

Studies in 2 Peter (9)  
False Teachers Among You (2)  
**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.
- Last month, we began addressing that portion of this letter (**2 Peter 2:1-3**).

## 2 Peter 2:1-3 - Previously

- Peter noted there were false prophets among the people - we addressed some of these from the Old Testament
- There will be false teachers among you (**cf. Acts 20:30**) - we addressed some false teachers in the NT (Judaizing teachers, Hymenaeus, Philetus & Alexander, 1 John (Gnostics), & “that woman Jezebel”)

## 2 Peter 2:1-3 - Previously

- He then began to warn how these false teachers work:
  - They secretly bring in destructive heresies
  - Heresies that were doing great harm to the cause of Christ
  - Even denying the Lord who bought them
  - They bring on themselves swift destruction  
(**Hebrews 10:29-30, 2 Peter 2:20-22, etc.**)

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

- And many will follow their destructive ways
- A false teacher is somewhat harmless UNTIL he gathers a following (actually, if he is teaching...). 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
- “The way of truth” is a path directed by truth
- **John 14:6**
- **Acts 9:2**, “the Way” (**19:9, 23, 22:4, 24:14**)
- **1 Corinthians 12:31**, a more excellent way

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

- Because of whom the way of truth is blasphemed
- **Acts 18:26**, “the way of God” explained “more accurately”
- **Romans 3:17**, “the way of peace”
- **Hebrews 10:20**, “a new and living way”
- **2 Peter 2:21**, “the way of righteousness”  
rejected

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

- Because of whom the way of truth is blasphemed
- To slander, to speak against someone in a manner that brings harm to one's reputation.
- False teachers and their teaching damage our ability to teach and the character of God
- **Romans 2:24**, *the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you...*



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

- Because of whom the way of truth is blasphemed (**cf. Romans 2:24**)
- 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
- **Romans 16:17-18** - mark those who cause divisions...who “serve their own bellies”

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

- By covetousness they exploit
- **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 and their destruction does not slumber.
- 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, 26:9, 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:

- Tied to that point (absolute truth), to make this argument, one gets to set his own standard of what he determines to be worthy of fellowship
- MOST will draw a line of fellowship somewhere. Is it done where one finds it convenient?  
**Colossians 2:23**, “self-imposed religion” (“will-worship” - KJV, “self-made religion” - LSB, NASB, ESV)
- **Cf. Matthew 15:1-6**, man made traditions THEY wanted that set aside God’s laws.

## What about today? 2:1-3

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

- The alternative to this is to declare that absolute truth is irrelevant!
- Some advocate that we can still have fellowship with one KNOWN to be teaching error (because he is sincere).
- **Revelation 2:13-16 & 2:20ff** – both Pergamos and Thyatira needed to repent!  
**Ephesians 5:11**
- Thought, why do YOU get to choose who is worthy of fellowship?

## 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!