

2 Peter - Week 6

Expect the Unexpected – Satan Will Attack the Church

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)- 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

- Beware, promised freedom can bring **bondage**.
- Religious hucksters are always going to be found in the last place expected...the **church**.
- If you don't know **truth** and God's Word, you will be easily fooled by **error**.
- Every false prophet **pretends** to speak for God and many are deceived by their own self.
- Peter struggled with these false prophets who tried to smuggle in **destructive** heresies.

The **Doctrine** of Heretics

- Satan will always offer **counterfeits** to compromise the Word of God.
- Every false teacher has this one thing in common: what they speak is filled with **some** truth and **lies**.
- The **prosperity** Gospel is one such lie.
- Satan has counterfeits all over the world and one day will produce a fake **Christ**.

Peter describes just what false teachers look like.

False doctrine and heretics cannot exist in harmony with Gospel truth.

1. They are full of deception.

- “Feel good religion” leads to “feel bad future.”
- Heresy originally meant to make a choice but became a sect or party in Peter’s day.
- Heresy is a belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religion especially Christian doctrine, or an opinion profoundly at odds with what is generally accepted.
- False prophets or teachers force you to make a choice between their doctrine and true Christian faith.
- Feigned words: The Greek word is *plastos*. The English word would translate plastic words.
- They can use vocabulary but never use a dictionary.

Satan with Eve

- Satan questioned God’s Word: “Has God really said...?”
- Satan denied God’s Word: “you shall not really die.”
- Satan substituted his own lie: “Ye shall be as God.”

2. False teachers live in denial.

False teachers are better known about what they deny than what they believe.

Final thoughts:

- Biblical error is always destructive. (A little leaven....)
- Most heretics are usually motivated by money, power, or selfishness.
- Look at their hearts by what they say, and what you see.
- Beware of believers who claim to have a secret knowledge of the ways of God.
- Christian freedom is not a license to live anyway you desire.
- Most prosperity gospel preachers can only preach it in America.
- We are called to test the spirits.