

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE REALITY ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

Houses of Light Church • November 19, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. QUICK REVIEW

- A. Chapter 1 of 2 Pet. It is a positive invitation to confirm our calling and election by using the power of God to live the Christian life to its full potential, through knowledge of God and Jesus and also through faith in his great promises. Chapter 2 is a stark description of false teachers in the church, who indulge in sexual debauchery in the name of Christian freedom. The main point of this chapter is to show that these false teachers and those who are seduced by them will ultimately experience condemnation and destruction.

II. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS?

- A. What would we think of the generals of an army who deployed their troops as if war were a game, and who never stopped to think that in this mission their children, partners and parents would be injured or killed? We would probably call them cruel. How much more, then, should we consider a pastor, teacher, counselor who does not stop to reflect that eternal life and death are at stake in preaching, teaching, and even in counseling?
- B. It is not correct to give the impression that the most important concern of our preaching is only to provoke positive emotions or to modify external behavior a little. If that were our most important focus, then our preaching would just be a kind of psychotherapy; Christian doctrine would be another means to obtain some peace of mind, and the church would just be another institution for psychological well-being. That is exactly the way more and more people view preaching, doctrine, and the church.
- C. 2 Pet. 2 aims to prevent my preachings from being simply motivational speeches about the power of positive thinking. It aims to make me serious about my calling and to become indignant about false teachings and saddened by the destruction of those who refuse to repent. This chapter is not by accident in the Bible. It is the Word of God and is useful for all of us to have a zeal to confirm our call and election as children of God and as a church.

III. THE ARROGANCE AND DARING OF FALSE TEACHERS

2 Ped. 2:10b-11 *“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.”*

- A. In 2 Pet, the word **“heavenly beings”** (Gk. doxa) is associated with the second coming of Christ because Peter uses this same word in v. 1:17 to talk about how Jesus at the transfiguration showed a foretaste of His glorious return (3:18). And in 2 Pet. 3:3-4, Peter also shows that these false teachers mock precisely the second coming of Jesus.

- B. **v.11, "whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord",** So this verse means that the angels do not pronounce judgment against false teachers, even if they deserve it, despite that the angels are in a higher position than them to judge them if they do not leave the final judgment to the Lord. **This comparison shows how incredibly conceited false teachers are. The angels surrender before the authority of God to pass a just judgment but the false teachers despise the authority of God and try to surpass the authority of the angels themselves to belittle the glory of the holy God by denying the second coming of Christ.**

v12-13a "But these [false teachers], like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing."

- C. Peter adds that false teachers are like animals in two senses: They are completely ignorant of what they are talking about; speaking ill of the glory of Christ is like the growling of an animal. And they will be destroyed like the animals. They will meet their end at the trial and all their bold speech will be silenced. Therefore, we are exhorted to beware of spiritual pride.

Rom. 11:20 "That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear."

IV. INDULGENCE AND GREED

v.13b-16 "...They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.."

- A. The brazen stubbornness of false teachers is manifested in what they do during the day (v.13), which other sinners only dare to do in the dark of night. The phrase "**while they feast with you**" literally means "to eat sumptuously with you." It speaks of the banquets at which the entire church gathered and where these men appeared as stains and filth, with their eyes full of adultery (v.4). **They cannot look at a woman without thinking about sexual relations. With their hearts well exercised in greed they try to isolate the newcomers and drive them away towards the permissive (v2).**
- B. Peter does not tell us specifically how the false teachers intend to make money, but he does mention the prophet Balaam (vv.15,16). When the Israelites were approaching the land of the Moabites, Balak, the Moabite king, was afraid of them and sent for Balaam and offered him money (Num. 22:7) to curse the Israelites. Balaam liked to profit from evil, specifically, that someone was willing to pay him for his prophetic services. So, the false

teachers were not only luring new converts into sexual debauchery, but they were also charging them for their special teaching.

- C. False teachers go after "**unsteady souls**" (v.14). In v.18, we find an even clearer image: "***they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.***" Generally, new converts are people who are not firm in their understanding of the truth. **This is a serious warning: first, so that we strengthen our doctrinal clarity in the Word and also so that we work seriously so that our children and all those who convert have a solid foundation in the truth of the Scriptures. Let us be a church in which we are constantly helping each other, to deepen our roots in the truth of God.**

v.17 "These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved"

- D. Imagine you are in the desert with a dry tongue, longing to quench your thirst, then you see an oasis, you run to the spring, but it is completely dry. **These false teachers offer pleasure, teaching and freedom, but in reality they are empty and sterile.** They are like the fog that promises rain for the earth, but suddenly disappears. The church needs to discern between dry springs and springs of living water. We must become people who discern deeply.

V. THE DANGER OF FALSE TEACHING

v.18-22 "For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

- A. As we have seen, the way false teachers seduce new and unstable converts is by promising them freedom (v.19) but biblical counsel gives us the true way to walk in freedom..

1 Pet. 2:16 "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God"

- B. The call to freedom is at the center of the NT but, this was not a call to give free rein to passions. The apostolic call to freedom recognizes that Christ died to free us from the guilt and power of sin; that we are free from the law, in the sense that we no longer need to strive to fulfill it with our own efforts; and that the Holy Spirit gives us a new heart so that we can freely delight in holiness. But, the false teachers distorted it. Paul exposed this abuse of freedom and warns us about it.

Gal. 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

- C. **The false teachers were using their freedom as an opportunity to indulge their love of money, praise, and sexual pleasure. But they intentionally omitted other parts of the NT teaching. For this reason, Peter gives the warning: that freedom that they promise is actually to be slaves to corruption.**
- D. **This chapter is not the kind of text that we enjoy reading or that you are going to stick on the wall. But, not all medicine tastes good. God is the great doctor and he knows what we need. Each word is beneficial because it increases our sincerity to have complete security of remaining firm to the end.**

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. **What is the danger of false teaching?**
- 2. **Why is it so important to be affirmed in healthy teaching?**
- 3. **What does true Christian freedom consist of?**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. **This Wednesday, November 22, there is no Holy58 youth service.**
- 2. **Special Thanksgiving service this Thursday, November 23 at 11:00 a.m. The children's ministry will be open.**
- 3. **If you wish to be baptized, we invite you to take the preparation class on Monday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Affirming Your Steps room. The Baptisms will take place during services on December 2 and 3. Please register at the table outside or at www.housesoflight.org**
- 4. **Auditions for the Worship Team Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. Please register at housesoflight.org**
- 5. **Holy58 invites the whole family to a Movie Night "The Nativity Story" December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the entrance door.**