

# ***Upholding the Truth: A Warning Against False Teachers***

## **2 Peter 2:1–9**

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

False teachers discredit the gospel through deception and greed. Avoid them! Do not follow false teachers! Be assured that the Lord will protect the godly and bring destructive judgment on the unrighteous. In our passage today, Peter warns us to avoid all false teachers (v. 1–9). Next, these godless people will be described and harshly denounced in verses 10 through 22.

#### **1.) False teachers introduce destructive heresies (v. 1)**

- a. Like the Old Testament (prophets), they exist today (teachers)
- b. How they work
- c. What they teach
- d. Where they're headed

#### **2.) False teachers scandalize the Gospel (v. 2)**

- a. Many will fall into temptation to follow their godless ways
- b. Truth will be tarnished by them

#### **3.) False teachers scam believers in greed and with lies (v. 3)**

- a. The false teachers see believers as a source of financial gain. Peter will go on to describe these religious charlatans as having “hearts trained in greed” (2:14). This indictment of false teachers is common in Scripture (see Jer. 6:13; 8:10; 1 Tim. 6:3, 5, 9–11; Titus 1:7, 11; 1 Pet. 5:1–3; Jude 11, 16).<sup>1</sup>

#### **4.) God protects the righteous and punishes the wicked; three reasons why we know that God will punish false teachers (v. 4–9):**

- a. God imprisoned rebellious angels (v.4)
- b. God destroyed the ancient world by flood; He protected Noah (v.5)
- c. God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (v.6–10)
  - i. Godless cities were annihilated by fire
  - ii. They were filled with violence and sexual sin (Gen. 19)
  - iii. God rescued Lot (who was troubled by their immoral deeds)
  - iv. God knows how to rescue the godly and punish the ungodly

**CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION:** If you follow your own sinful lusts of the flesh and ignore God's true Word and authority, you will not escape His judgment. ***Turn from your evil ways, believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Be saved!***