

# Contention NOT Tolerance

**2 Peter 2:12-22**

Numbers 22:22-33

Hebrews 6:4-12



31 August 2025

**Lies #10** - Church membership is not necessary.

## Watching the Moon

### Purpose for Peter's Letter

- ① Encourage saints to grow in their faith.
- ② Warn of false teachers.
- ③ Encourage saints to persevere in the midst of severe persecution.
- ④ Leave ALL saints reminders of truths of God's Word.

### We Have the Word of God (2 Peter 1:19-21)

#### The Danger of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3)

- (v. 1) There has always been, there are, and there always will be false teachers **among** us. (Acts 20:28-31; Matt 7:15; 2 Cor 11:13-15)
- (v. 1) These false teachers will "secretly bring in **destructive** heresies".
- (v. 1) They will deny the **Lordship** of Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9; Jude 4; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2)
- (v. 2) **Many** will follow their "destructive heresies". (Matt 24:4-5, 11, 24)
- (v. 3) These false teachers will use flattery and deceptive words. (Romans 16:18; Jeremiah 23:17)
- These false teachers have been deceived, are being deceived, and are deceiving **MANY!** (2 Timothy 3:13; Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24)

#### Promised Destruction of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:4-10)

- (vv. 4-6) God did not spare the fallen angels, the ancient world during Noah's times, nor the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- (v. 9) God knows how to deliver the **godly** out of temptation **and** to reserve the **ungodly** for the day of judgment!!!
- (v. 10) The ungodly described:
  - ✗ They walk according to the lust (desires) of the flesh and mind. (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 8:1-10) READ Galatians 6:8. They do what is right in their own eyes and ignore the written Word of God.

- ✗ They despise authority. They will not have the Lord rule over them. Nor will they have elders rule over them. (Luke 19:17; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Thess 5:12-13; 2 Thess 3:14; 1 Tim 5:17; Jude 8) They do what is right in their own eyes!!!! They refuse to live according to the written Word.
- ✗ They are presumptuous and self-willed.
- ✗ They speak evil of dignitaries. These “glorious ones” are probably fallen angels and Satan himself. Verse 11 contrasts these false teachers to angels (unfallen; elect) who do not bring accusations against Satan! (Jude 9).

### **Contention NOT Tolerance** (Jude 3-4)

- Contrary to the culture we live in God tells us to “earnestly contend for the faith” that has been handed down to us.
- We are exhorted NOT to tolerate false teachings or false teachers. (2 Thess 3:6-7, 14-15; Rom 16:17; 2 Cor 5:11-13; Col 2:8; 1 Tim 6:5; 2 Tim 3:1-5)
- Disciples HATE every false way (Psalm 119:104; 128) but they rejoice in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6)
- Disciples HATE the assembly of evildoers (Psalm 26:5; Psalm 1:1; 1 Cor 5:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:1-5) but they assemble together with the upright (Psalm 111:1; 149:1)
- Disciples HATE those who hate the Lord (Psalm 139:21-22) but they love those who have been born of God (1 John 5:1-2; 4:7-11; John 13:34-35).

### **Strong Words from God** (2 Peter 2:12-22)

#### **Natural Brute Beasts Made for Killing** (2 Peter 2:12)

- They, by Greek definitions, are irrational and unreasoning animals.
- They are driven by lusts (fleshy desires) rather than reason.
- They do not understand. They have no real knowledge of what they teach. (See 1 Corinthians 2:14)
- They are fit for destruction. (Philippians 3:19)

#### **Daytime Evil Doers** (2 Peter 2:13)

- They practice their sinfulness in the **day time!** See 1 Thess 5:7; **Jer 6:15**.  
→ They rejoice in doing evil! (Proverbs 2:14; 10:23; Jer 11:15; )
- “spots and blemishes” – defects; disgraceful; etc.
- “reveling in their own deceptions while they feast with you” – they are a polluting influence!!! (1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20)

#### **Unable to Cease from Sin** (2 Peter 2:14)

- “They cannot cease from sin!”
- Their hearts are trained in (“exercised in”) covetous practices. The Word tells us that we are to exercise ourselves in applying the Word of God (Hebrews 5:14)

and in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

- They allure “**unstable souls**” – see Rom 16:18; Eph 4:14; Col 2:8.
- They are “**accursed children**”!!! (1 Corinthians 16:22)
- Paul tells us that anyone who preaches a different gospel than the one he preached is accursed! (Galatians 1:6-9)

### Following the Way of Balaam (vv. 15-16)

- The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 22:1 to 25:2.
- Balaam is in the Bible for our learning. (Romans 15:4)
- Peter warns us to BEWARE of the “**way** of Balaam” - “who loved the wages of unrighteousness”.
- (Jude 11) Jude warns us to BEWARE of the “**error** of Balaam” - “who followed greed”. The error of Balaam was thinking one can ignore the will of God and get away with it.
- (Revelation 2:14) John warns us to BEWARE of the “**doctrine** of Balaam” - “who put a stumbling block before the children of Israel”. The “doctrine of Balaam” is **compromise**. See Jude 4; Num 25:1-2; 31:8-17.

**MARK 9:42**

### Clouds and Wells Without Water (v. 17)

- Water is indispensable for life.
- Clouds that do not produce water are disappointments to the farmer and the crops who/which desperately need water.
- False teachers, like clouds, may be attractive and have a commanding presence – but give not REAL refreshment, comfort, and edification.  
→ See Jeremiah 8:10-12; Ezekiel 13:10-15)
- False teachers BOAST but do not produce **TRUE** fruit (holiness; righteousness; truth; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, goodness, self-control, etc. (Eph 5:9; Rom 6:22; Gal 5:22-23)
- God’s word is likened to rain. (See Deuteronomy 32:2; Isaiah 55:10)
- False teachers, like clouds without water, are USELESS!
- Remember the **many** that will follow these false teachers – see Jer 2:12-13.
- (John 7:37-38) Christ taught that if anyone was thirsty they were to come to Him.
- “The blackness of darkness” is reserved for false teachers and those who follow them. (See Jude 13; Jeremiah 5:30-31)

### Alluring/Seducing Others into Their Sinfulness (2 Peter 2:18)

- False teachers appeal to the “lusts (desires) of the flesh” and consequently their teachings are **man-centered rather than God-centered**.
- These teachers target people’s feelings rather than their souls.
- They *seduce* people with high sounding words. They deny historical teachings of the truth. (Romans 16:17-18)
- Unredeemed man is a slave to his/her lusts (desires). (Ephesians 2:2-3)

## Slaves of Corruption (2 Peter 2:19)

- These false teachers “promise” liberty (freedom) while “themselves are slaves of corruption.
- See Christ’s warning about the religious leaders of His time: Matthew 23:15.

## SEVERE WARNING (2 Peter 2:20-21)

- Remember that on the outside these false teachers *appear* very religious (Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
- These false teachers successively infiltrate (get into) churches by their craftiness, deceptions, and smooth words. (Jude 4; Matt 13:25)
- These false teachers “escape the *pollutions* (“vices the foulness of which contaminates one in his intercourse with the ungodly mass of mankind) by “the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”. This knowledge is NOT **saving** knowledge, but superficial with no genuine faith and repentance connected to it.
- These false teachers find themselves once again entangled and are overcome! They are not overcomers as all Christians are. (1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)
- “the latter end is worse for them than the beginning!”
- It would have been “better for them not to have known the way of righteousness”!

## Dogs & Pigs (2 Peter 2:22)

- Peter gives two **more** pictures of false teachers.
- Peter quotes Proverbs 26:11, “As a dog returns to his vomit . . .” so too do these false teachers.
- Peter most likely was quoting a first century saying for his reference to pigs that said, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”

## What Must We Learn & Do

- ① God has demonstrated that His judgment is SURE on those who do not take His Word seriously. (Jude; 2 Peter 2)
- ② False teachers have been infiltrating the Church for over 2,000 years! We must **TEST EVERYTHING we believe**. (1 Thess 5:21; Acts 17:11; Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 4:1)
- ③ **We must “contend earnestly” for the faith that has been handed down to us!** We are not to tolerate false teachings. (Jude 3; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
- ④ We must be **students** of God’s Word so as not to be “simple” or “unstable” and easily deceived. (Hebrews 5:14; James 1:8; 2 Peter 2:14; Ephesians 4:14; **2 Peter 3:16**)
- ⑤ If we do not take these NUMEROUS warnings of false teachers we will be deceived!