

GROW IN
THE
GRACE &
KNOWLEDGE
OF
OUR **LORD**
& SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST

2 Peter 3:18

2 PETER
A SOBERING TRUTH





2
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Series on 2 Peter

- Last Letter to the church
- You Have.....
 - Divine Power for Life
 - Divine Promise to Count on
 - Divine Nature in You
- Make every effort, strive to grow
- Specific about adding to your belief action
- Encouragement to strive to live up to...
- now turns to a warning

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But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

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2 Pet 2:1-22

A Sobering Truth



⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

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⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, ¹¹ whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. ¹² But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.

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They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. ¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.

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¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

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²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”



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Serious Issue Presented

- false teachers exist
- history is full of examples
- their teaching can lead to destruction
- their motives are suspect, wrong
- pay close attention

1. False teachers

- does not mention wrong doctrine only
- identifies character traits and actions

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a) Deny the Master who bought them

- diminish Jesus and elevate ourselves
- scripture clear, bought with a price

1 Cor. 6:20 “for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Peter 1:18 “¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

- take issue with the Lordship of Christ encouraging your desire over truth

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- “many will follow their sensuality”, emphasis on desire we feel over the Lord we surrender to.

b) Boastful & Reviling 10-13

- reject being under authority, unwilling to be humble and open to correction
- long to be seen as the authority
- reviling – build self up, tear others down.
- often known for their issues, what they attack and are against vs. what they believe and are for!

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c) Carousing & Greedy 13-16

- take pleasure in open activity they justify yet against God's clear word
- wording – “reveling in their deceptions”, “eyes full of adultery”, “entice unsteady souls”, “hearts trained in greed”
- two clear ideas:
 - lives of indulgence personally with their desires, encouraging others to indulge desire.
 - Looking to use others to fund their lives and celebrity

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d) Waterless Springs & Mists vs.17

- promise of satisfaction, quenching the thirst in us for God, empty
- Jesus in John 4 uses the word:
“¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
- clouds that promise rain but are empty

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e) Distorting the Gospel of Freedom

- “slaves of corruption”, whatever overcomes a person they are enslaved to
- promise that indulgence of self and desire is freedom – ‘not under law’
- make the gospel appealing to our carnal nature, denying the divine nature that is meant to grow and transform our perspective and desires

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2. God's Past Judgments

- examples of the action of God in the past punishing those who practice open rebellion

a) fallen angels vs.4

- cast from heaven, destined for eternal torment

b) flood of world vs 5 (Gen 6-8)

- saved Noah & 7 others

c) Sodom & Gomorrah vs.6 (Gen 18-19)

- rescued Lot

d) Balaam vs.15-16 (Numbers 22-24)

- loved gain from wrongdoing



3. God`s Coming Judgment

a) On those False Teachers

- “Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

- 9-10 “then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.”

- God will judge and punish, just as He has shown himself to do, and promised to do

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b) On the Followers

- we love things that “tickle our ears”

Isaiah 30:9-11 “For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD;¹⁰ who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions,¹¹ leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” ”

- history shows our bent this way
- Paul clear in 2 Tim

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2 Tim 4:3-4 “³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

- scary words from Peter in vs. 20 “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.”



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c) inner nature remains unchanged

- doesn't matter what they claim, return to the nature in them
- dogs to vomit
- pigs to mire in muck
- stand to give account for own sin



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So What?

1. Serious Issue

- eternity at stake

2. God Will Judge

- penalty not in question

3. Teachers Take Care

- stay humble, accountable, careful

4. Watch Who You Give Influence to

- know the truth
- know the signs
- take great care