



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2020

*DIVINE POWER  
A STUDY OF 2 PETER*

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**DON'T GET HOODWINKED**

*But there were also lying prophets among the people then, just as there will be lying religious teachers among you. They'll smuggle in destructive divisions, pitting you against each other—biting the hand of the One who gave them a chance to have their lives back! They've put themselves on a fast downhill slide to destruction, but not before they recruit a crowd of mixed-up followers who can't tell right from wrong. They give the way of truth a bad name. They're only out for themselves. They'll say anything, anything, that sounds good to exploit you. They won't, of course, get by with it. They'll come to a bad end, for God has never just stood by and let that kind of thing go on.*

**~ 2 Peter 2:1-3 (Message Bible)**

**Memory Verse**

*And Jesus answered them, "See that **no one leads you astray**.<sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and **they will lead many astray**. ~ Matthew 24:4*

Paul warned Timothy...

*For a time is coming when people will no longer **listen to sound and wholesome teaching**. They will follow their own desires and **will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear**.<sup>4</sup> **They will reject the truth and chase after myths**. ~ 2 Tim. 4:3-4*

*For certain people have **crept in unnoticed** who long ago were designated for this condemnation, **ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ**. ~ Jude 4*

Jesus said...

***Enter by the narrow gate**. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.<sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. ~ Matthew 7:13-14*

The apostle Paul wrote...

*These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ.<sup>14</sup> But I am not surprised! **Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**.<sup>15</sup> So it is no wonder that **his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve. ~ 2 Cor. 11:13-14).*

**FOUR SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHING APOSTATES.**

**1. THEY DECEITFULLY PRESENT HERESY (2:1a).**

The term **heresies** denotes "an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for truth."

*They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. ~ 2 Peter 2:1*

*“The false teachers use our vocabulary, but they do not use our dictionary.”*

## **2. THEY OPENLY DENY THE TRUTH**

Such as....

- The inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture
- One eternal, triune God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- The undiminished deity and true humanity of Jesus Christ
- Christ’s virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death for sin, miraculous bodily resurrection, and literal future return
- The special creation and subsequent fall of humanity
- Salvation by grace through faith
- The eternal life of believers and condemnation of unbelievers

## **3. THEY UNASHAMEDLY MODEL SENSUALITY**

Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. ~ 2 Peter 2:2

## **4. THEY ARE SELFISHLY GREEDY**

*In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed. ~ 2 Peter 2:3*

## **FOUR PRACTICAL TIPS THAT CAN PROTECT US FROM DECEPTION:**

- **Read!**
- **Stop!**
- **Look!**
- **Listen!**

### **Next Steps:**

Memorize Matthew 24:4

Read the letter of 2 Peter

Become a follower of Jesus

Sign up for Growth Track

Invite a friend to service next week