



The Epistles of Peter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Intro  
2 Peter 1:1-3, 15, & 2:1  
From Sermon 3.8.26

Read 2 Peter 1:1-3, 15, & 2:1

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Before we dive into the verse-by-verse study of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, it seemed best to do a preview/overview of the book's main theme. Peter has already warned of dangers posed from the outside world, from failing in personal purity, from failing to submit to God-ordained authority, and from our real enemy, the devil. Now, he's led and forced to confront another great danger to the Church—namely false teachers and false doctrine. This is so very practical in our day where false teachers have mass media.

1. How did Peter view the chances of false teachers invading the Church? It's Inevitable. Not "if" but when. See also Jesus' warning in *Matthew 7:15* and Paul's warning in *Acts 20:29-31*.

2. What was the Old Testament evaluation and penalty for being a false prophet? The prophet could never be wrong. What they said had to line up perfectly with that which God already said. Penalty: Death.

3. Why do you suppose God took/takes this sin so seriously? 1) It's a reflection on His holiness and authority. 2) People's eternal destiny is at stake.  
See *Matthew 23:15*

4. While we are no longer required to kill a false prophet, the New Testament does require us to expose them. Read and discuss the following passages:

- *1 Timothy 4:1-2 & 5:20*— \_\_\_\_\_
- *Ephesians 5:11*— \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are some essential doctrines that false teachers reject and thus expose their own corruption? The view of the Bible = claiming It's corrupted, outdated, insufficient, out of context, equal to tradition or new revelation. The nature and completed work of Jesus Christ. How someone is saved and the signs or evidence of that conversion. The Trinity. The Virgin Birth and a 6-Day Creation. The sin nature of man. Christ's return. Spiritual gifts.

6. Who are some *obvious* false teachers from history and today? Arian, Pelagius, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Russell and Rutherford...

6a. Did a personality get named on Sunday that you feel is actually a sound teacher? Personal Answers

6b. What is your/our obligation in such instances? Pray. research. teachable. grace. See *1 John 4:1*

7. Why do you think false prophets and teachers have been so influential and successful? The promises they make upon the most ungrounded, desperate, and vulnerable: health, wealth, prosperity. Positive messages of self-esteem. They look the part and use churchy words. Lack of discernment in the flock.