

OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Wednesday Bible Study
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2 PETER 2: 1 – 22

I. Keep on Resisting False Teachers

After establishing the basis of the Christian faith, the credibility of himself and the prophecies of Scripture, Peter proceeds to refute the teachings of false prophets with truth and directness. He begins by assailing the false teachings and then denounces the false teachers themselves. He assures them of their impending doom. Oak Ridge, we too have to know what we believe and in whom we believe. Please be cautious of whom you listen to

A. The Destructiveness of False Teachings vv. 1 – 19

An exposition of this passage is difficult because of its length. I like that Peter does not divide his teachings into a little package or short paragraphs. Instead, his teachings flow freely as he presents an extensive expose of the false teachers and their false teachings.

Here he is presenting two major teachings. The first deals with how to identify or to recognize these false teachings. Secondly, he speaks very directly about the doom that false teachers will face. Let us explore these two areas:

The first is titled as, “How to recognize false teachers and their false teaching.” (2: 1 – 19)

How can we recognize them? Peter gives us 22 clues to help us in this vital venture of identification:

1. *They “will secretly be destructive heresies”* (v. 1)
2. *They will even deny the Lord* (v. 1)
3. *“They will exploit you with deceptive words”* (v. 2)
4. *They “will walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness”* (v. 10)
5. *They “despise authority”* (v. 10)
6. *“They are presumptuous* (v. 10)
7. *They “are self-willed”* (v. 10)
8. *They “speak evil of dignitaries”* (v. 10)
9. *They “speak evil of the things they do not understand”* (v. 12)
10. *“They are spots and blemishes”* (v. 13).
11. *They carouse “in their own deceptions”* (v. 13)
12. *Their eyes are “full of adultery”* (v. 14)
13. *Their eyes never cease from sinning* (v. 14)

14. *They beguile “unstable souls”* (v. 14)
15. *“They have a heart trained in covetous practices”*
16. *They “are accused children”* (v. 14)
17. *“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray”* (v. 15)
18. *They “are a well without water”* (v. 17)
19. *They are “clouds carried by a tempest”* (v. 17)
20. *“They speak great swelling words of emptiness”* (v. 18)
21. *They allure those who have already escaped for the life of sin through the lust of the flesh* (v. 18)
22. They promise liberty but are themselves slaves of corruption (v. 19)

The second truth on which Peter focuses in verses 1-17 is the certain doom of false teachers. Without a doubt, they are on their way to destruction!!!

1. *They will “bring on themselves swift destruction”* (v. 1)
2. *“For a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber”* (v. 3)
3. *The false teachers are doomed* (vss. 4-11)
4. *They “will utterly perish in their own corruption”* (v. 12)
5. *They “will receive the wages of unrighteousness”* (v. 13)
6. *They will receive the gloom of darkness forever* (v. 17)

False teachers are facing a gloom or mist (if you will) of darkness that is reserved for them . . .

B. Entangled Again in the World vv. 20 – 22

After speaking about the impending doom of false prophets, Peter now addresses the fate of those who are led astray by those whom he describes as spots and blemishes. They will utterly perish in their own corruption. **Nevertheless, I want us to notice, that Peter warns not only against false teachers but also reminds us that we bear responsibility for ourselves.** Yes, we are responsible and accountable for our own spiritual welfare, and we will pay a tremendous price for our sin if we allow ourselves to be led astray.

Peter’s twofold warning in this chapter can be summarized in two brief statements. First, beware of false teachers who are on their way to eternal destruction. Second, if you follow them, you are responsible for your own actions and will experience an end to which is worse than if you had never come to the knowledge of God!