

The downfall of the false teacher / 1

2Peter 3:3

I. In last week's lesson we were considering why Peter wrote 2Peter.

II. I stated that in 2 Peter 3:1,2 Peter provides a twofold reason.

1. It was to stir up their sincere mind by way of reminder, v.1
2. It was to cause them to remember the words spoken beforehand, v.2

III. In the context of 2 Peter, both of these were necessary to keep these Christians from following after the false teachers and straying from God.

IV. As Peter continues his letter he provides another reason for writing this epistle. This is found in **2Peter 3:3-9**.

V. In this passage of scripture Peter is going to once again address the fact that there are and will be false teachers, and he is also going to give us some insights into how the mind of these individuals work.

VII. For the Christian what Peter is saying is important for two reasons.

1. In knowing that false teachers will come we can be prepared to defend against their attacks.
2. By understanding their mind we can see God's justice in their downfall.

Trans: Today I'm going to cover just the first point of Peter discussion in these passages.

1. The reality of false teachers.

A. **2Peter 3:3**

B. Peter begins this passage by using the phrase "Know this first of all."

1. He has used this exact same phrase previously, **2Peter 1:20**
2. In the original Greek language this phrase reads, "This firstly knowing."
3. The point is, as this phrase was used to support the facts in 2Pet. 1:20, and as the order of the words in Greek emphasizes a specific thought, we conclude that Peter is assuring this Christians of this one fact. *There is no doubt that false teachers are a reality and this needs to be known beforehand, 2Peter 3:16,17*

C. After once again assuring these Christians that false teachers do exist, Peter makes reference to the time of their coming.

1. It is in the last days.
2. We know that these false teachers were already troubling the Christians Peter is writing to; so then we also know when the last days were.
3. The last days embrace the period of the Christian era.

4. Acts 2:15-17; Heb. 1:1,2

Appl: What does all this mean to us? It means that false teachers are a reality and we must be aware of this before it is too late. By that I mean before we are led away by their empty promises.

We must realize that the time of their coming began in the first century and will continue until Christ returns, and so those same type of false teachers exist to this very day.

This may sound like common sense to you, but let me say not everybody accepts this teaching. This can be seen in the religious world today where almost everybody accepts everybody else no matter what they are teaching. The concept of a false teacher is almost nonexistent.

This is what we are seeing with the change agents today. Doctrine has been set aside so that the doors of fellowship may be pushed open, but it is the doctrines of Christ that bind us, and without which there is no fellowship,

1. **1John 1:7** Walking in the light establishes fellowship.
2. What is the light we are to walk in? **John 3:19, 1:1-5, 9-10**

Now those who were once following Christ, find themselves following the false teachers. Why? apparently they don't believe in the reality of false teachers.

Trans: Having explained the reality of the false teacher Peter now reveals some interesting facts about the mind of these individuals. This is our second point.

2. The mind of the false teacher.

A. **2Peter. 3:3b-9**

B. In describing these false teachers Peter uses a new term that reveals something about their mind set. Previously he had called them false teachers, 2Pet. 2:2

1. He now describes them as “mockers coming with their mocking” v.3
2. This phrase really defines their attitude towards the teaching of Christ's second coming, v.4
3. It's not simply disbelief, they actually ridicule and hold in contempt the whole idea of it. They make jest or sport at the thought of Jesus' second coming.

C. Peter also describes these false teachers as having a mind set on denial, even in the face of overwhelming evidence, **2Pet 3:5-7**

1. In this passage Peter states that these mockers willfully choose to ignore the facts when he writes, “For when they maintain this it escapes their notice.”
 - a. The definition for the Greek word maintain is, *bent, or inclination*.
 - b. The definition for the Greek word escapes is, *unnoticed*.
 - c. So then, these mockers are bent on letting certain facts go unnoticed.

- d. They don't want to know these things, because of what it would mean.
2. For example, they maintain that everything has remained the same from the beginning of creation, **v.4**. They are saying if nothing has changed from the beginning, why should we expect it to change in the future, ie. the second coming of Christ.
 3. But Peter shows them that they willfully choose to ignore the facts.
 4. The fact is things have not remained the same and in verses **5-7** Peter provides the proof.
 - a. Peter reminds them that in the beginning there was a change in the creation itself. It didn't stay the same, **v.5, Gen. 1:2,9,10**
 - b. He then refers to the flood of Noah's time, where the world once again changed, **v.6**
 - c. Things have not remained the same from the beginning as they claim. The evidence is overwhelming.
 5. One of the keys to showing that these false teachers willfully ignore the facts is seen in verse 5.
 - a. In this passage Peter says that it was by the **word** of God things changed.
 - b. Since they have changed, as already seen, this statement must be true
 - c. Peter then says that the second coming of Christ is also according to God's word, **v.7**
 - d. So, just like the creation changing by the word of God is true, the second coming of Christ by His word is also true.
 - e. One fact proves the other.
- D. The third description of the mind of the false teacher is found in **2Pet. 3:8,9**
1. Here Peter shows that these false teachers have a mind that does not seek to understand God's reasoning.
 2. They have concluded that since Jesus has yet to come back, He won't be coming back.
 - a. The coming of Christ was always believed to be imminent,
John 14:1-3
1Thess. 4:13-18
 - b. The false teachers state that the fathers fell asleep waiting for his return.
 1. In context "fathers" refers to the first generation Christians
 2. "Fell asleep" is in reference to death, **John 11:11-13**

3. But this reasoning leaves out God's plan.
 - a. God is not on a man made time schedule
 1. His years are not our years, v.8
 2. Our slowness is not His, v.9
 - b. God's plan involves the salvation of mankind which is going to take some time.
 - c. That fact that Jesus hasn't come back simply demonstrates God's plan at work. He is patiently waiting for man to turn to him, **1Pet 3:18-20**.

Appl: As we can see from Peter's description, the false teachers of his time definitely had a mind set on doing as they desired and they didn't want anything to stand in the way.

Their mind was set on willfully ignoring the facts and ridiculing those who believed otherwise.

They were unwilling to see the patience of God in the fact that Christ had yet to come.

Although the change agents today do not propose the same ideology as the false teachers of Peter's time, their mind set is very similar.

They ridicule those who will not accept a broad range of religious diversity.
They willfully ignore the word of God by turning from clear doctrines of Christ.
And their reasoning for doing the things they do leaves out the reasoning of God.