

2PeterWeek15 – 2 Peter 2:10-22 “False Teachers Character and Claims”

Community Group Questions

1. Do you have anyone in your life that their bad character has been impacting you?
2. Have you had a time in you life in which your personal sin and made you slightly crazy?
3. Have you experienced consequences of a wrong belief?

2 weeks ago from 2 Peter 2:1-9 we learned how to identify false teachers and how God will deal with them but now in verses 10-22 Peter goes a bit deeper to warn believers if they follow after these teachers here is what they are going to see and in some senses what they are going to get.

In 2 Peter 2:10-22 we will learn about the character and claims of false teachers having dire consequences.

This passage starts with what...

Bad Character includes...

Pride Vrs 10-11 Sinful pride is having an excessively high opinion of oneself and ones achievements.

The pride of false teachers is a step beyond that because they despise any kind of authority as well. God has established authority in this world—human government, headship in the home, leadership in the church. But false teachers want to undermine that and run things the way that they choose and not submit to God and what He has set up.

Peter uses the angels in heaven as an example of submitting to the authority of God.

When we see people challenge authority structures that God set up we can realize they may be on a slippery slope to false teaching. I am not saying individuals should not be challenged but the Scriptures are clear about the structures that God has set up should not be.

It is deep rooted pride that challenges God's design.

Think about atrocities committed in history such as the Holocaust and slavery and how the pride of people caused those things. They thought they had a better solution for how things should be run rather than God's design of each individual seen as His creation in His image.

Have you fallen to pride in life? Have you thought I can call the shots and nothing will happen...God says don't do that...but that does not apply to me. Or I am my own boss and answer to myself.

The funny thing about pride is it displays...

Ignorance Vrs 12 Peter is saying they are no smarter than animals...At this point you may say well some animals are pretty smart. I will agree but they are not made in God's image.

The false teachers are willfully blind to what the Bible teaches and their ignorance of who He is, what He provides and how He wants us to live. This is evident in the things they do and say.

The false teachers are also ignorant in that they discount the truths of the Scriptures. In other words they know the truth but reject it.

An example of this type of ignorance happened in September of 2011 in South Africa in which a man named Michael David Cohen decided not to heed the shark sighting warnings that were posted at his local beach in which he liked to swim. Cohen was noted as a man who never heeded the warnings and once said "if a shark takes me, blame me not the shark" On September 29th 2011 a shark decided to take

part of him when he entered the water despite the warnings and swimming 50 yards from shore. Fortunate to be alive but the loss of his right leg is a constant reminder of his ignorance. Knowing the truth but ignoring it.

Is that you? Do you know the truth but ignore it? Maybe it's a salvation issue GOSPEL. Maybe it's a lifestyle sin issue, God says not to do that but everyone else is.

Not only are false teachers prideful and ignorant but they are also... ***Hedonistic Vrs 13-14*** which is the Pursuit of pleasure and self indulgence. Wrong doctrine and wrong living go together. False teachers often live in luxury and attract unstable people that say to themselves...“now that is living”.

Much can be said about this because if we are honest we are all a little hedonistic...meaning we like to do things that make us happy.

But in the case of the false teachers it is sinful activities that make them happy. Is that you? Does your idea of fun look like a frat house?

Or look at it a different way...If you are not happy, does everyone around you know it? Complaints are flowing, you are a grouch

Not only are the false teachers prideful, ignorant and hedonistic they become...

Insane Vrs 15-16 Forsaking the right and doing what is wrong Peter cites Balaam as an example... These false prophets were like animals and their prototype, **Balaam** was rebuked by an animal (donkey)

In addition to his greed, Balaam urged the Moabites to trick Israelite men into illicit relationships with Moabite women, introducing immorality into the camp. To stop his “madness” a donkey, rebuked him.

The false teachers, like Balaam, had sinned so long and so intensely that their sin had become a form of insanity.

Has that happened to you your sinful lifestyle has spun you into insanity? Doing things that you never thought you would do, saying things you never thought you would say, making decisions that you never thought you would make? When you looks at yourself you think...who is this person?

These are all bad character issues, which tip us off to the fact that at the end of day false teachers have...

False claims with dire consequences Vrs 17-22

Remember what 1 Corinthians 15:33 says...*"bad company corrupts good character"* If you hang out with prideful, ignorant, hedonistic and insane people...it will take its toll and corrupt you.

So what does that corruption look like?

-Lead people away from the truth. Vrs 17-18

They promise their followers satisfaction but do not quench their spiritual thirst. How useless are wells without water! These teachers, with their religious propaganda, give the appearance of being truthful and helpful, but they turn out to be empty—beautiful, but of no help to thirsty people. Millions today are following false religions that promise help but can give none.

Remember false teaching is anything that tampers with the Gospel of Jesus. The consequence of following something that is not the truth...is not trusting in Jesus.

-Deliver the opposite of what is promised Vrs 19

False teachers promise liberty but lead people into bondage. Peter uses a bit of sarcasm here; how can people who are slaves of sin themselves ever set anybody else free! They can't.

How can these “teachers” teach others the truth when they either do not know it or have rejected it. You have heard the saying “the blind leading the blind” this illustrates that saying.

Have you followed after something or bought into something that did not deliver what it promised?

“Hey you can make 10k a month just sitting at home” “This product will change your life” “Lose unwanted fat in 7 days”

As Christians we need to be constantly reminded to test things by the Scriptures so we don’t believe the lies of the world. As Jesus said In John 14:27 that He does not give as the world gives which are empty promises of peace...He gives true peace.

-Self deception. Vrs 20-22

Peter is describing false Christians, people that merely wash off the pollutants on the outside but never receive the new nature on the inside. You can wash a dog or a pig, but the animal does not change its basic nature. Peter is not teaching that Christians can lose their salvation.

These people knew the way of righteousness and had a knowledge of Christ’s work, but they did not personally receive Him into their hearts. Their outward pollution was washed away, but the inward corruption was still there. *As the commentator Warren Weirsbe states these “professors but not possessors seemed to experience salvation, but in due time they drifted back to the life that suited their nature. Dogs go back to the vomit; pigs go back to the mire”.*

Maybe that is you...you cleaned yourself up and look pretty good but you don’t truly trust Jesus, you don’t truly believe He is the only way, you really don’t want to admit you are sinner, you don’t really believe the Bible us God’s Word, you think Christianity is about being a moral

or conservative in your politics but the truth is you are self deceived and don't trust the work of Jesus on the cross to deliver you from your sins.

So we see the character and claims of false teachers have dire consequences.