

BEWARE They Are Among US

2 Peter 2:1-3

Jeremiah 6:8-17; Acts 20:26-32



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Lies #8: OMG is just a cultural saying! The third commandment does not apply!

Purposes for 2 Peter

- ① The elect of God are commanded to grow in their faith and knowledge. (2 Peter 1:5-8; 3:18)
- ② To warn against false teachers. (2 Peter 3:17-18) When Peter was writing (before 70 AD) there were **ALREADY** false teachers in the church.

Seriousness of False Teachers

- (Matthew 7:15) Christ warned us in His Sermon of the Mount that false teachers would come into “the church” dressed as “sheep” but being “ravenous wolves”.
- (Matthew 16:6-11) Christ warned us of false doctrine and likened false teachings to leaven that works silently, invisibly and through the whole.
- (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24) Christ warned that there would be **many** false teachers and that **many** would be deceived.
- (Acts 20:29-31) Paul warned the first century Church at Ephesus that false teachers would rise up from outside and inside the Church.
- (Romans 16:17-18) Paul warned the church at Rome to **avoid** those who teach doctrine differently than what he taught who use “smooth words and flattering speech.”
- (2 Corinthians 11:13-16) Paul warned the church at Corinth that false teachers would disguise themselves as “ministers of righteousness”.
- (Galatians 1:6-9) Paul warned that if anyone preached the gospel differently than he that person was “accursed.”
- (Ephesians 4:14) Paul warned the church at Ephesus to beware of the “trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”.
- (Colossians 2:4-8) Paul warned the Church at Colossae to “beware of those who use persuasive words to cheat them through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ.”
- (1 Timothy 4:1) The Holy Spirit (GOD) **expressly** warns us many will be deceived by “doctrines of demons”. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

- (2 Timothy 3:13) Evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- (2 Timothy 4:1-5) Paul warns us that in our time people will not want to hear about sound doctrine but will gather to themselves teachers that will “tickle their ear” and they will turn away from the truth to fables.
- (1 John 2:18; 4:1) John warns us that many false teachers have already come!
- (Jude 4) Jude warns us that false teachers had already “crept in unnoticed”.

Peter’s Warning: There Will Always Be (2 Peter 2:1)

- “BUT” is a conjunction that connects us to what Peter just said about the Scriptures in 2 Peter 1:19-21. We can ignore the chapter break.
- “BUT” is a conjunction of CONTRAST.
- (v. 1) There **were**, there **are**, and **even as** there always **will** be false teachers **among you!** (See Acts 20:29-30) (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:13-15; 23:14-16, 25-27; 28:1-17; Ezekiel 13:1-7, 15-19)
- (Deuteronomy 13:1-5) God’s **decree** (plan, purpose, counsel) includes false teachers and God’s design is to TEST His people to see if they will cling to His Word and not the word of men. (Job 12:16; Ezekiel 14:9; 1 Kings 22:22-23; 1 Corinthians 11:18-19)

Their Stealth (2 Peter 2:1)

- (2 Peter 2:1) “who will **secretly** bring in” their false/destructive teachings
- (Ephesians 4:16) – False teachers use trickery, craftiness, and deceit.
- (Jude 4) – False teachers creep in unnoticed.
- (2 Cor 11:13-15) They transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.

Their Doctrines (2 Peter 2:1)

- “destructive” is ἀπώλεια apoleia {ap-o’li-a} and literally means “destroying”; “utter destruction”; “the destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell”.
- “heresies” – Truth with a “**grain**” of falsehood that corrupts the whole.
- Paul uses this word to describe “factions” or “divisions” within the “church” in 1 Corinthians 11:18. Paul continues, “For there **must** be factions among you, **that** those who are approved may be recognized among you.”
- MANY have and are perverting the Word of God. (Gal 1:6-9; 2 Cor 4:2; Eph 4:14)

Denying the Lordship of Christ (2 Peter 2:1)

- These false teachers will preach Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord.
★ This is direct contradiction to the Word of God in Romans 10:9.
- Jude tells us, “who turn the grace of God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 4)
- Peter’s the very strong word ἀρνηομαι (arneomai) which means “to refuse”; “to strongly say NO”; “to reject”.
- (Jude 8) Jude describes false teachers as those who “**reject authority**”.

- “bought” is “ἀγοράζω (agorazo)” and means “to purchase in the market place”
 - It is used in the New Testament as Christ purchasing us or redeeming us.
 - ★ Because we have been “**bought** with a price” we no longer belong to ourselves but to the One who bought us! (1 Cor 6:19-20; Acts 20:28; Matthew 20:28; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:12)
 - ☆ Christians joyfully **submit** themselves to Christ as their Lord. (2 Cor 5:15)
- In denying the Lordship of Jesus Christ, these false teachers “**bring on themselves swift destruction.**”

Jeremiah’s Warning (Jeremiah 6:8-17)

- (v. 10) The people do not listen to God’s warnings through His prophets.
- (v. 10) The people scorned the Word of the LORD - they did not want to listen.
- (vv. 11-12) Because of the attitude of HIS PEOPLE God was filled with FURY!
- (vv. 13-14) The false teachers healed God’s people only slightly!
- (v. 14) **The false teachers say, “Peace, Peace!”, when there is NO PEACE!**
- (v. 15) No one was ashamed with their sin against God. They did not know how to blush! **THINK ABOUT TODAY!**
- (vv. 16-17) The people desired the NEW WAYS and not the OLD WAYS and refused to walk in God’s ways. They refused to listen to God’s warnings.

Their Followers (2 Peter 2:2)

- There **are and will be many** who follow these false teachers! (Matt 24:4-5, 11)
- Remember that false teachers are found in CHURCHES!
- This is why we are **warned** over and over about false teachers and why we are **commanded** to “test everything” we hear or read! (1 Thess 5:21; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20; Revelation 2:2)
- Instead of “imitating” Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1; 4:16; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:9) or “imitating” God (Ephesians 5:1) these follow the lifestyle of their “masters”!!
- These “followers” deny the Lordship of Christ **by how they live their lives. They “turn the grace of God into lewdness”.** (Jude 4) They believe that God’s commands are not for them to take seriously.

THE Faith (Jude 3-4)

- Elders, preachers, and teachers of God’s Word are commanded to “preach **the Word**” (2 Timothy 4:1-2) They are never to teach the teachings of men or their opinions. **They take 2 Timothy 2:15 serious. Their teaching/preaching must have the approval of God.**
- ★ THERE IS ONLY **ONE FAITH - ONE SET OF DOCTRINES; ONE INTERPRETATION OF THOSE DOCTRINES. OBJECTIVE TRUTH** MANY TIMES IS INDICATED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AS “**THE FAITH**”.
- Acts 6:7; 14:22; 16:5; Rom 1:5; 16:26; 1 Cor 16:13; 2 Cor 13:5; Eph 4:4, 13; Col 1:23; 2:7; 1 Tim 3:9, 13; 4:1; 6:10; 2 Timo 2:18; 4:7; Titus 1:13; 1 Peter 5:9

★ Consider Paul's warning in Galatians 1:6-9.

God's Word Is Blasphemed! (2 Peter 2:2)

- “blasphemed” is βλάσφημέω (blasphemeo) means “to slander”; “to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things”.
- True Christianity is **slandered** by false teachers, their teachings, and their conduct.
- “Christians” who would not speak a blasphemous word against God Himself do blaspheme God when they pervert His Word. **See Psalm 138:2.**
- God is slandered when we say the Bible teaches one thing and false teachers teach/preach something different.
- Any teaching/preaching that is not strictly in accordance with God's written Word is slander against God. It is saying that God said something when He never did! **Again take seriously Paul's warning in Galatians 1:8-9.**
- **WARNING:** Even if we have been taught something to be true and it is, in fact, false and we repeat it we are false teachers blaspheming the truth.
- This is why God moved James to write, “. . . let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” (James 3:1)
- ★ We remember APOLLOS in Acts 18:24-27. The difference is that Apollos had a teachable spirit and when corrected repented and was used by God in a powerful way.

Their Exploitation (2 Peter 2:3)

- Because of GREED and/or COVETOUSNESS for money and fame, these false teacher *exploit* their “prey” with *deceptive, false words, fabricated stories, clever lies, flattery, etc..* (Romans 16:17-18; Philippians 3:19)
- BUT their JUDGMENT is coming upon them! Consider 1 Timothy 1:20!

We Have Heard. We Are Now Accountable to Obey

- ① We **must** take seriously the warnings against false teachers and false doctrine. (2 Peter 2:1-2) We are commanded WATCH (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Acts 20:31).
 - Preachers are confined to the written Word of God.
 - Anything that turns people away from the written Word is a fable.
- ② We **must** test everything and every one. (1 Thess 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1)
- ③ We **must** be students, not just hearers or readers, of God's Word. (2 Peter 1:5-8; 3:18; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- ④ We **must** contend earnestly for **the** faith (set of doctrines) that has been handed down to **us**. (Jude 3)
- ⑤ We **must** walk in God's ways found in His written Word and listen to His warning that He gives through His messengers. (Jeremiah 6:16-17)
- ⑥ **IF CHRIST IS NOT YOUR LORD HE IS NOT YOUR SAVIOUR? WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF LORD? IS HE YOUR LORD?**