

2 Peter - Week 8

False Freedoms

2 Peter 2:17 These men (false teachers) are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity-for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

- Many claim to be set free from the Christian faith they grew up in, when in actuality, they just quit **believing** truth or they never really trusted the truth they heard.
- At the same time, you will meet people who have turned away from all organized religion and **faith** claiming to enjoy a new freedom.
- **Freedom** is a concept that is very important in today's world. Americans claim to have it. The world wants it. What does freedom really mean? It's the **power** or right to speak or think as one wants.
- In marriage we teach freedom is being willing to allow your mate to **think** and **feel** differently than you without a war breaking out.

Signs of a False Teacher

1. False teachers teach what is beneficial to themselves and they desire to hold the **power**.
2. False teachers make a lot of **wind**, but no rain.
 - False teachers are spiritually unable teach **real** truth to those who seek advice from them.
 - These deceivers are set on spreading and promoting what we call biblical **error**.
 - So they come up empty, because there is no truth in them or the truth they should believe no longer directs their **hearts**.
 - They want you to just believe a little error hoping you grab hold to what I call "**acceptable**" sin.

- Fleshly **desires** will always keep coming our way and will always lead to error and sin. They reveal something in our heart not yet **surrendered** to God.
 - That is why understanding error is so important to us today-- to know how to avoid what draws **ME** away.
3. False teachers are held in **bondage** by their own error-filled theology. Reality and reason go out the window when man's **wisdom** trumps Godly wisdom.

What is Peter is trying to teach us today?

1. False freedoms are based on false **promises**.
Peter gives three examples:
 - **Wells** without water
 - God made man with an inner **thirst** for God and the reality of God.
 - Peter says they are clouds but no **rain**.
2. Peter speaks of the **blackness** of the darkness. False teachers only make real truth more **real** to those who know it.
3. False teachers are usually silver-tongued **devils**.
4. False teachers appeal to the old sinful nature, seeking **success** more than seeking God. They appeal to the **pride** of man, the human ego, and the need for self-approval.
5. False teachers appeal to new believers or the spiritually **immature**.

Final thoughts:

- Beware of the **deceitfulness** of sin. Satan wants you to live a counterfeit life, and sin will cost you more than you want to pay.
- Don't get caught up in the **theology** of "I am doing my own thing..."
- **Holiness** is just learning to say no to the evil offers Satan brings.