



The Epistles of Peter
2 Peter 2:1-3
From Sermon 4.26.26

Read 2 Peter 2:1-3

Overview from Sunday's sermon: We now arrive at the heart of Peter's Epistle: the dangers of false teachers. The preliminaries are out of the way. Peter has established the foundation of the sound doctrines of God's faithfulness, salvation, sanctification, and immutable Scriptures. The Holy Spirit now has the Apostle identify the devil's method of subtly introducing false doctrine through the wolves. The most effective way to bring down a believer, a church, a denomination, or the faith is from the inside.

1. Read the following Scriptures to answer: How do you identify a false religion?

- Judges 2:11-13—The gods of other names, times, places, and cultures
- Isaiah 44:14-20* & 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10—Bowling to manmade graven images
- Romans 1:21-23—The worship of nature, pantheism, worship of man/self.
- 1 John 2:22—Any belief that denies the God of the Bible, the Bible itself, or Jesus Christ.

2. Read this next set of Scriptures, asking: How do you identify a false teacher within "Christianity"?

- Galatians 1:9—Hold up all they teach next to the Scriptures.
- 1 Corinthians 12:10 & 1 John 4:1—Personal discernment and listening to those God gifts with the ability to identify false teachers.
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4—Note those who are telling people what they want to hear.
- 1 John 1:7—Those who deny Jesus the God/the Messiah or distort God the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 23:2-7—Consider their fruit/motives: gain, influence, power, recognition.

3. What makes so many false teachers hard to spot? Secrecy. Covert. Subtle. Wolves in sheep's clothing. Using Christian-ese language. Being connection to legit/semi-legit teachers and ministries. Popularity. Niceness.

4. Who was the first false teacher and what was his tactic? Satan in the Garden. Tactic: "Did God really say...?" See also Genesis 3:1-5.

4a. How is he still using this same tactic today? All false teaching and teachers begin with distorting the Word of God.

5. What were the three categories of false teacher motives presented on Sunday? Discuss each with examples. How are these the very same temptations Satan has always employed?

- Greed: _____
- Power: _____
- Sex/Flesh: _____