

SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

Part 8

2 PETER

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In part 7 we studied verse one of 2 Peter chapter 2. Not only did Peter warn you and I, followers of Jesus Christ (or the Word) about false teaching in the Church in the last days.... So did: Paul, Jesus, Jude and John.

2 Peter 2:1 AMPC

2 But also [in those days] there arose false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among yourselves, who will subtly and stealthily introduce heretical doctrines (destructive heresies), even denying and disowning the Master Who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:1 KJV

2 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

“Privily shall bring in damnable heresies”: The false teachers parade themselves as Christian pastors, teachers, and evangelists (Jude 4) and shall speak with concealed intent. Twisting the truth and or avoiding the truth (The Word) all together

“Heresies”: means self-designed religious lies which lead to division and faction (1 Corinthians 11:19; Gal. 5:20).

2 Peter 2:2 AMPC

2 And many will follow their immoral ways and lascivious doings; because of them the true Way will be maligned and defamed.

2 Peter 2:2 KJV

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

“Pernicious”: in the verse above, means spiritual ruin, or loss. It is so strange to me that more people will believe a lie than will believe the Truth.

Many people will profess to be Christians but deny Christ’s lordship over their lives, refusing to live as obedient servants to Christ and His Word, following instead the lusts of the flesh, the world, and the devil.

Such nominal Christians tragically will be included in the Lord’s condemnation of hypocrites at the judgment (Matt. 7:21-23; Jude 4, 7).

Matthew 7:21-23 AMPC

21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

23 *And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].*

Jude 4 AMPC

4 *For certain men have crept in stealthily [[a]gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

Jude 7 AMPC

7 *[The wicked are sentenced to suffer] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns—which likewise gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity—are laid out [in plain sight] as an exhibit of perpetual punishment [to warn] of everlasting fire.*

“The way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”: The world mocks and scoffs at the gospel of Jesus Christ because of nominal Christians who do not follow the Lord they claim, and have been unmasked as hypocritical people.

Note: _____

2 Peter 2:3 AMPC

3 And in their covetousness (lust, greed) they will exploit you with false (cunning) arguments. From of old the sentence [of condemnation] for them has not been idle; their destruction (eternal misery) has not been asleep.

2 Peter 2:3 KJV

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

“And through covetousness”: That is, uncontrolled greed. Peter observed that the underlying motive of the false teachers was not love of the truth, but love of money. They exploited people through their lies.

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel's] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.

11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].

12 Come, say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

“Covetousness”: This means to desire something that belongs to someone else. They actually seek after these lies. Those who choose a lie over Jesus will find damnation awaiting them.

“Feigned”: Invented; devised; imagined; (sounds like privily: concealed intent). We should not be amazed that many in the church will hang on to false doctrines and believe it, before they believe the Truth. Jesus was the Truth, and they did not believe Him.

“Whose judgment ... lingereth not”: The principle that God is going to sentence (condemn) false teachers to eternal torment was set in place in eternity past, repeated throughout the Old Testament, and is “not idle” in the sense that it has not worn out or become ineffective. It is still potent and will come to pass (see Jude 4).

“Their damnation slumbereth not”: Peter is personifying destruction as if destruction were an executioner who is fully awake and alert, ready to act. Because God is by nature a God of truth, HE will judge all liars and deceivers.

2 Peter 2:4 AMPC

4 For God did not [even] spare angels that sinned, but cast them into hell, delivering them to be kept there in pits of gloom till the judgment and their doom.

2 Peter 2:4 KJV

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

“If”: This is better translated “since”, because there is no doubt about the history of judgment which Peter is about to recount. Verses 4-10, are one long sentence with the conclusion to the “since” clause which is beginning in verse 9).

Lest anyone think that God is too loving and merciful to judge the wicked false teachers and their deceived people, Peter gives 3 powerful illustrations of past divine judgment on the wicked. These illustrations set the precedents for the future and final judgment on liars and deceivers.

1. Angels that did not keep their own domain. Before the flood (verse 4; Gen 6:1-3), who left their normal state and lusted after women (verse 4; see Jude 6);
2. Spared not the old world (verse 5; Genesis chapters 6 – 8);
3. Before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (verse 6; Gen. 19).

Note: What we are about to read in Peter’s letter is the same thing Jude was writing, preaching and teaching as well. Peter, Paul, Jude and John used the word “WE” when explaining the gospel that they had already been teaching, not in conflict, not deviating from the Words of Jesus, the Word of the Prophets or the Apostles themselves. They were all speaking the same “thing” the Truth.

Let’s look at the word of Jude written to the believer about the last days...

Jude AMPC

3 Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God].

4 For certain men have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Pastor, preacher and teacher will not talk about sin, judgment and righteousness. They will not talk about the rapture because it means judgment, they will not take about hell because it means judgment.

Note: _____

*5 Now I want to remind you, though you were fully informed once for all, that though **the Lord [at one time] delivered a people out of the land of Egypt. He subsequently destroyed those [of them] who did not believe [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him].***

They were “once saved” or delivered from their captivity, their bondage. However, because of their refusal to be obedient to God’s Word they were destroyed or condemned. (Once save but not always saved)

Note: _____

6 And angels who did not keep (care for, guard, and hold to) their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place—these He has reserved in custody in eternal chains (bonds) under the thick gloom of utter darkness until the judgment and doom of the great day.

Angels, they were once with God, but they did not keep or hold unto or guard themselves from deception.

Note: _____

7 *[The wicked are sentenced to suffer] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns—which likewise gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity—are laid out [in plain sight] as an exhibit of perpetual punishment [to warn] of everlasting fire.*

Jesus said one of the signs when He returns at His Coming is “it will be as in the days of Lot”. Notice, the church or God’s People knew this was sin but, gave themselves over to it. Someone told them or they believed it was no longer sin.

Genesis 3: 1-4 AMPC

1 *Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?*

2 *And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden,*

3 *Except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.*

4 *But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,*

Note: _____

Verse 8 is very specific and parallel with Peter and Isaiah...

8 Nevertheless in like manner, these dreamers also corrupt the body, scorn and reject authority and government, and revile and libel and scoff at [heavenly] glories (the glorious ones).

Who are these dreamers in Jude 8?

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel's] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.

11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].

12 Come, say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

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3 And in their covetousness (lust, greed) they will exploit you with false (cunning) arguments. From of old the sentence [of condemnation] for them has not been idle; their destruction (eternal misery) has not been asleep.

Though God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11), He must judge wickedness because His holiness requires it (2 Thess. 1:7-9) It's not His desire but we need to repent (2P Peter 2:9)

Ezekiel 33:11 AMPC

11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 AMPC

7 And to [recompense] you who are so distressed and afflicted [by granting you] relief and rest along with us [your fellow sufferers] when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire,

8 To deal out retribution (chastisement and vengeance) upon those who do not know or perceive or become acquainted with God, and [upon those] who ignore and refuse to obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 Such people will pay the penalty and suffer the punishment of everlasting ruin (destruction and perdition) and eternal exclusion and banishment from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2 Peter 3:9 AMPC

*9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, **but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.***

Note: _____



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