

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

II Peter 1:1-3

March 14, 2010

Peter continues in diligence to present the truth. The truth is, God allows error along side truth and many follow the error. We need not look far to see false teachers. We are called to “pay attention” and know the truth.

1. A. Peter knew he was about to lay his earthly dwelling aside. He had spent much time with Jesus. What did Jesus have to say on the night before His crucifixion?
John 16:7
- B. Ponder John 16:7 for a moment and reflect on Peter's life. How did Peter's life demonstrate the truth found in Jesus' words?
- C. What have we already studied in this letter that reflects the burden of Peter's life in Christ?
II Peter 1:12-21
2. A. If God has apostles and prophets who wrote His word, and He does, how is the ruler of this world going to respond?
II Peter 2:1-3
- B. What did Jesus have to say about “false prophets” in His most famous sermon?
Matthew 7:15
- C. What truths are wrapped around Matthew 7:15?
Matthew 7:13-16
3. A. Last week we looked at how reluctant true prophets were, as Jeremiah said “I do not know how to speak” and Moses said, “I have never been eloquent.” What are false prophets like?
Jeremiah 23:25-32, Ezekiel 13:1-7, Matthew 7:15, II Peter 2:1
- B. What can be said about “false prophets” and “false teachers?”
Matthew 24:11, Acts 20:29-30, II Corinthians 11:13-14, Galatians 2:4, Philippians 3:18-19, I John 2:18, Jude 4
- C. This whole chapter, II Peter 2, is a warning. Do you find the church today, we Christians, undiscerning? If so, why? What is the solution?
II Peter 1:19

4. Jump right into the text, II Peter 2:1-3: there are five characteristics, two fruits and one end of false teachers.

A. Five characteristics of false teacher from II Peter 2:1-3

1. They are deceivers (they wrote such a good book; they are such good speakers; they are so funny; they are such scholars.) “Secretly introduce” is from two words meaning by the side of and bring in.

Matthews 7:15, II Peter 2:1

2. “Denying the Master who bought them.” They deny Christ and His work. This is the core of false teaching. In some settings, are you tempted to not proclaim Christ as the only way?

Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, II Peter 2:1

3. “Their sensuality.” Often false teaching is accompanied by immorality.

II Peter 2:2, 2:19, Jude 4

4. Popularity; “many will follow.” False teachers will avoid truths like this text. Do not determine truth by how popular some book or man or church is. Scripture determines truth.

Matthew 24:11, II Peter 1:20-21, 2:2

5. “In their greed they will exploit you with false words.” All kinds of money-making schemes have been used around the gospel.

I Timothy 6:3-5, II Peter 2:3

B. Two fruits of false teachers from II Peter 2:1-3

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People are misled and the way of the truth is maligned. Moral scandals and religious profiteering bring a picture of Christianity brought on by a televangelist begging for money even after being exposed in immorality.

II Peter 2:2

C. One end of false teachers from II Peter 2:1-3

“Swift destruction;” God allows false teachers to go on but it is not going to go on forever. God knows how to judge sin and He will.

II Peter 2:1, 3

The One who is truth personified, who’s word is truth, who’s Spirit is the Spirit of truth, has allowed error to co-exist though this drama called history. But the Lord warns, protects, and keeps His own.

Psalm 119:160, John 8:31-32, 14:6, 15:4-7, 16:13, 17:17