

“Standing Firm in the Grace of God Series”

Lesson #13 “Watch Out for False Teachers”

2 Peter 2:1-9

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:17-18 “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of Unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Introduction:

Sunday evening, I sure enjoyed David Schmitt’s sermon. When he began the sermon he emphasized how much he “loved God’s word” & how “all the glory is for Him” I can clearly see God at work within a humble heart focused on His word.

But, brethren this morning through God’s word I want to sound the alarm. There is a growing segment of our brotherhood that is more concerned preaching illustrations to warm our hearts, with making us feel good, with making a name for themselves, with building mega churches that are pleasing to the multitudes, than they are concerned with focusing on the word of God.

I certainly don’t enjoy bringing bad news but it does get worse. A brotherhood magazine called “Wineskins” maybe your familiar with that, presented an article called “Change without Chaos”, in its May 1993 issue. This article suggested what is called a WEAVE method. Whereby you teach a new idea for a while till you feel resistance then back off and talk about things that are wholeheartedly agreed upon, then after a short rest come back to the cutting edge new idea and work it again, i.e. weaving back and forth until the church is desensitized and more open to change.

Transitional Statement:

Brethren, no amount of sincerity or good intentions can ever replace God’s word. His word is the only basis for truth. And when we move away from it, we turn to what is false and punishment will be God’s response. In our text today make no mistake Peter will draw a line of fellowship in the sand.

Lesson:

I. Satan Loves to use what is False Against God’s People

2 Peter 2:1

“But false prophets also arose among the people...”

- A. A False Prophet defined here is a pretended foreteller or a religious imposter.

B. Let's look to the past at some Old Testament False Prophets:

1. (Jeremiah 6:14) Told the people what they wanted to hear.
2. (Jeremiah 23:14) They were immoral.
3. (Micah 3:11) They were interested in personal profit.
4. (Jeremiah 23:32) They lead the people astray.
5. (Jeremiah 14:14) They claimed to speak from God.

C. (Jeremiah 5:31) And the scary part is that the people love it so

“...just as there will also be false teachers among you,...”

D. False teachers in the Greek are Propagators of erroneous Christian doctrine

2 Timothy 4:3-4

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

“...who will secretly introduce destructive heresies,...”

E. False teachers operate Secretly

1. Slowly slithering from the shadows, maneuvering and plotting.

-They don't wear big signs around their necks saying “I am a false teacher” but they secretly try to smuggle in their ideas.

-They won't just ask you to forget God, but they will slowly try to change his message.

*False teaching is usually not an all out twisted assault but, gradual heresies introduced over time

-Just like the 1/2 truths that Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden.

2. But church, The Word of God doesn't exist or operate from the shadow

-The word of God stands alone with or without any of our support.

-And it is placed in the center of the room, in an open fashion, where it stands by itself giving light to the whole room.

-Praise God !!

F. Here the False teachers is destructive

1. Here may be the most full proof way of spotting one of these slippery devils...they are destructive. They are not concerned with honoring God's word with the unity of the saints or with love, but with heresies....that ruin and dis-unify
2. They have an M.O., they are always trying to blow the light out. You see in darkness they feel that they have power to gain status, push their ideas and control other people.

"...even denying the Master who bought them..."

G. To elevate themselves, you see, they must dethrone Christ and what better way than to stealth fully try to corrupt His Word.

"...bringing swift destruction upon themselves."

H. Basically they are destroying themselves, sabotaging their own spiritual eternity.

II. False Teachers have a Following

2 Peter 2:2-3b

2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words;

A. False teachers will have a following

1. A following in their Sensuality...

-Referring to their lack of restraint in filling their desires.

2. They will promote the idea of brethren choosing sides against other brethren.

-I am of Paul, I am of Apollow, I am of Cephas and I am of Christ
1 Corinthians 1:12

B. And because of false teachers the way of truth will be maligned

1. God's Word, is given for our direction and guidance in all things for life and godliness, but false teaching shows it to be confusing, saying one thing in one place and pointing to something far different in another .

-This causes it to be maligned by many, Maligned here means spoken evil of.

-Then people run from the very thing in place to save them.

C. In their greed, False teachers will exploit us

1. Seeking their own advantage

-Using God's word for personal gain 1 Timothy 6:5

2. The original language helps us understand the meaning here. That is through what is false they will exploit or make merchandise of us.

-Basically they will turn us into something to be peddled and sold to the highest bidder.

-But God says we are not for sell. We belong to Him.

III. So, God will Punish False Teachers

2 Peter 2:3b-6

their judgment from long ago is not idle,

A. False teachers have a judgment by God from long ago.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ' Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 " You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you."

"...and their destruction is not asleep."

B. This isn't something that God forgets about.

C. Their destruction is awake and ready to pounce on them.

"...4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter;

D. God has not spared but condemned what is false:

-In the spiritual realm

-With bad angels, casting them into hellJude 6
-Can you imagine an angel prison?

-In world as a whole

-With the bad of Noah's day, destroying by water...Gen. 7

-In our very towns and cities

-With the bad of lots town, reducing them to ash ...Jude 7

E. And these judgments and condemnations by God is suppose to stand as everlasting examples to keep us focused on His words.

IV. But, God will rescue the righteous

2 Peter 2:7-9

7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

A. Here we return to the story of Lot.

-Lot had pleaded for Sodom bargaining with God to spare them... but not even 10 righteous souls could be found there.

-The Sodomites were unprincipled men..... "lawless"

-They oppressed and even tormented Lot and his family by their lawless deeds.

B. But Lot didn't give up and join them. Or compromise his faith

-And God rescued him and his family

Conclusion:

1. False teachers will proceed from bad to worse:

2 Timothy 3:13

13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2. We are suppose to turn away from them:

Romans 16:17

17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

3. We are suppose to be accurate with God's word

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

4. We are not to be tossed about by every wave of doctrine

Ephesians 4:14

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

5. We aren't suppose to add to or take anything away from God's word.

-Deut. 4:2; 12:32

-Proverbs 30:5-6

-1 Cor. 4:6

-Rev. 22:18-19

6. For those who go beyond what God says:

2 John 9

9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

Galatians 1:6-9

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

7. Noah a preacher of righteousness

-So it is our task also to speak out against false teaching.

-To stand up for what God's word says.

-To hold it as sacred.