

2 Peter

Chapter Two

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Two

SUMMARY: Verses 1-22

1. Peter launches into a campaign against false and deceptive teachers. The real detrimental work of Satan isn't in the world. Satan's biggest blow to God's Kingdom comes as he tries to infiltrate God's Church with deceptive and false teaching.
2. Peter says that heresies will be introduced. A heresy is any teaching that is opinion based and separate from the Truths of Scripture. Heresy is destructive. It's following your own ways. It's denying Jesus' Lordship. It's motivation is greed, money, selfishness. Heresy moves to commercialize Christianity for profit.
3. Peter makes it clear the doom and judgment of such who do so.
4. Peter gives a list that gives proof of God's judgment on the ungodly: Sodom & Gomorrah, and Noah's generation.
5. Peter gives proof that not all people will be saved. This is in direct conflict with the theology of Universalism that adheres to all people being saved already. Peter denounces such as a heresy. There are the ungodly and they will be judged.
6. Peter intimates that associating with wicked living and those who practice such will in turn corrupt and torment any believer. We are called to live separate from the world not live condoning the world's practices.
7. The godly will not go through the same judgment as the ungodly. The ungodly are those who continually follow their sinful desires and despise the authority of God and His Truth, Scripture.
8. Peter teaches that these false teachers, heretics, are arrogant and teach things they don't even understand. He says they all follow their own ways and live only for their instincts. This is proof that God will never approve us living by our instincts. We are called to live by Truth, regardless of what our base instincts tell us.
9. Peter says that the real goal of false teachers is to feast with you. In other words, it's an inside job to destroy God's people and His church.
10. Peter has nothing but harsh words for such teachers: adulterers, seducers, unstable, greedy, and cursed.
11. Peter gives an example of a man who lived in such manner: Balaam, he wanted to participate in what God had forbidden. To constantly participate in things God has forbidden is to bring a curse on yourself.
12. Peter says that though the false teaching appeals to the appetite it will never bring you true freedom. That is a distinct mark of today's culture. We love teaching that appeals to us but never brings us into freedom.
13. The only hope of freedom is a true inward change. It's a life that has been revolutionized by God's life and commands.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why do you think Satan's strategy is to infiltrate and corrupt God's church from the inside?
3. Why do you think Peter never apologizes for saying the ungodly will be judged? It seems harsh to say but Peter makes no apology?
4. Why do we tend to spend a lot of time apologizing for God's judgment and acting as if God will just overlook sin?
5. Do you pick up a righteous anger in Peter as he writes about the destructive nature of these false teachers? Why?
6. Why does it seem so tempting to participate in the forbidden things? How can such bring a curse on my life?

APPLICATION

1. What is your answer for commercialized Christianity?
2. Do you make apologies for sin in the lives of others? Do you tend to overlook sin in others? Why?
3. What can you do to make sure you live more by Truth than by your instinct?
4. Are there areas in your life where you are not experiencing true freedom? How are you allowing God to change you?

