

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: July 5, 2020

Summer Quarter: Zealous for the Truth

Today's Lesson: "Danger Ahead: Counterfeit Communicators" (Part 1)

#### INTRODUCTION:

- At the close of 2 Peter, chapter 1, the apostle Peter stated that "prophecy (the OT Scriptures) never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (vs. 21). Peter begins chapter two with the reminder that false prophets appeared in Israel during the days of the writing prophets spoken of in 1:19-21.

- History was now repeating itself. Just as they appeared in Israel during the days of the writing prophets spoken of in 1:19-21, so they would be (and already were) present in the first-century church. The startling truth is that false teachers would appear from among Peter's readers! And so . . .

- We too need to heed Peter's warning. False teachers are a threat to us today as they were in Peter's day, cp. Acts 20:29, 30. They will lead many people astray with their destructive teachings. But God's final judgment upon them is already determined and is certain to come! Peter gives three examples from the past (vv. 4-10a - on angels who sinned; the destruction of the antediluvian world by the global flood; and judgment of Sodom & Gomorrah).

#### THEIR APPEARANCE (2:1a)

1. There \_\_\_\_\_ false prophets among the people.  
They rose out of Israel, not from surrounding peoples (Jer. 5:31; 23:9ff)
2. There \_\_\_\_\_ false teachers among you.  
Peter goes on to give an expose of these C. C. in 2:1b-22; 3:3-9. Satan's counterfeits are always present (cp. Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim. 4:1-2).

QUESTION: Are these false teachers genuine believers, or only nominal believers? Perhaps vv. 20-22 helps us here. Peter uses both "dogs" & "pigs" to describe people who knew the truth & turned away from it.

#### THEIR CHARACTER

"Don't touch the gold; don't touch the girls; and don't touch the glory"

1. Their lust for \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 10)
2. Their lust for \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 3a, 14c, 15-16)

3. Their lust for \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 2, 4-9, 10, 14, 18-29)

## THEIR TEACHING

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ the sovereign Lord who bought them (vs. 1b)
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ denial  
They diminish the person and/or work of Christ in some manner!
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ denial (see Jude 4 ... "godless men")
2. Their teaching is " \_\_\_\_\_ " (lit. "against law" or "lawless" ... 2:7-8, 18-19; 3:17).
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ the second coming of Christ and the Biblical teaching of a coming Day of the Lord (cp. 3:3-10).

## THEIR TECHNIQUE

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures (see 3:14-16; cp. 1:16; 2:3)
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ stories (lit. "with plastic words"; 1:16)
3. They target the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (see 2:14; 2:18-19). In other words, the vulnerable.
4. Their approach is \_\_\_\_\_ infiltration: "they will secretly introduce destructive heresies."

These are not nice people!

Jesus said, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves" (Matt. 7:15; cp. "savage wolves" in Acts 20:29).

Paul wrote, "Such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:13-15).