20** - you will know them by their fruits!

## What about today? 2:1-3

If one is sincere does that mean he is not a false teacher? Consider:

- This argument declares that we cannot with absolute certainty know what is truth
  - 1 Corinthians 4:6** - do not think beyond what is written
  - Ephesians 5:17** – understand what the will of the Lord is!
  - 2 Timothy 2:15** - rightly divide the word of truth
- **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** - Paul's concern

## What about today? 2:1-3

If one is sincere does that mean he is not a false teacher? Consider:

- How will we be able to close the door on error?

There are many teaching error on salvation, worship, the church, morality, Bible inspiration, etc.

If we ignore or dismiss such, what will the future of the church be?

**Ephesians 5:11, Jude 3**

Are you fully grounded  
in His word?

Let us pray!