

The Letters of Peter: 2 Peter 2

Sunday, November 13 and Wednesday, November 16

Verses 1 – 3

- What contrast does Peter make regarding his prior point about prophecy as he begins this passage?
- In Verse 1, how does Peter describe the tactics used by false teachers? What does Peter mean by stating that false teachers “deny the Lord (or Master) who bought them”? (*Matthew 7: 15 – 16; 1 Corinthians 6: 20*)
- Reflecting on Verse 2, what impact can false teachers have on a congregation? (*2 Timothy 4: 3 – 4*)
- According to Verse 3, what is the motivation of false teachers? What will be their outcome? (*Romans 16: 17 – 18*)

Verses 4 – 11

- As Peter refers to Noah as a “preacher of righteousness” in Verse 5, how can we strive to imitate Noah? What lessons does Noah’s account teach us about faith, perseverance, and God’s judgment? (*Matt 24: 37 – 39; Hebrews 11: 7*)
- Consider the example that Peter references in Verses 6 – 8 regarding Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (as recorded in Genesis 19). How can we identify with the effects of Lot’s sinful surroundings, and how can we counter those effects?
- Summarize Peter’s point from the examples he provides in Verses 4 – 9. What will be the outcome for false teachers?
- Describe Peter’s message in Verse 10 regarding respect for authority. What types of authority does Peter reference, and how does he describe those who disrespect that authority? (*2 John 1: 9 – 11*)

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- What is the significance of the statement that Peter makes in Verse 11 concerning angels? How does this statement amplify Peter's previous point regarding false teachers who disrespect authority?

Verses 12 – 17

- How does Peter describe false teachers in Verses 12 – 14? What do Peter's various illustrations teach us about the character, motivation and methods of false teachers, and what will be the result of their actions?
(2 Corinthians 11: 13 – 15)
- Describe the significance of the historical reference used by Peter in Verses 15 – 16. What do false teachers have in common with the sins of Balaam as recorded in Numbers 22 – 25. *(Numbers 31: 16; Revelation 2: 14)*
- What points does Peter reinforce about false teachers in his references from Verse 17?

Verses 18 – 22

- From Verse 18, how do false teachers convey their message? How does Peter describe their audience, and how do false teachers exploit those who receive their deceptive messages?
- What is the "liberty / freedom" that false teachers promise, as Peter mentions in Verse 19? How does he subsequently describe false teachers?
(Galatians 5: 1)
- Describe Peter's message included in Verses 20 – 21. How could it be better for someone never to have responded to the truth of God's word, than to have responded and turned away from it? *(Hebrews 10: 26 – 27)*
- How does the imagery presented in Peter's illustrations in Verse 22 amplify his previous point? *(Proverbs 26: 11)*
- How can this passage be used to refute the doctrine of "once saved, always saved"?