



# A CALL TO KNOW THE TRUTH

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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

### THE DANGER OF FALSE TEACHERS

*But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed. (2 Peter 2:1-3)*

A call to know the truth - Beware of False Teachers!

Heresy is cruel because it destroys lives for time and eternity.

People who speak heresy are in effect speaking for the enemy because God wants us planted in the church to produce fruit in this life .

1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

By staying in the church and building properly on the solid foundation of your salvation then you are building with Gold, Silver and Jewels.

If you are seduced by the heretical teachings of some in the church and in the world then ultimately you will be building with wood, hay and straw. You will be saved you will have lost the true value of your life!

As such we should be careful about who we listen to and we should be on the lookout for Truth

At the end of Chapter 1, Peter lays out the foundation for our faith, which is the inspired Word of God and he wants people to stand firmly on the truth of God's Word.

Although he says 'there will be' we know that the false teachers were already there!

Chapter 2 serves as a warning. Peter is saying, 'Beware of false teachers because they leave a trail of spiritual devastation in their wake!'

### **BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS...**

#### **1. Because they are a continual threat to you and the church.**

Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He deceived Eve in the garden and he has used false teachers to deceive the unsuspecting ever since.

In Deuteronomy 13, Moses warned Israel about false prophets who would deceive by performing signs and wonders to get people to go after false gods.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders of the same thing

*"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them." (Acts 20:29-30)*

It is wrong if we minimize our beliefs in the name of love and unity, we then tolerate false teachers who deny the fundamental doctrines of the faith including the triune nature of God; the full deity and humanity of Jesus Christ; His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary atonement on the cross, bodily resurrection, ascension, and personal return. We cannot waver on the essentials of the gospel: that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. Underlying all of these truths is the divine inspiration, authority and complete infallibility of the Bible.

So just because someone claims to be a pastor or evangelist or prophet does not mean that they are sound in the faith.

## **2. Because they are subtle and deceptive in what they do.**

False prophets will bring in teaching from outside and add worldly concepts to the Bible and give them the same authority as Scripture. Paul warned that just as Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, even so his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

## **3. Because what they teach is destructive.**

Peter calls their teaching, “destructive heresies.” And takes us to the root of their destructive heresy when he adds “even denying the Master who bought them.” If someone claims that you can believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and yet not submit to Him as Lord, it is wrong

*“I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 7:23).*

Beware of false teachers, their methods are subtle and deceptive and their doctrine is destructive.

## **4. Because their influence is attractive.**

The Christian world often thinks that if a man has a huge following, he must be sound in the faith.

False teachers invariably cater to the flesh. They do not preach against sin. They do not mention divine judgment or hell. They avoid truths like denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Christ no matter what the cost. Rather, they soothe people with uplifting thoughts about how much God loves you and wants you to have your best life now. People follow that kind of false teaching in droves, because it feeds their pride.

## **5. Because their motives are impure.**

They want to exploit their followers to gratify themselves.

I suspect you can all think of an example here...

## **6. Because their teaching and lifestyles dishonour the truth of a Christian walk.**

The Christian faith is the way of the truth because Jesus Himself is *“The way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6). But when professing Christians, and especially professing Christian leaders, do not live according to the truth of God’s Word, unbelievers mock and disregard the truth.

## **7. Because they, and all that follow them, are heading toward eternal destruction.**

The destruction of the wicked refers to their eternal punishment.

*“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46)*

Peter wrote to warn us, so that we would not be taken in by their destructive doctrines.

## **Conclusion**

False teachers abound today.

Their teachings are cruel because they lead people who follow them to eternal destruction.

False teaching is not neutral. It is not just a minor deviation. It is evil to the core.

Beware of false teachers!