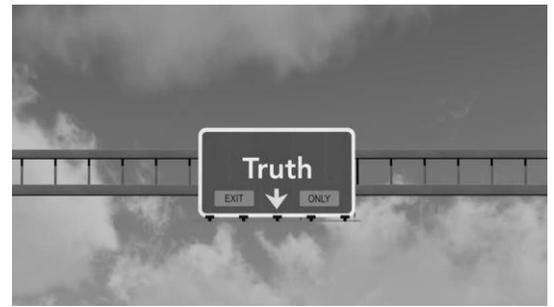


A Study of The Epistle of 2nd Peter
Theme: "Grow in Grace and Knowledge"

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz – www.tlcnorman.org

Lesson: 10 Chapter 2:1-3 Date: 10-3-21



BIBLE TEXT

(1) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying **the Master who bought them**, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of truth** will be blasphemed. (3) And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

(4) *For if **God** did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (5) if **he did not spare the ancient world**, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes **he condemned them** to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;*

*(7) and if **he rescued righteous Lot**, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (8) (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);*

*(9) then **the Lord** knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until **the day of judgment**, (10) and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, (11) whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before **the Lord**.*

STUDY NOTES

(1) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying **the Master who bought them**, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of truth** will be blasphemed. (3) And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

(Ex 15:16; Dt. 13:1; 18:21,22; 32:35; 2 Kings 18:19; Is 9:13-17; Jer 5:31; 14:14; 23:30-32;

Mt 7:15; 24:4-11; 50-51; Acts 20:29,30;

Rom 2:24; 16:18; 1 Cor 6:20; 7:23; 2 Cor 11:13; 12:17;

Gal 1:6-9; 2:4; 3:13; 4:5; Php 3:2,19; Col 2:4-8, 18-23; 2 Thess 1:9; 2:1-3;

1 Tim 1:3-7; 4:1-13; 6:5; 2 Tim 3:1-8; Titus 1:11;

1 Jn 2:18-23; 2 Jn 7-11; Jude 3,4; Rev 5:9; 14:3,4)

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LUTHER'S WORKS – VOLUME 30

1. *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you.*

“This is what St. Peter wants to say: Just as all prophecy has emanated from **the Holy Spirit** since the beginning of the world, so this must be true until the end of the world, in order that nothing but **God’s Word** may be preached. Yet it has always happened that there have been false teachers alongside the true prophets and **God’s Word**. And so it will remain. Therefore since you now have **God’s Word**, you must expect to have false teachers too. This is sufficient warning. Nor can it fail to happen that where **God’s Word** is correctly proclaimed, false preachers will arise hard by.

The reason is that not everybody lays hold of **the Word** and believes in it, even though it is preached to all. Those who believe it follow and retain it. But the majority, who do not believe, get a false understanding of it, and this gives rise to false teachers. Unfortunately, however, we paid no attention to this. Nor did we heed this warning. Instead, we ran along and did what was preached. Here we lost our heads; we fell into and went along in the delusion that the pope, together with his priests and monks, could not err.

And those who should have arrested this error were the first to instil it in us. Therefore we are not excused if we believe falsely and follow false teachers. The fact that we did not know better will not help us, since we were warned in advance. Furthermore, **God gave us the command** that everyone should judge, and be accountable for, the message of this or of that preacher. If we do not do this, we are lost. Thus the salvation of everyone’s soul depends on knowing what **God’s Word** and false teachings are.

Many more such warnings are found here and there in Scripture. In Acts 20:29–30 St. Paul also adds such an admonition at the end of his sermon in which he blessed the Ephesians and took leave of them. This is what he says: “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 perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.” **Christ** also announces this in Matt. 24:23–24:

“Then if anyone says to you: ‘Lo, here is the **Christ!**’ or ‘There He is!’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” And Paul declares again in I Tim. 4:1–2: “Now **the Spirit** expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars, etc.” Now as forceful as these warnings were, we should surely have been wise. Yet it did not help. The warnings were ignored. Thus we always went along and let ourselves be misled.

Now let us see who the false teachers are about whom Peter is speaking here. I believe that **God’s arrangement** to have our teachers called *doctores* was based on a special decision. The purpose was to let us see whom Peter has in mind. For he used the very same word here: *falsi doctores*, “false teachers.” He does not say “false prophets” or “false apostles.” In this way he hits the schools of higher learning, where such people are turned out.

From these schools come all the preachers in the world, so that under the papacy there is no city that does not have teachers of this kind who are turned out in the schools of higher learning. For the whole world thinks that these schools should be the springs from which those who are to teach the people should flow. This is a dreadful error, and nothing more horrible has ever happened on earth than what has come out of the schools of higher learning. Therefore Peter says that such utterly false teachers will arise. But what will they do?”

LIFE APPLICATION

Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of truth** will be blasphemed.

Where is this happening in our world today?