

# ***Sins of False Teachers Revealed and Rebuked***

## **2 Peter 2:10–22**

### **WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT TO DO:**

False teachers discredit the Gospel and dangerously lead people astray. The Apostle Peter tells us that God will punish them (v.1–9). In v. 10–22, Peter moves on to describe and rebuke these false teachers. *They are wolves in sheep's clothing, and their destruction is assured, but they have identifiable character traits. Do not listen to or be enticed by them!*

### **Peter mentions at least four sins committed by false teachers:<sup>1</sup>**

#### **A. False teachers are irreverent (v.10–13)**

- a. So self-important and bold as to slander angels (Eph 6:12, Jude 6,8-9). Do not foolishly mock angels' power, including demons or Satan.
- b. They arrogantly use rebellious, slanderous, or disrespectful language about God, His glory, angels, power, or majesty. A more literal translation is: *"Bold / Audacious Self-willed darers they-tremble not (at) blaspheming glories."*
- c. Blasphemy involves words spoken with intent to harm. (deceptively or not). In their foolishness, they strike at God, but they will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done."

#### **B. False teachers are immoral (v. 13, 14, 18)**

- a. Evil is often reserved for the cover of darkness; they do it openly.
- b. Living a sinful life openly, they pridefully seek to normalize, even illicit celebration of their evil; those who do not become enemies.
- c. They lack self-control and prey on the vulnerable and ignorant, seducing them to join their wicked practices or back their causes.

#### **C. False teachers are materialistic (v. 15, 16)**

- a. Balaam is an example of one who allowed wealth to lead him away from the will of God (see Numbers 22); Balaam's donkey showed more moral sense than Balaam did.
- b. Some so-called "religious leaders" today sell out to greed.

#### **D. False teachers reject pure/true biblical doctrine (v. 17–22)**

- a. They practice an empty religion, often with showy speech, and promises of false freedom. Their passion, charisma, or style is appealing, but they are slaves to their corruption. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness. The fury of fire awaits them (Mt. 12:45; 25:41; Heb. 6:4–6; 10:26–27).

**CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION:** The characteristics and influence of false teachers are so repulsive to man; what must they be to God? Christians must be diligent to avoid errors in doctrine and in life.<sup>1</sup> *It starts by knowing your Bible!*

<sup>1</sup>Smith, F. Sherwood. *Life of Peter: Blueprints Built upon God's Word*. Ed. Jim Eichenberger. Cincinnati, OH: Standard Publishing, 2000.