

## The Damage of the false Teachers

2Peter 2:1-3

**I.** As we have been working our way through 2Peter we have been considering the reality of false teachers.

**II.** Now I understand that many are uncomfortable with this topic. They believe it shows an intolerance to religious differences.

**III.** But, if we believe the words of Peter in **2Peter 1:20,21**, the words Peter writes in this epistle are not his own but God's; and since they are God's words, it is clear that God does not have a problem addressing the issue of false teachers. In fact it is apparent that God's wants this issue addressed, and in this epistle He pulls no punches.

**IV.** The reality is, false teachers are out there. And as we are going to see, they have always been out there and they are not going away.

**V.** Before we get into the main body of our lesson, let me say something about false teachers.

1. Some teach what they teach out of innocent ignorance, **Acts 18: 24-28**
2. Some know better, but have a hard time letting go, **John 12:42**
3. Some are malicious and will not accept the truth, **1Tim. 4:1-3**

**VI.** This being the case we must come to understand the damage they do so we can address them in a proper way; handling each one according to where they are.

**VII.** In this mornings lesson we are going to consider how we can identify these false teachers. We will do this by considering their characteristics.

**Trans:** In chapter 1 of this epistle, Peter has been giving instructions on remaining faithful to God. In chapter 2 the reason why becomes more apparent. Let's consider their characteristics.

### 1. Characteristics of some false teachers.

#### A. **2Peter 2:1-3**

B. Peter begins by stating that this is nothing new.

1. He refers to false prophets amongst the people.
2. This is referring to OT, **Jer. 14:14, Ezek. 22:28**

C. He then says that false teachers will be among them and he describes them.

1. They secretly introduce their destructive heresies.
2. They deny Jesus
3. They are self destructive

D. Let's consider each of these.

1. They secretly introduce their destructive heresies
  1. **2 Peter 2:1**, they employ stealth in their approach, secretly
  2. **2 Peter 2:3**, they are forced to use false words, to accommodate their deception, (2 Peter 2:13)
  3. **2 Peter 2:17-22**, they preach and promise what people want to hear
  4. **2 Peter 3:5-13**, they omit from their teaching obvious biblical truths
  
2. It is also clear that these false teachers at one time followed the truth. In that they now deny the Master who bought them.
  1. **1Cor. 6:20**
  2. **1Peter 1:18,19**
  3. **Acts 20:28-30**
  
3. These false teachers are not simply innocently mistaken in their doctrine. They introduce opinions that destroy and in the end destroy themselves
  1. **2 Peter 2:21**, swift destruction
  2. **2 Peter 2:9**, their own judgment
  3. **2 Peter 2:14**, they become accursed
  4. **2 Peter 2:12**, they are headed for destruction
  5. **2 Peter 2:19**, they are slaves of corruption
  6. **2 Peter 2:20**, they are in a worse state than an unbeliever
  7. **2 Peter 3:7**, they are headed for judgment and destruction
  8. **2 Peter 3:16**, they are destroying themselves.

E. Peter also describes the result of their false teaching,

1. **2 Peter 2:2**, many will follow them
2. **2 Peter 2:2**, because the way of the truth is maligned they hurt evangelist efforts
3. **2 Peter 2:3**, brothers are exploited and ultimately find themselves financially supporting error
4. **2 Peter 2:13**, Christians are led to carouse with them.
5. **2 Peter 2:14,18**, Weaker brothers are corrupted
6. **2 Peter 2:17**, Christians are carried away by error fall from their steadfastness.

**Appl:** What can we conclude from this?

1. Don't expect false teachers to just stand up and declare that they are false teachers.
2. Realize, false teachers will arise from within the church.
3. They are hurting themselves, the church and the brethren.

Knowing this, we must be prepared.

False teachers have always been out there and they are not going away, and many are going to work in an underhanded way.