

Week of June 2nd, 2013

<u>This Week's Focus:</u> Peter gives warning that there will be false teachers and prophets among them who neglect the truth of Scripture and bring destructive heresies, sensuality and greed.

This Week's Text: 2 Peter 2:1-10

"Warren Wiersbe puts it well: 'The false teachers use our vocabulary, but they do not use our dictionary.' The false teachers talk about 'sin,' 'salvation,' 'inspiration,' 'God,' 'Jesus Christ,' and 'resurrection' – but they don't mean what the Bible means by these terms." Charles Swindoll

"Nothing is more wicked than for someone to claim to speak for God to the salvation of souls when in reality he speaks for Satan to the damnation of souls." **Jon MacArthur**

Related Texts: Matthew 7:15-20, Romans 16:17-20, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, 1 John 2:21-27

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- In verse 1, what certainty does Peter give us?
 - o Is this just as true today as it was for the churches in Asia Minor? Why or why not?
- What are some characteristics of false teachers?
- Why are the teachings of many false teachers so enticing?
- What are some specific examples of closed-hand issues that, if taught falsely, would be heresy?
 - What are some popular teachings today in America that are heretical?
 - What are some of the hardest false teachings for you to detect?
- What is our greatest tool for identifying and steering clear of false teachers?
- From the examples Peter gives in verses 4 10, what is the consequence for false teaching?
 - What does this show us about God's passion for the truth?

• Questions from Mark Driscoll (Lead Pastor at Mars Hill Church in Seattle, WA)

- What experiences have you personally had with false teachers?
- o Are you guilty of believing false teachings about any doctrines?
- o Are there any false teachers with whom you need to stop interacting?
- o Is there anyone you need to apologize to for wrongly judging?
- Are you more likely to consider virtually no one or virtually everyone a heretic? (Are you naïve or paranoid?)
- What can you do to grow in truth and discernment?

Gospel Celebration:

• Just as God rescued his servants in the Old Testament, we too have been rescued from sin and death through the atoning work of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

Our Response:

- Engage in God's Word, seeking truth in the Bible as the ultimate authority.
- Repent of any false doctrines you have believed or embraced.

Next Week's Text: 2 Peter 1:16-21