

2 Peter 2:1-3

They Can't Just Leave It Alone

1.False Teachers will Come 1

A. Like the False Prophets
Prophets of 2 Peter 1:19-21

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.” –Deuteronomy 18:20 ESV

“And the Lord said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.” –Jeremiah 14:14 ESV

““I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the Lord, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the Lord.” –Jeremiah 23:21, 32 ESV

False message of prosperity and security when judgement is on the way
In one of the most crucial times in Israel's history, false prophets were everywhere with a false message.

“Then I said, “Ah, Lord God, surely you have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, ‘It shall be well with you,’ whereas the sword has reached their very life.”” –Jeremiah 4:10 ESV

“Then I said: “Ah, Lord God, behold, the prophets say to them, ‘You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.’” And the Lord said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, and who say, ‘Sword and famine shall not come upon this land’: By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed.” –Jeremiah 14:13-15 ESV

“They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’” For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?” –Jeremiah 23:17-18 ESV

New Testament Warnings

““Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a

diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.” –Matthew 7:15-20 ESV

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” –Matthew 24:24 ESV

“When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus.” –Acts 13:6 ESV

“And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.”
Revelation 16:13-14 ESV

“And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.” –Revelation 19:20 ESV

“and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” –Revelation 20:10 ESV

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,” –1 John 4:1-2 ESV

B. False Teachers

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” –Acts 20:28-32 ESV

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” –Jude 1:4 ESV

“These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.” –Jude 1:12-13 ESV

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” –Galatians 1:6-9 ESV

“They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.” –Galatians 4:17 ESV

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.” –Romans 16:17-18 ESV

“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”
2 John 1:7 ESV

2. Many Will Follow 2

A. Everybody is Doing It

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” –Jude 1:4 ESV

“Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” –Romans 13:13-14 ESV

B. The Way of Truth is Maligned

“But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” –Acts 9:1-2 ESV

“But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.” –Acts 19:9 ESV

“But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.” –Acts 24:14-15 ESV

“Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in **the truth** that you have.” –2 Peter 1:12 ESV

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” –John 14:6 ESV

3. Follow the Money 3a

A. Greed

Covetousness- pleonexia

“Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
Luke 12:13-15 ESV

“They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” –Ephesians 4:19-24 ESV

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” –Colossians 3:5 ESV

B. Exploitation

“To engage in business”

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—” –James 4:13 ESV

C. False Words

Plastic

Reflection: When have you seen these signs of false teachers? How could you help someone see these signs and possibly lead them away from such destructive consequences?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Acts 20:28-32. How does Paul describe the false teachers? Where will they do their work?

Tuesday: Jude 1:4. How does Jude describe the work of the false teachers in this verse? Who do they deny?

Wednesday: Jude 1:12-13. In what ways does Jude describe the false teachers in these verses? In what settings are these people getting close to the true followers of Jesus?

Thursday: Galatians 1:6-9. Summarize Paul’s directions of what he says to do with false teachers and false teaching?

Friday: Romans 16:17-18. Instead of using the words “false teachers”, how does Paul identify those to watch out for?

Saturday: Jeremiah 14:14. As 2 Peter equates false prophets with false teachers, what warning does Jeremiah give here?