

SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

Part 7

2 PETER

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2 Peter Chapter 2: This chapter is very similar to the book of Jude. So serious is the danger from false prophets and false teachers in this current dispensation, that the Holy Spirit inspired both men to address these issues near the end of their lives. Warning their generation and all generations that would follow.

Matthew 24:33 AMPC

33 So also when you see these signs, all taken together, coming to pass, you may know of a surety that He is near, at the very doors.

Matthew 24:36-42 AMPC

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For just as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, [men] marrying and [women] being given in marriage, until the [very] day when Noah went into the ark,

39 And they did not know or understand until the flood came and swept them all away—so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

40 At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

41 Two women will be grinding at the hand mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

42 Watch therefore [give strict attention, be cautious and active], for you do not know in what kind of a day [whether a near or remote one] your Lord is coming.

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.

In chapter one of 2nd Peter we saw holy men of God moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God writing to the believers, messages to be taken to heart. Beginning in chapter two of 2 Peter, we will see some who have wandered from the truth, and were proclaiming themselves to be prophets... their message is false.

We know there is a terrible punishment awaiting those who teach false doctrines. Peter describes false teachers in detail in this chapter so that Christians would always recognize their characteristics and methods. The greatest tool that Satan uses is misrepresentation of the truth and its consequent deception. Nothing is more wicked than for someone to claim to speak for God to the salvation of souls when in reality he speaks for Satan to the damnation of souls. (Deut. 1:13-18; 18:20; Jer. 23; Ezek. 13; Matt. 7:15; 23:1-36; 24:4-5; Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 11:13-14; Gal. 3:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:3-4).

“Among the people”: Peter’s point is that Satan has always endeavored to infiltrate groups of believers with the deceptions of false teachers (John 8:44).

Below, Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders of the day in John 8 and telling them who they serve. They prove or reveal by the words they speak (lies, deception, withhold truth) and the lives they live that they are following satan.

John 8:38-44 AMPC

38 I tell the things which I have seen and learned at My Father’s side, and your actions also reflect what you have heard and learned from your father.

39 They retorted, Abraham is our father. Jesus said, If you were [truly] Abraham’s children, then you would do the works of Abraham [follow his example, do as Abraham did].

40 But now [instead] you are wanting and seeking to kill Me, a Man Who has told you the truth which I have heard from God. This is not the way Abraham acted.

41 You are doing the works of your [own] father. They said to Him, We are not illegitimate children and born out of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

42 Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love Me and respect Me and welcome Me gladly, for I proceeded (came forth) from God [out of His very presence]. I did not even come on My own authority or of My own accord (as self-appointed); but He sent Me.

43 Why do you misunderstand what I say? It is because you are unable to hear what I am saying. [You cannot bear to listen to My message; your ears are shut to My teaching.]

44 You are of your father, the devil, and it is your will to practice the lusts and gratify the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a falsehood, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar [himself] and the father of lies and of all that is false.

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me [do not trust Me, do not rely on Me, or adhere to Me].

Since Eve, satan has been in the deceit business...

Genesis 3:1-7 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,

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles.

Naked defined:

Not covered; lacking protection; Exposed to shame and disgrace; Unarmed; defenseless; open; exposed; having no means of defense or protection against an enemy's attack.

“Privily shall bring in damnable heresies”: The false teachers parade themselves as Christian pastors, teachers, and evangelists (Jude 4).

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).

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

1 Corinthians 11:18-19 AMPC

18 For in the first place, when you assemble as a congregation, I hear that there are cliques (divisions and factions) among you; and I in part believe it,

19 For doubtless there have to be factions or parties among you in order that they who are genuine and of approved fitness may become evident and plainly recognized among you.

Galatians 5:20 AMPC

*20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, **divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies).***

The Greek word for “destructive” basically means damnation. This word is used 6 times in this letter and always speaks of the final damnation (see verses 1-3; 3:7, 16).

This is why it is so tragic when a church makes a virtue out of the toleration of unscriptural teachings and aids in the name of love and unity (2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Titus 3:9-11).

2 Thessalonians 3:14 AMPC

*14 But if anyone [in the church] refuses to obey what we say in this letter, **take note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he may be ashamed.***

Note: _____

1 Corinthians 5:9-12 AMPC

9 I wrote you in my [previous] letter not to associate [closely and habitually] with unchaste (impure) people—

10 Not [meaning of course that you must] altogether shun the immoral people of this world, or the greedy graspers and cheats and thieves or idolaters, since otherwise you would need to get out of the world and human society altogether!

11 But now I write to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of [Christian] brother if he is known to be guilty of immorality or greed, or is an idolater [whose soul is devoted to any object that usurps the place of God], or is a person with a foul tongue [railing, abusing, reviling, slandering], or is a drunkard or a swindler or a robber. [No] you must not so much as eat with such a person.

12 What [business] of mine is it and what right have I to judge outsiders? Is it not those inside [the church] upon whom you are to pass disciplinary judgment [passing censuring sentence on them as the facts require]?

1 Timothy 4:1-5 AMPC

1 But the [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach,

2 Through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized)

Titus 3:9-11 AMPC

9 But avoid stupid and foolish controversies and genealogies and dissensions and wrangling about the Law, for they are unprofitable and futile.

10 [As for] a man who is factious [a heretical sectarian and cause of divisions], after admonishing him a first and second time, reject [him from your fellowship and have nothing more to do with him],

11 Well aware that such a person has utterly changed (is perverted and corrupted); he goes on sinning [though he] is convicted of guilt and self-condemned.

From the writings of Peter, Paul, Jude and Jesus... here's John.

1 John 4:1-3 AMPC

1 Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world.

2 By this you may know (perceive and recognize) the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges and confesses [the fact] that Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [actually] has become man and has come in the flesh is of God [has God for its source];

3 And every spirit which does not acknowledge and confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh [but would [a]nnul, destroy, sever, disunite Him] is not of God [does not proceed from Him]. This [nonconfession] is the [spirit] of the antichrist, [of] which you heard that it was coming, and now it is already in the world.

We see, in the above Scriptures, the way to determine whether the message is of God, or not. The Holy Spirit, the one that Jesus or the Word is referring to, can and will only speak the truth.

John 16:1-14 AMPC

1 I have told you all these things, so that you should not be offended (taken unawares and falter, or be caused to stumble and fall away). [I told you to keep you from being scandalized and repelled.]

2 They will put you out of (expel you from) the synagogues; but an hour is coming when whoever kills you will think and claim that he has offered service to God.

3 And they will do this because they have not known the Father or Me.

4 But I have told you these things now, so that when they occur you will remember that I told you of them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

5 But now I am going to Him Who sent Me, yet none of you asks Me, Where are You going?

6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts [taken complete possession of them].

Note: _____

7 However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

8 And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment:

9 About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];

10 About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;

11 About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him.

12 I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now.

13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

14 He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

Matthew 24:5 AMPC

5 For many will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray.

We see from the writing of Peter, Paul, Jude, John and Jesus that many will be deceived. The only way not to be deceived is for us to study the Word of God, and check everything out by that Word. If the message elevates Jesus up to the fullness of the godhead, it is true.

“Denying the Lord”: This phrase exposes the depth of the crime and guilt of the false teachers. This Greek word for “Master” or “Lord” appears 10 times in the New Testament and means one who has supreme authority or divine authority.

Peter here warns that false prophets deny the sovereign lordship of Jesus Christ. Though their heresies may include the denial of the virgin birth, deity, bodily resurrection and second coming of Christ, the false teachers’ basic error is that they will not submit their lives to the rule of Christ or the Word. They will deviate from the truth to align with a godless culture.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 AMPC

1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.

3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and **vain amusements** more than and rather than lovers of God.

5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. **Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].**

Note: Vain amusements are activities that provide futile, pointless, or empty pleasure, offering no lasting value or benefit. The word "vain" here emphasizes that the amusement doesn't achieve any worthwhile outcome or is ultimately meaningless. It means that the activity, thought(s) and or life lived is empty or superficial: It suggests a lack of substance or genuine significance, providing only a fleeting or hollow sense of satisfaction.



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