

The False Teachers and Their Message
2 Peter 2:10-16

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. 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.

Previously we've discussed the reconstructing of the message of the false teachers (2:1-3). This involved:

1. Teachers coming from within the church who will secretly introduce destructive heresies.
2. The destructive heresies involve carnality and greed.
3. Many would be led astray and blaspheme the truth of the gospel of Christ.

In 2:4-10, Peter discusses the coming judgment upon the false teachers. "Their destruction is not asleep." (v. 3) He also underscores the fact that God is able to rescue the godly from trials while simultaneously keeping the unrighteous under punishment until the Day of Judgment. (v. 9)

Aspects of the false teachers' message:

1. There is no fear of GOD (v. 10b) because there is no healthy concept of an omnipresent Abba Father who watches over us.
2. Because there is no acknowledgement of God, there is no shame over their misconduct therefore they carouse in the daytime. (v. 13)
3. The abuse of the Lord's Supper which at that time was a communal meal. (v. 13b)
4. They have an insatiable desire for carnality: "They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin." (v. 14)
5. They have intentionally left the right way and gone astray (v. 15a)
6. These false teachers seduce the young believers who are unschooled in their faith, i.e. they "entice unsteady souls" (v. 14b) and "those who are barely escaping from those who live in error". (v. 18b)
7. They promise a freedom which is freedom from the moral law and judgment. When in reality these false teachers are slaves of corruption. (v. 19)

Therefore the nature of their sin is:

- Devilish/destructive
- Ungodly
- Slavish/enslaving
- Tragic/tyrannical

"Is it the end of religion to make men happy, and is it not every one's privilege to be as happy as he can?" Whitefield asked an audience, "Does [Jesus] want your heart only for the same end as the devil does, to make you miserable? No, he only wants you to believe on him, that you might be saved. This, this, is all the dear Savior desires, to make you happy, that you may leave your sins, to sit down eternally with him." George Whitefield (1714-1770)

"The minister may lawfully appeal to the desire for happiness and its negative counterpart, the dread of unhappiness. Those philosophers who insist that we ought always to do right simply and only because it is right are not philosophers at all, for they are either grossly ignorant of human nature or else indulging in mere fanciful speculations."

John Broadus, *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*, p. 117

"I would sooner be holy than happy if the two things could be divorced...to be free from the power of sin, to be made to love holiness is true happiness. A man who is holy is in order with the creation; he is in

harmony with God...As sure as God is happy the holy man is happy.”
Charles Spurgeon, *Sermons*, Volume 9, p. 177

I. We all embrace a world view.

“¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”

Romans 6:16-18

II. The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials!

III. There will be a great day of reckoning and these false teachers will be “destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing”. (2:12b-13a)

IV. One of the chief ways to fight the devilish onslaught of false teachers is to continually load our minds with the greatness and majesty of all that Christ is for us. (2 Peter 1:1-4)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can the world view that denies the reality of God and has no fear of offending a holy God delude one into living a life where there is no sense of shame? (Note that the shame was manifested in this passage because the people caroused in broad daylight instead of waiting until night to carry out their deeds).
2. How do we see manifestations of a lifestyle of carnality that leads to an insatiable desire in the area of sexuality?
3. Why did the false teachers prey upon “unsteady souls” or those who were young in the faith? Why does this means of attack underscore the importance of being a vital member of a local church?
4. Read Romans 6:16-18 regarding being a servant of one world view or another. What is the apostle Paul saying?
5. How do we load our minds with the superiority, grandeur, and majesty of Christ?