

False Teachers: Ruin, Annihilation, and Destruction
2 Peter 1:19-2:3

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 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.

False teachers will secretly bring in destructive heresies.

*The result: swift destruction. (vv. 1b, 3b)

*Their MO/message: sexual license or sensuality or exploitation regarding greed.

*The cascading effect: "Many will follow." (v. 2a)

God's remedy:

1. To know and act upon the apostolic truth. (1:13-21)

"There are many who stumble in the noon day, not for want of light, but for the want of eyes; and they who now see were once blind, even as others, and had neither power nor will to enlighten their own minds. It is a mercy, however, when people are so far sensible of their own blindness, as to be willing to wait for the manifestation of the Lord's power, in the ordinances of His appointment.

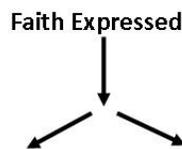
He came into the world, and sends forth His Gospel, that those who see not, may see; and when there is a desire in the heart for spiritual sight, it shall in due time be answered.:

John Newton, *The Letters of John Newton*

2. Study and know the truth in the context of community. (1:5-7, 1 Peter 1:22)

"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

Martin Luther, "Defense of All the Articles"



- **Matthew 7:21ff**
- **1 John 2:19:** "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us."

Many dangers, toils, snares, and temptations; and when we fall, we repent and run to the cross.

"Those whom God has accepted in Christ, called and sanctified by his Spirit can neither totally or finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end...then shall be kept by the power of God

unto salvation...they being engraven upon the palms of his hands, and their names being written in the book of life from all eternity.

They may fall into grievous sins and continue in them for a time, due to the temptation of Satan and the world, the strength of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation. In so doing, they incur God's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit; their graces and comforts become impaired; their hearts are hardened and their consciences wounded; they hurt and scandalize others and bring temporary judgments on themselves. Nevertheless, they will renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.”

1689 Confession of Faith, Article 17, 1b, 3



Make your calling and election sure. (1:10)