

“The Depravity Of False Teachers”  
2 Peter 2:12-22  
7/17/22  
Message 4

## **Introduction**

- Title of the Message is: “The Depravity Of False Teachers”

- **Review – Warnings From God**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Importance in Teaching our kids to EAT**
  - Not How BUT WHAT
  - To eat the right things
  - That we would question a parent that ONLY feed their kids JUNK
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Then we Connected that with the Church**
  - **False Teacher - Feeding their churches Spiritual JUNK food**
    - Feel Good Sermons
      - Sermons where people are never
      - CONVICTED, CONFRONTED or CHALLENGED
    - They are NOT interested in MAKING DISCIPLES but keeping the seats full
  - **False Teachers - Actually feeding people POISON**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> False TEACHER & Teaching are real in the Church**
  - Like the Cuckoo Bird
  - Satan has laid his eggs (false Teachers) in the church

- Not everything you see in a Church is RIGHT
- **4<sup>th</sup> Pastors - Must FEED & TEND**
  - Peter gave us an Example
    - Chapter 1 - He is FEEDING
      - Reminding his readers of the importance of the Sure word of Prophecy – Endures
      - Be STRONG in the WORD
      - So that you can STAND against the False Teaching
    - Chapter 2 – He is TENDING
      - Part of tending is to Warn
      - Warning about False Teachers
  - Paul was a TRUE Under-Shepherd

**Acts 20:29–32 (NKJV)**

**29** For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

**30** Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

**31** Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

**32** “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- I Know some Christians - DON'T LIKE Pastors to do this
  - SOME People in the Church don't like the Pastors Warning them about False Teachings or Teachers

- They See it as...
  - Negative
  - Harsh
  - Unloving
- **BUT Pastors MUST WARN**
  - The Job of a Pastor is to FEED & TEND to the Flock
    - FEED
      - Exhort, Comfort, Encourage
    - TEND
      - Warn, Protect from the Wolves in sheep clothing
      - *A Pastor who only Feeds & doesn't Warn is fattening them up for the kill*
  - Illustration - Patient has CANCER
    - Doctor only wants to encourage
    - Doctor DOES not give you the LIFE saving Advice because that's not his ministry...
    - You see the POINT
    - At time a TRUE Under- Shepherd must do the hard job and WARN
- **5<sup>th</sup> Characteristics Of a False Teacher from 2 Peter 2:1-3**

**2 Peter 2:1–3 (NKJV)**

*1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

*2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.*

*3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> They Subtly bring in destructive heresies**

- Act Like they are of US
- Say the right things
- Then slowly pull people to their side

- **2<sup>nd</sup> They Deny the Lord who Bought them**

- Bought in the sense that God died for all sinners
  - But only those who receive the gift are saved
- False Teachers Deny Deity Of Christ

- **3<sup>rd</sup> They Are Driven by Sensual Pleasures**

- Driven by their bodily appetite

- **4<sup>th</sup> They are Motivated by Greed**

- What can I get from people

- **5<sup>th</sup> Examples from Today**

- Jehovah's Witnesses –
  - Don't Believe in The Deity of Christ
- Mormonism –

- Don't Believe in The Deity of Christ
- Universalism
  - ALL SAVED
- Bethel in Redding
  - New Apostolic Reformation
  - Grave Sucking
  - Angel Dust
- Emergent / WOKE / Consumerism
  - Partial Truth but leave OUT LOT of TRUTH
  - Avoid talking about SIN, Blood, Hell, etc...
  - All about
    - FEELING good
    - Emotional Experience
  - Examples
    - Church of England
      - Refuses to define the word 'woman'
    - FB Post
- Churches that No Longer want Sound Doctrine
- **6<sup>th</sup> Punishment for False Teachers**
  - Like The Angels that sinned
    - Special Place - Greek: Tartaroo / Tartarus

- Noah – Flood –
  - Judged the Whole World
- Sodom & Gomorrah
  - Judged a whole city
  - Their SIN = Homosexuality

• **Now This Morning – Peter will continue to describe the Depravity of False Teachers**

- We will look at 3 Characteristics of their Depravity
  - The Evidence Of Their Depravity vs. 12-16
  - The Enticements Of Others vs. 17-19
  - Their Entanglement Makes It Worse vs. 20-22

**The Evidence Of Their Depravity vs. 12-16**

• **First: The Symbolism Of Their Depravity v.12a**

**2 Peter 2:12 (NKJV)**

**12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Like Natural Brute Beasts**
  - Since they function in the FLESH - NOT the SPIRIT
    - They are like animals.
  - Animals
    - Have no sense of conscience, ethics or morals.

- They function by instinct and have no sense of moral accountability to a Righteous Judge.
- Animals live to please only themselves
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Caught & Destroyed**
  - They are fit only for destruction (made to be caught and destroyed) and they are ignorant.

• **Second: Their Speaking v. 12b**

**2 Peter 2:12 (NKJV)**

*12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, **speak evil of the things they do not understand**, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,*

- **1<sup>st</sup> They speak evil of the things they do not understand.**
  - **They Pose as Experts in the Spiritual Realm.**
    - BUT are TRULY Ignorant
    - They criticize the Bible
    - They are devoid of divine life!
    - They are utterly unable to understand the words, ways, and works of God (1 Cor. 2:14)

**1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)**

*14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- A humble believer can see more on his knees than they can see on their tiptoes.
- **Illustration - The sad thing about false teachers who start cults –**

- They don't even know what they're talking about.
- Joseph Smith was one of these guys
  - He was a charlatan that knew how to talk people into things.
  - When he began to dabble in religious things, he found himself in a world he knew nothing of.
  - As you follow the progress of their doctrine
  - AT first he is close – (They Talk the right Talk)
  - Yet as time progresses, he drift farther and farther from the Scriptures and farther into Joseph's mad world
  - You get some pretty kooky ideas

• **Third: The Seriousness Of What They Face v. 12c -13a**

**2 Peter 2:12–13 (NKJV)**

**12** *But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,*

**13** *and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,*

- **1<sup>st</sup> And will receive the wages of unrighteousness**

▪ **The ungodly will be “PAID” for their evil –**

- Their fleshly lives will be paid the wages of unrighteousness
- They will be destroyed in the same destruction as the animals.

- Since they choose to live like animals, they will die like them.
- **Remember The Punishment That God promise (2 Peter 2:4-8)**
  - Angels that Sinned = Hell – Greek: Tartaroo – Tartarus
  - Noah = Evil in his time Judged the whole world with a flood
  - Sodom & Gomorrah = Sin of Homosexuality judged

• **Fourth: Their Self Centered Actions v. 13b**

**2 Peter 2:13 (NKJV)**

*13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, **as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime.** They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Carousing in their own deceptions**
  - These ungodly false teachers are a dangerous and corrupting presence in the body of Christ
  - Not only deceiving others but deceiving themselves also.
  - NO SHAME – Carousing in the DAY time
    - Most men wait for the cover of darkness to carouse (John 3:19)
    - Hence the dim lights of the bar and the brothel (1 Thess. 5:7).
    - These people are so shameless
    - They carry on their sinful activities in full daylight.

- The false teachers have cast off the restraints that usually hide sin in the shadows.

- **Fifth: They Are Spots v. 13c**

**2 Peter 2:13 (NKJV)**

**13** *and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,*

- **1<sup>st</sup> They are Spots and Blemishes**
  - Jude calls false teachers the same name – Spots!
    - Means: A spot; a fault, moral blemish; of base and gluttonous men
  - Blemishes – Greek: Momos –
    - Means: Blemish, blot, disgrace
  - Illustration
    - New White T- Shirt – HOT SAUCE
  - Illustration – Spotless Church
    - Over and over in the NT
    - We see the Church referred to as the Body and Bride of Christ.
    - When He comes for His bride, she's arrayed in spotless white, in a wrinkle-free gown, and without blemish.
    - But Peter sees false teachers as spots in the garment of the Church and a blemish on it's complexion.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you**
  - They Look at you like you're a meal
    - The entire time false teachers hang out in the fellowship of the saints, they're carrying on a double life.
    - They smile and make it appear as though they are one of us
    - But they're actually plotting their next move and angling to figure out how they can lie, cheat, and steal so they can pursue their own lusts.

• **Sixth: The Sensuality That Deceives Others v. 14**

**2 Peter 2:14 (NKJV)**

**14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls.** *They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Having eyes full of adultery:**
  - Eyes FULL of Adultery
    - Both spiritual and sexual.
    - They prey on the unstable to join them in their ways (enticing unstable souls).
    - The false teachers had so totally lost moral control that they could not look at any woman without seeing her as a potential adulteress (Matt. 5:28)
    - They were uncontrollably driven by lust, never resting from their sins.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Enticing Unstable Souls**
  - Enticing unstable souls

- The metaphor is from fishing - To beguile is to catch with bait.
- Illustration
  - Perhaps they misuse passages of Scripture to condone sin.
  - Or they explain that matters of right and wrong are largely determined by our culture.
  - Or they stylishly reassure people listening that what they are doing is done in LOVE.
- How to Prevent this
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Be Grounded in God's Word (2 Peter 1)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Heed God's Warning (2 Peter 2)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Be a Berean (Acts 17:11)
  - Just because it is taught by a Church doesn't mean that is true
  - Just because something is Popular doesn't mean it is Right
  - Just because it brings in people doesn't mean that it pleases God
- **3<sup>rd</sup> They have a heart trained in covetous practices**
  - They are equipped, but not for ministry, only for selfish gain!
  - They are truly Accursed
  - We all train our hearts in something, either training them in covetousness and lust, or in godliness

- **Seventh: They Stray From What is Right vs. 15-16**

**2 Peter 2:15–16 (NKJV)**

**15** *They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;*  
**16** *but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Context - Following the way of Balaam**

- Found IN Numbers 22-25 & 31:16
- Israel was moving their way out of the wilderness
- Began to move North
- This Frighten Balak – King of the Moabites
- So Balak hired Balaam curse Israel

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Who is Balaam?**

- The Million-dollar Question
  - We're NOT sure
  - Let me give you a brief highlight of what we know
- 1<sup>st</sup> We do not know how he came to be a prophet or a man with spiritual powers
  - But Balak certainly knew Balaam's reputation
  - Balak's mind if he cursed a people they would be cursed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> He has knowledge of the ONE True God - The God of Israel
  - Not of some vague, demonic spiritual connection (such as the specific mention of the Lord in (Numbers 22:8)

- How he came to know the true God is unclear
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hired but Balak to Curse Israel
  - After many offers
- 4<sup>th</sup> His Donkey Attempted to Stop him
  - On His way to curse Israel
  - His Donkey would not go
  - Turn to Numbers 22

***Numbers 22:23–35 (NKJV)***

**23** Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road.

**24** Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

**25** And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again.

**26** Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

**27** And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

**28** Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

**29** And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

**30** So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

**31** Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

**32** And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me.

**33** The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.”

**34** And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, “I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.”

**35** Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

- Still after this he went his way to curse Israel 4 Times
  - BUT 4 Times He could ONLY BLESS
- SO Balak was angry
  - So Balaam Suggested

### ***Numbers 31:16 (NKJV)***

**16** Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

- Sin of Balaam Was GREED, MONEY, POWER, PRESTIGE
- Same is TRUE of these false Teachers

### **The Enticements Of Others vs. 17-19**

- **First: These are wells without water v. 17**

### ***2 Peter 2:17 (NKJV)***

**17** These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

- **These ungodly false teachers are empty –**

- As useless as
  - Wells without water –
  - Clouds without rain
  - That bring only darkness, and no nourishing rain

• **Second: They speak great swelling words of emptiness v. 18**

**2 Peter 2:18 (NKJV)**

**18** *For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.*

- **Great swelling words of emptiness.**
  - It's Cotton Candy
  - They SAY a LOT but nothing of value
  - They may SOUND super intelligent – BUT in reality, they are FOOLS

• **Third: While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves v. 19**

**2 Peter 2:19 (NKJV)**

**19** *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> They Promise Freedom**
  - BUT can't deliver
  - WHY?
    - Because they themselves are still slave of evil
  - Freedom is Only in God's Spirit

- Flesh = Bandage
- Spirit = LIFE

- Wiersbe; “The tenses of the verbs in 2 Peter 2:19 are present: “While they promise them [the new believers] liberty, they themselves [the apostates] are the servants of corruption” (italics mine). They claim to be the servants of God, but they are only the servants of sin. It is bad enough to be a slave, but when sin is your master, you are in the worst possible condition a person can experience.

### **Their Entanglement Makes It Worse vs. 20-22**

#### **• First: Saved Or Not Saved**

#### **2 Peter 2:20–22 (NKJV)**

*20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*

*21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.*

*22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”*

#### ○ **1<sup>st</sup> Peter speaks of those**

- Who have Escaped the Pollutions of the world.
- Who did this through the “Knowledge” of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Who at one time had “Known” the way of righteousness

#### ○ **2<sup>nd</sup> So the Question Comes up Are they Saved are NOT SAVED**

- Good Christians on Both side of the debate
- It does bring up the subject – Can a Christian lose their salvation

- Which will solve today!!!
- **3<sup>rd</sup> The 2 Schools of Thought**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Saved and Walked Away
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Not Saved and NEVER knew God
  - Let's walk through each verse
  - *Guzik; Regarding these, those with a Reformed perspective will say that they were actually never saved; those with an Arminian perspective will say that they were actually saved and lost their salvation. To bitterly divide along the lines of this debate – which focuses on things that are unknowable to outside observation – seems to fall into the category of being obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, as in 1 Timothy 6:4.*

• **Second: Break It Down v. 20**

**2 Peter 2:20 (NKJV)**

*20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Saved and Walked Away**
  - Take the verse to mean that they once were saved but fell back into the world
  - As a result it would have been better for them not to know anything about God
  - They are now accountable for what they knew and walked away from
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Never Saved**
  - Escaped the pollutions of the world

- That it is Possible that they are moral people who have found refuge in a church BUT they don't have the Knowledge of God
- Cleaned up on the outside BUT the Inside is still not surrendered to God
- *Wiersbe; According to 2 Peter 2:20, these apostates "escaped the pollutions of the world." Pollution is defilement on the outside. But true believers have "escaped the corruption that is in the world through [because of] lust" (2 Peter 1:4). Corruption is much deeper than defilement on the outside: it is decay on the inside. True believers have received a new nature, a divine nature, and they have new and different appetites and desires. They have been transformed from pigs and dogs into sheep!*

#### **Matthew 7:20–23 (NKJV)**

**20** *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

**21** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

**22** *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*

**23** *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

#### **• Third: One Thing we Can ALL Agree on v. 21**

#### **2 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)**

**21** *For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> It would have been better for them NOT to have known anything about God**

- It is better for a person to have never known a thing about Jesus than to hear some truth, hold to it for a season, and then later reject it. Greater revelation has a greater accountability.

- **They Acted Like Animals and Returned to their true Nature v. 22**

**2 Peter 2:22 (NKJV)**

**22** But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quoting Proverb 26:11**

**Proverbs 26:11 (NKJV)**

**11** As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lost Salvation**

- Went back into the World

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Never Had Salvation**

- Their TRUE nature just showed back up
- They Never had a new nature
- *Ironsides; "If that dog or that sow had been born again and had received the nature of a sheep it never would have gone back to the filth here depicted." The dog is used as a symbol of false teachers on more than one occasion in Scripture. The sow is the natural man who may be cleansed outwardly but still loves the hog-wallow, and as soon as restraint is off he will go back to the filth in which he once lived.*
- The True Nature of a DOG & PIG is to return to back to what they are no matter how hard to try to clean them up

- **4<sup>th</sup> The Correct Answer**

- I DON'T KNOW
- I lean toward no real knowledge because of the context of the entire chapter

- **Fourth: Once Saved Always Saved or Can you Lose you Salvation?**

- **1<sup>st</sup> We Don't Divide over this Issue**
  - Good People on Both sides
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Chuck Smith**
  - When we come to the scripture that say you cant lose your salvation
    - That is what I teach
  - When we come to the scriptures that say you can lose your salvation
    - That is what I teach
- **3<sup>rd</sup> This Passage seems to suggest you can lose**
  - We better pay attention
  - Make sure we're in the faith
  - Evidence that you're in the faith – You ABIDE
- **4<sup>th</sup> Other passages that tell us we can't lose our salvation**

**John 10:28–29 (NKJV)**

**28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

**29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

**Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV)**

**38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

**39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)**

**6** *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

- What I Believe the Bible teaches
  - If you are truly Born Again - You can't lose your salvation

## **Closing**

- The Reality – False Teachers will be with us til the END
- We MUST be Bereans
- We Must Be watchful
- We Must Warn