

Be On Your Guard!

Three things you should know about false teachers – 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Main Idea: As chapter two begins, Peter warns his readers (and us) against false teachers. In the first ten verses he urges us to be on guard, and he tells us what to expect. Here are 3 expectations about false teachers.

1. *FIRST EXPECTATION – False teachers will come. 2 Peter 2:1a,b*

- A. Most Christians are unprepared for false teaching.
 - 1. Reason: we don’t have a biblical worldview.
 - 2. Reason: We haven’t really made a Lordship decision.
 - 3. Expectation: Peter says we need to be prepared because false teachers will come.
- B. There were false prophets in Old Testament times. 2:1a
 - 1. God predicted them (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:20) and they came.
 - 2. Their motives were entirely selfish. Micah 3:11; Isaiah 28:7
- C. There were false teachers in New Testament times. 2:1b
 - 1. Paul predicted them. Acts 20
 - 2. And they came in three predominant forms: legalism, Gnosticism, and antinomianism.
- D. There are false teachers today.
 - 1. The definition and deceptiveness of false teaching.
 - 2. Three examples of false teaching.

2. *SECOND EXPECTATION – False teachers have a particular kind of agenda that drives them. 2 Peter 2:1c-3*

- A. Power – They elevate their power above that of Christ. 2:1b
 - 1. They embrace heresies
 - 2. They heresies are destructive because they involve a rejection of Jesus as Lord.
 - 3. They bring them into churches secretly.
 - 4. Their heresies deny the Lord that bought them.
- B. Sensuality – They will promote a philosophy that tolerates and even encourages sin. 2:2
- C. Greed – Money and material advancement will be a driving force in their lives. 2:3a
- D. Problem – These guys are headed for eternal destruction. 2:3b
- E. Challenge – If we have character we will not be entrapped by false teachers.
 - 1. There are generally three kinds of heresies.
 - 2. But if we have the character of chapter Peter mentions in ch. 1, we won’t be lured.

3. *THIRD EXPECTATION – False teachers may possess some power, but it will be limited by the power of God. 2 Peter 2:3b-10a*

- A. It would seem that false teachers have tremendous power. Not so!
- B. God is at work to rescue the godly even when they stray. 2:9a, 7-8
 - 1. The principle: God knows how to rescue the godly from temptation. 2:9a
 - 2. First example: God’s work with Lot. 2:7-8
 - 3. Second example: God’s work with Noah. 2:5a
- C. God is at work to keep the unrighteous under punishment. 2:9a-10a
 - 1. First example: The sinning angels in the day of Noah. 2:4
 - 2. Second example: The ancient world. 2:5b
 - 3. Third example: The city of Sodom. 2:6