

# P E T E R

## #3 Beware of False Teachers

### 2 Peter 2:1-10

- Peter wants to be sure all the readers of this letter receive a sure salvation and do not stumble and fall.

**2 Peter 1:10 NIV** *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble...*

- This is the main Point of Chapter 1, that we become so **FIRMLY ESTABLISHED** in our faith in Jesus Christ that we cannot be shaken by any temptation of false teaching.

- Peter draws this letter to a close at the end of Chapter 3 with this admonition :

**2 Peter 3:17 NIV** *Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.*

- Chapter 2 has the same goal but a different approach:

**2 Peter 2:1-10 NIV** *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)-- if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings...*

- Chapter 2 is mainly a warning against the **DESTRUCTION** that will befall those who introduce destructive teaching.
- Chapter 1 is the carrot – Chapter 2 is the crack of the whip.
- False teachings usually in some way **DIMINISH** Jesus Christ: whether some aspect of His personhood or of His work.
- How you live and how you esteem Christ always rise and fall together.
- You **BEHAVE** as you believe – *Claude Davis*
- Many false teachers were promoting **SEXUAL IMMORALITY** in the name of Christian freedom.
- We are not playing games. We cannot afford to miss the goal.
- Close only counts in **HORSESHOES**.  
“We don’t want to be off just a little in what we believe and teach and cause ourselves and others to miss heaven.”
- If we jump ahead to verse 19 we see that:  
**2 Peter 2:19 NIV** *They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”*

**The Durkheim Constant:** *There is a limit to the amount of deviant behavior any community or society can afford to recognize. Deviant behavior causes turmoil, conflict, or chaos in societies. When the behavior becomes uncontrollable, when it gathers momentum and begins to change society, something happens.: Society redefines its standards downward so that what was formerly bad behavior is now accepted and considered normal.*

- In this generation we have seen a **DUMBING DOWN** of traditional moral values.

**1 Peter 5:8 NIV** *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

...The church is not immune to false teachers. We must make every effort to keep ourselves rooted and grounded in the Word of God lest we lose our stability and be carried away in error... *John Piper*

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