

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **February 22, 2023**

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

COUNTERFEIT COMMUNICATORS (2:1-22)

1. Their APPEARANCE (2:1)

A. “But there WERE *also* false prophets among THE PEOPLE (cp. 1:19-21)
Examples: Jeremiah 23:9-40; Isaiah 28:7-13; Ezekiel 13; Micah 3:5-12; Zechariah 13:1-6.

A. “Just as there WILL BE false teachers among YOU.”

Interpretive Question: “Are these false teachers genuine believers or are they only nominal believers, professing Christians?”

1) These are PROFESSING (NOMINAL) Christians (see verses 20-22).

2) How do you explain their being “BOUGHT” (redeemed) in verse 1?

2. Their CHARACTER (2:10)

Peter speaks of these false teachers as “those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature (flesh)” (vs. 10). They are driven by three desires (lusts, passions; Gk: ἐπιθυμία *epithumía*).

A. Lust for POWER : “despise authority” (cp. 3 John 9-11).

They look down on authority. They hold authority (all forms) in contempt (cp. 3 Jn. 9-11).

B. Lust for MONEY : “exploit you” (means “commercialize”)

See vs. 14c – “experts in greed” (lit. “exercised [practiced/ trained] in greed – *gumnadzo*)

See vs. 15-16 – “rushed for profit into Balaam’s error” (Jude 11; Num. 25:1-18; 31:8, 16; Rev. 2:14)

C. Lust for SEX . See **vs. 2** – “shameful ways”; **vss. 4-9** (2 of 3 illustrations have to do with sexual perversion); **vs. 10** - “corrupt desire of the flesh” (NIV Study Bible footnote); **vs. 14** – “eyes full of adultery” (NIV Study Bible footnote); and **vss. 18-19**.

3. Their _____

A. “They deny the sovereign Lord who bought them” (1b). How did/do they do this?

1) _____ denial

In their teaching they diminish the person and/or work of Christ in some manner.

2) _____ denial

See Jude 4 - “For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

B. Their teaching is _____ (against law). They are “lawless” (unprincipled).

See verses 7-8 (men of Sodom); also 2:17-19, and 3:17.

C. They _____ at the second coming of Christ & the Day of the Lord (3:3-16). Why?

They resist (downplay) the idea of a time of judgment and moral accountability.

4. Their _____

A. They _____ Scripture (see 2 Pet. 3:14-16)

“ . . . which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

B. They _____ - _____ Stories (3:14-16)
“stories they have made up” (2:3a) and “cleverly invented stories” (1:16).

C. They target the _____, _____, _____ Scripture (2:14, 18-19)

D. Their approach is _____ infiltration (2:1b)
“They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them.”

5. Their _____

A. “_____ will follow their shameful ways” (2:2a; cp. Jer. 5:30-31; 2 Tim. 4:3-4).
“The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, & my people love it this way (Jer. 5:30-31). Compare Paul’s warning in 2 Tim. 4:3-4

B. They “bring the way of truth into _____” (2:2b).
Literally: “the way of truth *will be blasphemed* because of them (false teachers & followers). **Blasphemeo**

C. They create _____, _____, _____.”
“Destructive heresies (αἵρεσις *haireisis*).” NT writers used it to describe religious parties or sects (Sadducees; Acts 5:17; Pharisees – Acts 15:5). See 1 Cor. 11:18-19 – “In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are **divisions** (Gk: *schismata*) among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be **differences** (Gk: *haireseis*; NASB: **factions**) among you to show which of you have God’s approval.”

D. They cause _____ (2:1b)
Their divisive teachings result in the moral & spiritual ruin/destruction of those who accept them (2:18-22). Compare Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-31.

6. Their _____ (vss. 13, 17, 3b-9).

NIV Study Bible Footnote on 2:3

In their greed. They will be motivated by a desire for money and will commercialize the Christian faith to their own selfish advantage. **long been hanging over them.** Long ago, in OT times, their condemnation was declared (see verses 4-9 for O.T. examples of the fact that judgment is coming on the wicked). **destruction has not been sleeping.** Although delay makes it seem that they have escaped God’s judgment, destruction is a reality that is sure to come upon them.

A. Examples of judging the _____.

1) Sinning _____ (4)

This could either refer to their fall with Satan (Ez. 28:15) or to the sin of angels in Gen. 6:1-4 (Jude 6-7) Since Peter’s other two illustrations are from Genesis (chs. 7, 19), perhaps this one is too.

2) Ungodly _____ (5-6)

a) God’s judgment on the ancient world; antediluvian civilization of Gen. 4:1-6:8 (vs. 5)

b) God’s judgment on the cities of the plain (Sodom & Gomorrah; Gen. 18-19; 13:13).

B. Examples of delivering the _____.

Two Examples: _____ (5b) and _____ (7-8).

Four practical tips that can help all of us avoid being conned/duped by counterfeit communicators:

1) _____. (see Acts 17:11). Refuse to blindly accept someone else’s teaching!

2) _____. If possible/available, take a careful look at the life of the main spokesperson.

3) _____. Pay attention to the terms a person uses and how they’re defined.

4) _____. (see 1:3-11; 3:17-18). The purpose of Peter’s second letter is to call Christians to spiritual growth so that they can resist apostasy as they look forward to the Lord’s return.