

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

*2 Peter 2:1-11*

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# Introduction

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- Peter continues his argument that the false teachers were wrong in denying the Second Coming of Jesus.
- In this passage, Peter defends the theological truth that there will be a Day of Judgment for the wicked.
- Because God did not spare the fallen angels or the ancient world in the days of Noah or Sodom and Gomorrah, He will not spare the wicked in the final days of judgment.
- But He will rescue the godly and punish the wicked.

There are false teachers  
in every generation

2 Peter 2:1-3

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# False teachers

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- Peter introduces the second chapter with the word “but” as a contrast to what he has taught in the first chapter.
- Just as false prophets arose in every generation of the Old Testament, so will false prophets arise among you. We have seen it in every generation since.
- Notice that Peter said “among you.” They did not come from the Greek philosophers or the pagan sects, but from within the Church.
- False teaching can easily creep into our own local church if we aren’t careful.

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# False teachers

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- Jesus taught the same in his parable of the wheat and the tares.
- God planted wheat in His field, but Satan sneaked in and planted tares among them.
- To keep from damaging the wheat by trying to pull out the tares, He left the tares there and will separate them at the harvest, when He cuts them both down (Matthew 13:24–30).
- In this church age, we have tares (unbelievers and false prophets) growing among the wheat in God's field (the world).

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# False teachers

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- Just as Jesus described the Enemy sneaking in at night and secretly planting tares in God's field, Peter described these false teachers "secretly" bringing in destructive heresies.
- Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that they come like a wolf in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15).
- These false teachers didn't portray themselves as opponents of Christianity.
- They distort true Christianity based on their own ideas, not on the Word of God.

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# False teachers

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- Peter says these false teachers are motivated by two things – sensuality (2:2) and greed (2:3). How often have we seen sex and money destroy a church?
- Peter wrote that many believers will follow their sensuality and “the way of truth will be blasphemed.”
- When we do not live by God’s rules for sexual purity and follow our desires instead, we profane what is sacred, blaspheme the truth, and bring shame to Christianity itself.

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# False teachers

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- The false teachers were even “denying the Master who bought them.”
- We have been “bought with a price,” (1 Corinthians 6:20) which is Christ’s death.
- In his first letter, Peter wrote that we are redeemed not with perishable things like gold and silver, but with the precious, imperishable blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:19). So we no longer belong to ourselves; we belong to Christ
- As Jesus said, “You will know them by their fruit” (Matthew 7:15–20).

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# False teachers

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- By using the word “blasphemed,” Peter emphasized the severity of what they were doing.
- The penalty for blasphemy was death (Leviticus 24:10–23). What these false teachers were doing deserved severe punishment.
- The word used here for “sensuality” is a very strong word for sexual immorality, meaning conduct shocking to public decency.
- It describes the attitude of those who follow their own sexual appetite with no concern for the judgment of either man or God.

God will destroy the wicked  
but save the righteous

2 Peter 2:4-11

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# The wicked

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- In defense of his statement that God will punish false teachers, Peter gave several examples of people and angels God punished in the Old Testament.
- False teachers had been telling the people that Christ was not coming back, so they didn't have to worry about judgment.
- False teachers of every generation have said something similar: many teach universalism (everyone goes to heaven) and many teach there is no judgment and no hell.
- Most Americans believe in heaven; many do not believe in hell.

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# Judgment for . . .

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- Fallen Angels: Peter references the sin of angels who fell into great wickedness (Genesis 6:1-4). They were committed “to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment” (2:4).
- Pre-flood world: Peter reminded them that, except for Noah and his family, God destroyed the entire world for their godlessness (2:5).
- Sodom and Gomorrah: Peter added details about Lot’s frame of mind not found in the Old Testament: that Lot was “greatly distressed” by the wickedness of the people. God rescued only Lot and his family.

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# Judgment

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- Peter's conclusion is that God rescues the godly from trials and keeps the unrighteous under punishment until the Day of Judgment.
- In each of these stories, the ratio of wicked people to righteous can feel overwhelming.
- Only one family is saved while the rest are destroyed.
- Jesus said "the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7:13–14).

God keeps the unrighteous under  
punishment until the Day of Judgment

2 Peter 2:9-10

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# Judgment

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- The Bible describes a final Day of Judgment when Jesus will separate the sheep, who will go off to eternal life, from the goats, who will go off to eternal punishment.
- What happens until the Judgment Day?
- Peter didn't answer it here, but he did speak of a kind of "temporary hell" where the unrighteous are kept under punishment until judgment.
- When he talked about the fallen angels, he described their place as a gloomy darkness where they were chained until the Judgment.

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# Judgment

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- Randy Alcorn describes the same situation with heaven, which he calls “present heaven” and “future heaven.”
- The future heaven is that final kingdom which God has yet to create – the new heavens and the new earth.
- Believers go to a present heaven, where God’s people are in Christ’s presence, free of sin and suffering and enjoying great happiness.
- Meanwhile, the wicked are kept under punishment until the Day of Judgment in what is described as gloomy darkness.

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# Judgment

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- Our responsibility is simple: warn people about hell.
- We aren't to do it because we are being judgmental or hateful, but because we love them.
- In his epistle, Jude described our mission as saving people by “snatching them out of the fire” (Jude 1:23).
- This was Peter's final word to the people he so loved.
- It should be our mission as well.

# Application:

Characteristics from 2 Peter 2  
of modern day false teachers

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# False Teachers

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- Secretly bring in heresies
  - Works salvation - Jehovah's Witness, Mormons, Catholic church
  - Question Scripture - Bart Ehrman, Marcus Borg - Jesus Seminar
- Destructive heresies
  - Pentecostal legalism, The Local Church, Unification Church
- Deny the Lord who bought them
  - Deny the trinity - Jehovah's Witness, The Way International

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# Biblical Teaching

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- Secretly bring in heresies
  - Church that teaches the Bible and the whole counsel of God
- Destructive heresies
  - Church that promotes spiritual flourishing and warns against sin
- Deny the Lord who bought them
  - Church that teaches and promotes the deity of Jesus Christ