

2 Peter 2:1-14 Beware...!

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.

They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

PRAY

In a moderate city back east there were these 2 Brothers who were two very rotten individuals / they were the cause of much of the crime in that area

A)Prostitutes / gambling / you name it they had a part in it !- Result they had become very wealthy -

B)The older of the two brothers was killed in an car accident –

1)and his younger brother wanted to have a nice funeral for his brother

C)But who would do it? – No one liked these two brothers

D)So this younger brother – approached a pastor of one of the local churches /

1)this particular Pastor had a church that was growing but their building was in need of a lot of repairs and updating

E)So this was the younger brothers plan – He told the Pastor – I want you to do my brothers funeral – and he said I will make you a deal –

1)You tell all the people in this town at the funeral that my brother was a Saint and I will write you a check for \$800K

What would this pastor do? Jesus said to be as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.

A)The Pastor thought for a minute – said ok -you have a deal on one condition- I want the check right now!

B)The Brother agreed and wrote the check!

C)Well the day of the funeral came and the church was packed – mainly out of curiosity –

1)what would this pastor say about this wicked man?

D)As the pastor began his message –he said we are gathered here today because this man has died - This guy was a dirty rotten scoundrel - who caused this community nothing but trouble / Prostitution / drug dealings / theft – you name it – he was a part of it –

E)He was a Horrible man - but compared to his younger brother – he was a saint

Here in 2 Peter – Peter warns us about those who try to influence the flock of God in a negative way.

A) Those who would seek to Manipulate the Body of Christ for their own personal Gain

B) In John 21 Jesus met with his disciples after his resurrection

C) and it was there that Jesus commissioned a restored Peter to Pastoral ministry

D) He told Peter his mission was to Feed the flock of God and to tend to the lambs.

1) Feeding the word of God and tending or caring for the flock is the job of a Pastor.

Here in 2 Peter we see that Peter has been faithful to that call

A) In Ch 1 he is feeding – Reminding the believers of what they **have been given in Jesus – everything life and godliness**

B) Reminding them of what their faith is built upon –

1) Eyewitness testimony and the confirmed word of Prophecy

C) And as we come to chapter 2 we see that Peter is tending –

1) and part of tending and caring for the flock is to warn them

D) Been said that a pastor who only feeds the sheep and doesn't warn the sheep is **only fattening them up for the KILL**

So Peter is warning the church about false teachers

A) Warnings are a normal part of the Bible –

B) Because God loves us enough to warn us against things that can hurt us or hurt the church

C) I like walking in my neighborhood – prayer walks in the morning/ I walk my dog almost every evening

D) Some of my neighbors have Beware of Dogs signs

1) but on the other side of the fence is a Poodle dog – really ?

Well God is not warning us about poodles – he describes these false teachers in this way:

A) V.12-13 as Natural brute beast who feast on people

B) Here in Ch 2:1-14 Peter gives us three principles to keep in mind in dealing with false teachers:

1) Be Aware, Be Assured, Be aligned

C) Be Aware of their falsehood, Be Assured of their fate, Be Aligned with the faithful.

Beware of their falsehood: - 5 things to watch out for

A) #1 They are always around - V.1 **But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you**

B) There has always been false teachers and there will always be false teachers –

1) those who seek to lead others astray.

One of the most sobering passages in the Bible for a Pastor Acts 20

A) Set the scene – Paul calls the Pastors and Elders of the church of Ephesus to meet with him on the Island of Miletus –

B) A mini retreat or Pastors conference – Paul loves these men – **he Pastored that church for 3 years – longest pastorate**

1) Paul knows this is the last time he will probably see these guys

C) This is what he tells them:

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

A) I love this verse – great reminder that the church belongs to God **shepherd the church of God** –

B) It is also a great verse declaring the Deity of Christ – **He purchased with His own blood.**

C) It is God's church which he purchased with his blood – **Who shed his blood to purchase the Church? 1) Jesus! Jesus is God!**

D)Also a Reminder for Pastors and leaders to take heed to ourselves – pay attention to our walks

1)Can't live in compromise!

But then Paul tells us why they need to take heed and to stay focused - ²⁹For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

A)Savage Wolves will come in among you-

B)Now note this Wolves don't normally show up at churches like this dressed as wolves

1)They wouldn't make it in the front door – we have a security team here:

C)The Problem is wolves come in dressed like Sheep – they try to blend in.

D)But Wolves eat sheep – that is how you can eventually tell who they are

1)Wolves prey on the sheep

So the first thing Peter wants us to be Aware of is there is a good chance that there are wolves in our midst – pay attention

A)Be on the alert – be watching - Be on guard – be on the lookout – WOLF METER

#2 Beware of their subtle approach

A)V.1b They secretly bring in destructive heresies

B)Word secret – could be translated – subtly – not blatant not outright

C)They sound good, they speak the truth, they use the right terminology – they talk about the gospel

D)They can come across profound – Wow did you hear that? – But really what did he say?

It starts subtly – the truth mixed with a little bit of lies – very small at first

A)They know how to mix a little bit of poison into the truth very subtly

B)But once they get a following - Their tactics get flipped

1)It starts with them adding a little bit of poison very subtly into a lot of truth

C)But once they have a following - – It gets flipped

1)now they are mixing a little bit of truth into a lot of poison.

D)That is why we have to be Bereans – the Bereans searched the scriptures to fact check –

1)everything that the Apostle Paul taught We need to be that way.

E)Be aware they are always around, Be aware of their Subtle approach

#3 Beware of their tactics –

They subtly bring in destructive heresies that are aimed at two things

A)Denying the Lordship of Jesus – Deny his deity – Jesus is not God

B)Always ask Who is Jesus? Is He God!

C)They Deny the atoning work of Jesus – they deny the Lord who bought them

D)Salvation is by works of men – rather than the atoning work of Christ

True Bible teaching is ALWAYS going to spend more time emphasizing what God has done for us.

A)And far less time emphasizing what we need to be doing for God

B)Note that – You start hearing teaching that is over emphasizing what you need to be doing for God – 1)Beware!

C)Be aware of their subtle approach, be aware of their tactics – the nature of their destructive heresies

#4 Beware of their Motives V.3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. ESV

A)They want something from you. They want power. They want money. They want status.

B)And they will make merchandise of you. They will exploit you.

C)They want to take advantage of people – Wolves prey on Sheep

Again in Acts 20 Paul issued this warning - ³⁰Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking

perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

A) That is also a characteristic – they are drawing people to themselves

B) Beware – I have attained to a higher spirituality

Bb) I have this secret revelation – special gifts and insights you too can be like me –

1) Drawing people to themselves –

C) Paul says – **right here from among yourselves** –

1) One of you could end up being a wolf – if you don't take heed to yourselves.

D) **Don't think to highly of yourselves – more highly than you ought**

1) I get leery of someone who starts telling me how spiritual they are

Over the years – many different ploys to fleece the Flock

A) Buy Splinters from the Cross of Christ -

B) Sold enough splinters to build a boat the size of the May flower

C) **In Naples Italy – there is a Church that for 100yrs sold vials of Milk that they said came from Mary's Breast – thru which she fed baby Jesus**

1) They somehow were able to **preserve it & Just happen to have gallons of it -**

D) Another “ministry” selling Water from the Jordan river – little vial \$25.00 / Israel for a Buck

They are seeing to exploit people.

A) Word faith teachers – You have to give to get – You want a blessings – then give to our ministry.

B) The more faith you have the more you will give – the greater blessing you will receive

C) Whenever I hear these guys – I think – who in their right mind would believe this garbage –

1) People do by the 10's of thousands

D) I saw an article in the Christian post this week – America's richest Pastors and at the top of the list was

1) Kenneth Copeland – net worth \$350 million

Beware or be aware of their subtly, their tactics (distort truth) their motives

#5 Beware of how they despise authority

A) They have no accountability – they are unteachable –

B) they don't respond well to correction because they think they are “ABOVE” everyone else

V.10 “¹⁰ especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority. Bold, arrogant people! They are not afraid to slander the glorious ones.” CSB

C) **Bold and Arrogant:**

1) One who is “bold” rides roughshod over the rights, opinions, and interests of others, whether they be human or divine.

D) One who is “arrogant” goes even further; they cannot be reasoned with.

There is a bit of debate among scholars as to who the dignitaries is referring to?

A) Is it leaders, Govt leaders or is it speaking of the angels and God himself

B) Many scholars believe because of the statement made in **V.11 that even the angels in heaven don't speak evil of other angels**

1) That could be what it is referring to

C) These guys are so high and mighty and think so highly of themselves

1) that they are not afraid to speak evil of anyone.

D) They are arrogant and unteachable.

Now after telling us what we need to Beware of

A) It is almost as if Peter anticipates our frustration – these guys are getting away with murder –

B) David – **why do the wicked prosper? – Lord how long**

C) **2nd thing that Peter wants us to note about the false teachers is –**

1) He wants us to be Assured of their fate.

Make no mistake of it these guys are going to get theirs

A)Over and over again throughout--woven throughout the entire text is the fact that these false prophets have a judgment that is severe.

V1, **They bring on themselves swift destruction";**
V3, **"and their destruction does not slumber"** (not be delayed)

V12, **"and they will utterly perish in their own corruption";**

V13, **"and will receive the wages of unrighteousness."**

C)To highlight how severe their Judgment will be

1)Peter gives 3 examples of some of the most severe Judgments in history V.4-9

First Peter mentions the Angels rebelled and who were put in chains in Hell until the day of Judgment

A)Then he highlights the World being flooded in the days of Noah because of the worlds rebellion against God

B)Then he highlights the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah –

1)who turned from God to pursue gross immorality that included homosexuality

C)Those two cities were completely obliterated by God.

D)By using those three examples it was his way of saying – this is what is in store for the false teachers

E)That should scare the HE -double hockey sticks out of false teachers - But it doesn't

Now some people might ask – Why is God being so harsh with these guys?

A)Answer God hates anything that hurts his kids

B)You get that - think as a parent what would you do if you saw another mother feeding her baby poison –

C)Bottle with the skull and cross bones – spoon – you would rush over and try to save that baby –
1)you would call the authorities

D)Some of you ladies might even – go Rambo on that momma – little Physical force

E)Why because you are wanted to protect that Baby.

1)Well God is the same way with his kids

So Peter tells us to Beware of their falsehood

A)Be Assured of their fate – severe Judgment is coming

B)Finally – **Be aligned with the faithful**

C)Peter gives us to examples of those who were faithful – Noah and Lot

Now Noah I think we understand – Noah was a guy who went against the tide – against the grain

A)Noah was a picture of a faithful guy – a righteous man

B)He and his family were considered the only God fearing people on the planet

1)when God decided to destroy it with a flood

C))We think we have it bad. – Your family alone

For 120 years Noah was a preacher of righteousness – calling people to repentance and no one listened..

A)Under lots of ridicule he built the ark – even though he had never seen rain – water from the sky

B)But Noah believed the word of God –

C)Noah stands as an example to us of a man that we are to be aligned with

See God calls us to swim against the tide of this world

A)In a world that is getting darker by the day – God tells us **to stand in the Light – to stand for righteousness**

B)So I think we understand the example of Noah –

C)Noah was a last day's believer – and we too are to be last day's believers

D)But what about Lot – Peter calls him righteous lot

If you are familiar with his story – that statement might leave you scratching your head.

A) Lot seemed anything but righteous –

B) Lot left Ur with Abraham – herds and servants grew too big – quarrels

C) We need to separate – YOU CHOOSE

1) You can read about this in Genesis 13 –

D) Lot chose the plains of Sodom because it reminded him of Egypt

1) Egypt was a worldly place –

E) Lot was enticed by the world – Moves his family to live on the outskirts of the city

Lot is a picture of the believer who says “let’s see how close we can get to the world without being Contaminated”

A) If you have ever done that you know the world has a way of just sucking you in.

B) Pretty soon Lot and his family are living in the city

1) they are getting even more comfortable with a worldly ungodly lifestyle -

C) By the time we get to Genesis 19 the Lord is fed up with the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah

1) Sending Angels to destroy those two cities

When the Angels arrive in Sodom – they find Lot sitting in the gates.

A) Here is what is significant of that statement – the gates were the place where the leadership would sit

B) The Courthouse and people would bring their disputes

C) So we find Lot sitting in the gates – he has moved to a position of leadership

D) I will be honest I have looked at that as another sign in Lot's downward progression until this weekend

E) Notice what Peter writes in V.7 This leapt off the page at me –

⁷and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸(for that righteous

man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)

B) Peter is telling us Lot wasn't comfortable in Sodom he was oppressed by the lifestyle –

1) his righteous soul was tormented day after day.

C) My opinion – I think Lot was in a place of leadership because he was trying to make a change –

He might have been infatuated by the worldliness at first – but after a while it took its toll on him.

A) If you have ever tried to live on the fence as a Christian – miserable –

B) Too much of Jesus to really enjoy the world

C) Too much of the world to really enjoy the Lord – the worst place to be

Now listen: I think we can find ourselves identifying with Lot -living here in California –

A) Wickedness is growing – Immorality is being shoved down our throats like never before

B) We can feel oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

1) Our souls can **feel tormented** by the growing wickedness in our day

I understand why a lot of Christians are fleeing CA

A) I don't want to raise my kids here – I can't handle this anymore.

B) I have talked with several families who have felt like I have got to get out of here.

C) I fully support those in our fellowship who have seriously prayed and have felt they are to move.

But I also know that God is going to call some of us to stay and fight!

A) Talking to One family considering moving -God said no – so they bought a house here. – Staying here

B) Jesus said We are called to be Salt and Light

C) Jesus said – Light has to be seen – it is meant to stand out in the darkness

And Salt was used in that day in enhanced flavor – salt was a preserving element –

A) didn't have refrigeration –

B) salt was used to heal wounds

C) But in order for salt to do any of those things – it has to be dumped out of the salt Shaker

We are called to enhance the flavor of our society

A) We are called to be a preserving element – to stand and speak out against immorality –

B) to protest ungodly practices that our being introduced into our schools

1) Join school board and city councils and vote

C) And We are to be healing agents in the lives of people who are being wounded by sin

D) But in order to do any of that – We must allow God to pour us out – Can't isolate

E) The message for us as Christians in these last days is not to hunker down and isolate ourselves

1) it is not to go into hiding

Lord here I am you can use me – here I am Lord send me

I was blessed yesterday to attend a memorial service for Victor Paddia

A) His son Gabe is a Pastor in Pennsylvania – he told the story of the man who led his dad to the Lord –

B) in the Navy -on a Ship US Bainbridge-The man who led Victor to the Lord was named Roger –

C) Gabe said he was an on fire Christian –

1) who was preaching to everyone on the ship – no one would listen

D) So Roger prayed – Lord give me one! Just give me one – His one was Victor

E) And Victor went on to influence many people for Jesus-

1) Victor became a Pastor – Victor raised his kids in the Lord and his son is now a Pastor

F) Victor left a legacy that will definitely out live him.

And get this – all of that is not just Victor's fruit – but Rogers's fruit too.

A) I want to encourage all of us to pray – that by this time next year the Lord will have given each one of us ONE

B) Let's all PRAY – LORD GIVE ME ONE – one person to lead to Jesus

One last thing before we go!

A) See Peter presents a principle here that we see throughout scripture

B) Before God ruins the ungodly – he rescues the Godly

C) See Noah and Lot were rescued by God before the Judgment came

⁹ then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment

The world is getting darker by the day – and we know that a Judgment is coming –

A) God is going to pour out his wrath on a Christ rejecting world

B) But Paul the apostle when speaking of that coming wrath and Judgment said this

⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

C) There is wrath that is coming – but we have not been appointed unto wrath but to obtain salvation

D) Comfort one another – God is going to rescue the godly his church – before he ruins the ungodly

E) right now our mindset – the house is on fire and we need to get people out.

1) Lord give me one!