

II Peter – The Reality of False Teachers II Pet. 2:1-3

Thesis: To make us aware that there are false teachers in the world.

Introduction:

The main theme of II Peter is knowledge. Peter has reminded them that the word of God is true. Now he is telling them that false teachers are coming. They needed to know this so that they could be ready to face these teachers and remain faithful to God.

Lord willing, next week we will look at the destruction of these false teachers.

Peter has talked about being able to know that the prophets were from God; and now he is going to remind them of the reality of false teachers among them.

I. False teachers are coming to the church (2:1, 12-14a).

- A. There were false prophets among the people (2:1).
 - 1. I Kgs. 18:20-40 – Elijah defeats the 450 prophets of Baal.
 - 2. I Kgs. 22:1-40
 - a. False prophets of God tell Ahab (king of Israel) to go to battle at Ramoth Gilead.
 - b. Micaiah (true prophet of God) tells Ahab that there is no safety in this battle.
 - c. Ahab listened to the false prophets and is killed in the battle.
 - 3. There were false prophets in the days of Jeremiah who prophesied concerning the Babylonian captivity.
 - a. Jer. 5:30-31 (God speaking) - An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: {31} The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?
 - b. Jer. 14:14 - And the LORD said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.”
- B. Just as “there were false prophets among the people,” Peter reminds them that “there will be false teachers among you” (2:1).
 - 1. Peter gives a description of what these false teachers will do (2:1, 2:12-14a).
 - a. They “will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2:1).

- 1) They do this in secret because they do not want anyone to know what they are doing.
 - 2) A heresy is a choice that causes disunion, or division (often, this Greek word is translated as “sect” – Strong’s).
 - b. They will deny “the Lord who bought them” (2:1).
 - 1) Peter, in his first letter to these brethren, reminds them that it was the blood of Christ that redeemed them (I Pet. 1:17-21).
 - c. They will “bring on themselves swift destruction” (2:1).
 - 1) Notice also 2:12-13a.
 - d. They are “full of adultery and ...cannot cease from sin” (2:13b-14a).
2. Just as there were false prophets among the people, and just as Peter warned about false teachers among the brethren, we can be assured that there are false teachers around today.
- a. Jesus warned of false teachers.
 - 1) Mt. 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
 - 2) Mt. 24:24 - For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
 - b. There are other numerous warnings given in the New Testament.
 - 1) I Tim. 4:1-3 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, {2} speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, {3} forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
 - 2) II Tim. 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4} and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

II. False teachers prey upon the weak (2:2, 12-14a).

- A. Remember what Peter has already talked about.
 - 1. He has encouraged the brethren to grow in their faith (1:5-7).
 - 2. He has reminded them that the word of God is true (1:16-21).
 - 3. Now we see the importance of a deeper knowledge of the word of God (because of these false teachers).
- B. Peter notes that many will follow them (2:2).
 - 1. These false teachers are looking to take advantage of weak and unstable souls (2:12-14a).
 - 2. These false teachers will twist the word of God to make it mean what they want it to mean (3:16).
 - 3. This is exactly what happens today.
 - a. The idea of the “rapture” (Jesus will reign for 1,000 years in Jerusalem) not taught in the Scripture.
 - b. Some say that baptism is not necessary for salvation.
 - c. Some say that we are saved by “faith only.”
 - 4. When these false teachers today teach these things, many “unstable souls” follow them.

III. We also see the motivation of false teachers (2:3, 14b-17).

- A. False teachers are motivated by covetousness (2:3, 14b).
 - 1. They are motivated by money
 - 2. Those that know better but still teach false doctrine do it for the money.
- B. Peter gives the example of Balaam (2:15-17).
 - 1. Balaam tried to curse Israel four times for the money (Num. 22-24).

Conclusion: