



3: Freed or Afraid? (2 Peter 2)

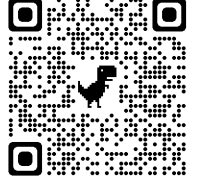
Are you a follower of Jesus pointing others to Him, a chameleon changing with your surroundings and leading others astray, or someone expecting to experience heaven regardless of your beliefs? After today's teaching, and depending on your answer, you will likely find yourself FREED or AFRAID.

beourguest

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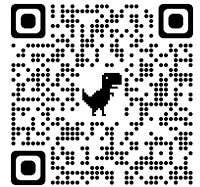


teachingnotes

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VISUAL NOTES



today'steaching

Beware False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1 (NIV)

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as **there will be false teachers among you**. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the sovereign Lord who bought them**—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

False teachers sometimes teach what is true, (a broken clock is still right 2 times a day), but that doesn't mean we give them a pass when much of what they teach is false.

Those who **secretly introduce destructive heresies** are **bringing swift destruction on themselves**.

Heresies: twisting and diluting the Scriptures to make God more like mankind and make mankind more like God.

Simon Peter notes that these **false teachers** are **denying the sovereign Lord who bought them** - while they recognized Jesus died for their sins, they are now they are denying His lordship and leading others to do the same.

✗ Stop comforting those living in sin who claim a past 'salvation' experience, rather than calling them to repentance and obedience to Jesus.

✗ Stop being silent when someone we care about is following the teachings of those who **introduce destructive heresies** among God's people.

2 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV)

Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

Simon Peter is concerned about future **false teachers** who will show up. These false teachers tell **fabricated stories** because of their **greed** and lead people away from **the way of truth**.

🔍 If you were the devil, planning to introduce false teaching through undercover folks, *what would they look like?*

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE

Teach the Truth Even Though Some Don't Want It

2 Timothy 4:1-3 (NIV) In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **Preach the word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of **teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear**.

✗ Many people WANT to listen to those who tell them what they want to hear. This is happening throughout our culture.

- Unchurched folks are drawn to listen to unwise counsel to change the RULES rather than change THEMSELVES.
- Many churched folks twist the Bible to fit their beliefs instead of twisting their beliefs to fit the Bible.
- The Scriptures weren't written to *PUMP US UP* but to *GROW US UP*. This is why we need not only to be **encouraged**, but to be **corrected** and **rebuked**.

God judged in the past and He will judge in the future

2 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV)

For if **God did not spare angels when they sinned**, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; if **He did not spare the ancient world** when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but **protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others**;

These **angels** are likely referring to those who possessed men who had children with women resulting in an overwhelmingly ungodly culture (Gen 6:4-7). The punishment for the angels was being sent to **hell** (Greek term *Tartarus* - a holding place in Greek mythology that was even lower than Hades).¹ This is a temporary holding place where they are **held for a future judgment**.

God punished the people by bringing **the flood on its ungodly people**. Yet God **protected Noah** and his family while bringing judgment on everyone else. *WHY?* Noah was **righteous** - He honored and obeyed God while everyone else acted like God's judgement would never come.

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed. Lot Protected.

2 Peter 2:6-8 (NIV)

if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and **made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly**; and if **He rescued Lot, a righteous man**, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—

God brought judgment on the immoral people in these 2 cities, but God **rescued Lot** and his family, because he was a **righteous man** who walked in purity, even though he lived in a culture that lived for **lawless deeds**.

Protecting the Righteous & Imprisoning the Unrighteous

2 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

if this is so, then **the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials** and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials; He can protect those who live godly, even when we are surrounded by those who don't. If you refuse to obey God, be warned that He will **hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment**.

BIG QUESTION: If God's judgment was handed down TODAY, would you be FREED or AFRAID?

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., 2 Peter and Jude, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2005), 85.

Characteristics of False Teachers

2 Peter 2:10-13a (NIV)

This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord. But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. **They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done.**

False teachers live for the **desire of the flesh, despise authority**; they are **bold, arrogant**, and slander **angels** while claiming to have authority over them.

Jude 9 (NIV) But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "**The Lord rebuke you!**"

Rather than trust the Lord Jesus to defeat the enemy, **these people blaspheme** [slander] **in matters they do not understand**, acting **like animals** hunting down another animal that can destroy them. They will **perish** like animals when they are **paid back with harm for the harm they have done.**

2 Peter 2:13b-14 (NIV)

Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; **they seduce the unstable**; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood!

These false teachers **seduce the unstable**. The Greek term for **seduce** has its roots in the world of hunting and fishing and carries the idea "to lure" like using bait for a fish or an animal.² False teachers use false promises to hook people with lies. Peter mentions how **they feast with you** while **reveling in their pleasures**. Here again Peter speaks of something similar from Jude 12:

Jude 12a (CSB) These people are **dangerous reefs at your love feasts** as they eat with you without reverence. **They are shepherds who only look after themselves.**

The Way of Balaam

2 Peter 2:15-16 (NIV)

They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. But **he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey**—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

Read about **Balaam** in Numbers 22:21-30. Balaam was a false prophet who was about to curse God's people for money until God **rebuked** him in a strange way...**by a donkey**.

The Punishment for False Teachers

2 Peter 2:17-19 (NIV)

These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. **Blackest darkness is reserved for them**. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. **They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity**—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them."

These people make promises they can't deliver. People who follow their false teachings are not FREED, but should be AFRAID of what is coming.

❓ **What or who are you a slave to?** Are you a slave of Jesus OR...are you a slave of sin?

These false teachers will face a stricter judgment, as Jesus warned (Mt 18:6-7). **Blackest darkness is reserved** for these false teachers who lead people *away from* Jesus instead of *TO* Jesus.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE

² Douglas J. Moo, 2 Peter, Jude, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 126.

Don't Turn Back!

2 Peter 2:20-22 (NIV)

If they have escaped the corruption of the world by **knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. **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.** Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

Peter writes about people who **have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, and then turn and walk away from Jesus. A person doesn't "lose salvation" like you lose your car keys. But this is a willful act to walk away from Jesus to return to your old life is possible as seen in the Scriptures. Peter uses animal imagery to demonstrate what this looks like. **Dogs** weren't house pets, but dirty, diseased animals that fed from the garbage. **Pigs** were unclean animals, not to be farmed nor eaten.

- Those who walk away from Jesus are compared to a **dog** that goes back to lick up **its vomit**. The thing that made it sick is gone...and the dog decides it wants it back.
- The **sow** that is **washed** doesn't stay clean, but returns to its **mud** bath and wallows around in the filth again.

2 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to **hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.**

BIG QUESTION: If God's judgment was handed down TODAY, would you be FREED or AFRAID?

If you are AFRAID, you don't have to stay that way! Turn from your sin, trust Jesus, and follow Him the rest of your life.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged/encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain why.
2. **Read 2 Timothy 4:1-3.** Spend some time discussing the difference and necessity of correcting, rebuking, and encouraging from the Scriptures with patience & care.
3. **Read 2 Peter 2:4-9.** What is the encouragement for those who trust Jesus during the good and bad times and what is the warning for those who do not?
4. **Read Matthew 18:6-7 and 2 Peter 2:13-19.** According to Jesus and Peter, why will false teachers face harsher punishment in eternity?
5. Have you ever known someone who seemed to show genuine proof of believing Jesus, but who no longer follows Jesus? (Don't name them.) If so, what conclusion have you come to - did they genuinely know Jesus and walk away or were they just pretending to know Jesus? Explain your answer. What warning and what hope could be offer to them at this point?
6. Share some false teachings that have infiltrated the American church and then share Scriptures that confront and correct those teachings.
7. Share prayer needs. Consider praying for those who have walked away from Jesus. Continue to pray for the Supreme Court decision that could overturn Roe v. Wade.