

What could be worse than lying about God's Word?

What is more treacherous than claiming to hear from God when you haven't?

What is as deplorable as misrepresenting the King of the Universe?

What can be more criminal than claiming to bring life while leading directly to death?

**Nothing incensed the Lord and His Apostles
more than misrepresenting the One True God**

Matthew 7:15

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Luke 6:26

²⁶ "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

John 8:44 (*Jesus after the Pharisees said Abraham is their father*)

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Galatians 1:9

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed (*anathema*).

Philippians 3:2

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Peter Outline

I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)

II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)

A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15)

B. Peter's Illumination (vs 16-18)

C. Peter's Revelation (vs 19-21)

1. Heed the Light of Scripture (vs 19)

2. Don't Look Inward for Scripture (vs 20)

3. Be Confident of the Sure Source of Scripture (vs 21)

2 Peter 1:19-21

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)

IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

Peter's Plan

Know your Salvation
Know your Sanctification
Know your Scriptures
Know False Teachers



Fight the Battles
& Win the War

2 Corinthians 10:4
For the weapons of our
warfare are not of the flesh
but have divine power to
destroy strongholds.

You can't be deceived if you know the Truth and understand the schemes of the enemy

2 Peter 2:1-22

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains² of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

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. 12 But these, 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. 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.

17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. 18 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."

III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)

A. High Alert for False Teachers (vs 1-3)

1. **A Breach Has Been Made (vs 1a)**
2. This Isn't Over Yet (vs 1b)
3. Casualties are High (vs 2-3a)
4. Retribution is Near (vs 3b)

¹But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

“But” - hinge of the book - going from Truth of Scripture to Deception of the False

“False prophets” - Gr. ψευδοπροφήτης (pseudoprophētēs)

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (*Moses' warning to the 2nd Generation of Israel*)

13 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ²and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ ³you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. ⁵But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

Jeremiah 6:13-15

- 13** “For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.
- 14** They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.
- 15** Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown,” says the Lord.

Ezekiel 13:1-7

The word of the Lord came to me: ²“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, who are prophesying, and say to those who prophesy from their own hearts: ‘Hear the word of the Lord!’ ³Thus says the Lord God, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! ⁴Your prophets have been like jackals among ruins, O Israel. ⁵You have not gone up into the breaches, or built up a wall for the house of Israel, that it might stand in battle in the day of the Lord. ⁶They have seen false visions and lying divinations. They say, ‘Declares the Lord,’ when the Lord has not sent them, and yet they expect him to fulfill their word. ⁷Have you not seen a false vision and uttered a lying divination, whenever you have said, ‘Declares the Lord,’ although I have not spoken?”

1 Kings 22 - Ahab (King of Israel) & Jehoshaphat (King of Judah) and the Prophets of God

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“Just as there will be false teachers among you”

- It's certain, it's coming, it's here
- Just as they were in the OT among God's chosen people, they will be in the church
- Just as dangerous, just as deadly, just as deceiving

Jude 4

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

“Will Secretly Bring” - Gr. παρεισάγω (*pareisagō*) - to bring forward, to introduce, to cause something to happen by introducing factors from outside

- Rare word used only here in NT
- False teachers introduce ideas foreign to scripture, outside of orthodoxy
- It's secret because it's hidden behind Biblical language and appearance of truth

“Destructive” - Gr. ἀπώλεια (*apōleia*) - ruin, waste, needless squandering of a resource

- Judas called “son of destruction” (ESV), “son of perdition” (NAS) (John 17:12)
- Antichrist or Man of Lawlessness called “son of destruction” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

“Heresies” - Gr. αἵρεσις (*haireisis*) - false teaching, division, faction

- “an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects” (W. E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, 4 vols. [London: Oliphants, 1940; reprint, Chicago: Moody, 1985], 2:203).
- Used to describe a sect or party based on a belief
- “The Way” (Acts 24:14)
- “The party of the Pharisees” (Acts 15:5)

“Even denying the Master who bought them”

- Peter then gives an example of a destructive heresy
- Presenting the most extreme and serious heresy, denying the Master

“Denying” - Gr. ἀρνέομαι (*arneomai*) - verbal renounce, deny, disown, repudiate, disregard

“Master” - Gr. δεσπότης (*despotēs*) - ruler, most powerful king, owner

- Where we get the word “Despot” - absolute ruler

Acts 4:24 (After Peter & John were arrested)

²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord (*despotēs*), who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,

“Bought” - Gr. ἀγοράζω (*agorazō*) - buy, purchase, acquire, redeem

“Bringing swift destruction upon themselves”

- Same word for “destruction” again

Hebrews 10:26-31

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ **How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God,** and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Matthew 13:1-23 (*Parable of the Sower*)

Sown along the path (Satan steals)
Sown on rocky soil (persecution = fall away)

Sown in thorns (cares of the world = fall away) - False Teachers

Sown on good soil (produce grain = salvation)

Matthew 13:24-30

(*Parable of the Wheat & Tares*)

Considerations of Limited (Specific) Atonement vs Unlimited Atonement

- Are False Teachers truly “bought” in the sense of redemption or is this verse expressing the great depths of the False Teachers’ deception who are claiming redemption while denying the actual Master who is their supposed redeemer?
- The verse describes swift destruction & judgment so we can be talking about redeemed people

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² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

“Many will follow” - false teaching is a huge enterprise, very profitable, very popular, well funded and well attended

“Sensuality” - Gr. ἀσέλγεια (*aselgeia*) - debauchery, licentiousness, lewdness, unrestrained in moral attitudes and behaviors

- Peter uses in 1 Peter 4:3, 2 Peter 2:2, 7, 10, 13-14, 18-19

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “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.** ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

2 Peter 2:1-3

Matthew 24:10-12 (*Olivet Discourse*)

¹⁰ And then **many will fall away** and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And **many false prophets will arise and lead many astray**. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold

“Blasphemed” - Gr. βλασφημέω (blasphēmēō) - insult, slander, curse

- False teachers within the church blaspheme the name of God
- False teachers cause those outside the church to blaspheme the true God

“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.” Brennan Manning (Author, Speaker 1934-2013)

Made popular by DC Talk in 1996 song “What if I Stumble?”

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“Greed” - Gr. πλεονεξία (pleonexia) - exploitation, taking advantage of

“Exploit” - Gr. ἐμπορεύομαι (emporeuomai) - cheat, realize gain, positive connotation (do business)

- Emporium
- “Make merchandise of you” KJV

“False” - Gr. πλαστός (plastos) - made up, fabricated

- Where we get the word “plastic”
- Only place used in the NT

Colossians 2:8

⁸ See to it that no one **takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit**, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Wealthy Pastors - 2023 (<https://moneyinc.com/richest-pastors-in-the-world/>)

T.D. Jakes - \$20 million
Rick Warren - \$25 million
Creflo Dollar - \$27 million
Benny Hinn - \$40 million
Andy Stanley - \$45 million
Jesse Duplantis - \$50 million
Joel Osteen - \$100 million
Kenneth Copeland - \$760 Million

Acts 20:28-31

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure **fierce wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

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“Condemnation” - Gr. κρίμα (*krima*) - legal decision of judgment, verdict, punishment

God is the Judge - Great White Throne Judgment & Lake of Fire are coming

Mark 12:38-40 (*Jesus' warning against the Scribes*)

³⁸ And in his teaching he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹ and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰ who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. **They will receive the greater condemnation.**”

James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be **judged with greater strictness**

1 Peter 4:3-5

³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵ **but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.**

False Teachers are piling up judgment for themselves - the books will be opened

God is Sovereign - Master - Despot

Psalms 73:27-28 (Asaph - Why do the wicked prosper?)

- ²⁷ For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
- ²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Additional Resources:

2 Peter 2:1

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Acts 20:29

²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

Jeremiah 5:30-31

³⁰ An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land:

³¹ the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?

Jeremiah 28:15-17

¹⁵ And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. ¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the Lord.' " ¹⁷ In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

Peter understood that false teachers are the emissaries of hell and pawns of Satan, motivated by the love of money, power, prestige, and prominence. Because they are masters of deception, they successfully peddle the doctrines of demons to unsuspecting souls, marketing eternal ruin as if it were eternal life.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 2). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (*Swift Destruction on the False Teachers*)

⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ **They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,** ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

2 Peter 2:2

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, **sensuality**, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 4:19

¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to **sensuality**, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Colossians 3:5

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

By their deceptive teaching and immoral behavior, false teachers have **maligned** (literally “blasphemed,” “slandered,” or “defamed”) the gospel. Of course, their mode of operation is consistent with Satan’s mission. On the one hand, he seeks to undermine the church from the inside, by introducing deceptive heresies and false doctrines. On the other hand, he seeks to tarnish the church’s reputation from the outside, by periodically unmasking false teachers before a watching world. When unbelievers associate the conduct of false teachers with the practice of the true church, the name of Christ is inevitably defamed.

To counter these relentless, satanic efforts, the church must be doctrinally pure, and Christians must live the kind of righteous lives that make the transforming power of Christ believable. With this in mind, the apostle Paul exhorted the Philippians, “Prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15; cf. Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; 5:8; 1 Thess. 2:12; Titus 2:5, 7, 14; 1 Peter 2:9–12).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 78). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

2 Peter 2:3

Although false teachers will not face their eternal **judgment** until death, their sentence was decreed by God from long ago. (The phrase **from long ago** translates one word, *ekpalai*, which simply means “from a long time.”) Throughout history, from the first pronouncement of judgment on the serpent in the Garden (Gen. 3:13–15), God has condemned all those who distort divine truth (cf. Isa. 8:19–21; 28:15; Jer. 9:6–9; 14:14–15; Zeph. 3:1–8; Rev. 21:8, 27). The expression **is not idle** strengthens the sobering reality of divine retribution; God’s sentence against every lying teacher is actively accumulating wrath until each perishes in hell. (See the discussion on Jude 4’s phrase “long beforehand marked out for this condemnation” in chapter 11 of this volume.)

With the words **destruction is not asleep**, Peter personifies eternal damnation as if it were an executioner, who remains fully awake, ready to administer God’s just sentence of condemnation on those who falsify His Word.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (pp. 83–84). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Limited (Specific Atonement) vs Unlimited Atonement

Charles Spurgeon (*Limited Atonement*)

We are often told that we limit the atonement of Christ, because we say that Christ has not made a satisfaction for all men, or all men would be saved. Now, our reply to this is, that, on the other hand, our opponents limit it; we do not. The Arminians say, Christ died for all men. Ask them what they mean by it. Did Christ die so as to secure the salvation of all men? They say, “No, certainly not.” We ask them the next question—Did Christ die so as to secure the salvation of any man in particular? They answer, “No.” They are obliged to admit this, if they are consistent. They say, “No, Christ has died that any man may be saved if”—and then follow certain conditions of salvation. Now, who is it that limits the death of Christ? Why, you. You say that Christ did not die so as infallibly to secure the salvation of anybody. We beg your pardon, when you say we limit Christ’s death; we say, “No, my dear sir, it is you that do it.” We say that Christ so died that he infallibly secured the salvation of a multitude that no man can number, who through Christ’s death not only may be saved, but are saved and cannot by any possibility run the hazard of being anything but saved. You are welcome to your atonement; you may keep it. We will never renounce ours for the sake of it.

(Cited by J. I. Packer, “Introductory Essay,” in John Owen, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* [n.p., n.d.; reprint, London: Banner of Truth, 1959], 14.)

Contemporary writer David Clotfelter (*Limited Atonement*)

From the Calvinist point of view, it is Arminianism that presents logical impossibilities. Arminianism tells us that Jesus died for multitudes that will never be saved, including millions who never so much as heard of Him. It tells us that in the case of those who are lost, the death of Jesus, represented in Scripture as an act whereby He took upon Himself the punishment that should have been ours (Isa. 53:5), was ineffective. Christ has suffered once for their sins, but they will now have to suffer for those same sins in hell.

The Arminian atonement has the initial appearance of being very generous, but the more closely we look at it, the less we are impressed. Does it guarantee the salvation of any person? No. Does it guarantee that those for whom Christ died will have the opportunity to hear of Him and respond to Him? No. Does it in any way remove or even lessen the sufferings of the lost? No. In reality, the Arminian atonement does not *atone*. It merely clears the way for God to accept those who are able to lift themselves by their own bootstraps. The Calvinist does not believe that any fallen person has such power, and so he views the Arminian atonement as unsuited to the salvation of sinners and insulting to Christ.

(*Sinners in the Hands of a Good God* [Chicago: Moody, 2004], 165; emphasis in original)

Tom Schreiner, commentator & professor at Southern Theological Seminary (*Limited Atonement*)

The easiest solution, in some ways, would be to take the verse straightforwardly. Some who submit to Christ’s lordship subsequently deny him and are therefore damned forever. This is now the view of most commentators, and it has the virtue of providing a lucid and uncomplicated understanding of the text. At one level the proposed interpretation is correct. Some members of the Christian community had departed from the Christian faith. The issue is whether those who are genuinely Christians can commit apostasy. Peter taught elsewhere that those who are called by God’s grace are effectually called by his own glory and excellence (2 Pet 1:3), and 1 Pet 1:5 clearly says that those who belong to God will be preserved by his power through faith so that they will possess eschatological salvation. When we add to this many other texts that teach that those whom God has called will never perish (e.g., Rom 8:28–39; 1 Cor 1:8–9; Phil 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23–24), it suggests that we should consider another interpretation. I would suggest that Peter used phenomenological language. In other words, he described the false teachers as believers because they made a profession of faith and gave

2 Peter 2:1-3

every appearance initially of being genuine believers. Peter did not refer to those who had been outside the community of faith but to those who were part of the church and perhaps even leaders among God's people. Their denial of Jesus Christ reveals that they did not truly belong to God, even though they professed faith. Peter said that they were bought by Jesus Christ, in the sense that they gave every indication initially of genuine faith. In every church there are members who appear to be believers and who should be accepted as believers according to the judgment of charity. As time elapses and difficulties arise, it becomes apparent that they are wolves in the flock (Acts 20:29–30), that though they called on Jesus as Lord their disobedience shows that he *never* knew them (Matt 7:21–23), that they are like the seed sown on rocky or thorny ground that initially bears fruit but dries up and dies when hard times come (Matt 13:20–22).

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, pp. 331–332). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

H.D.M Spence, *The Pulpit Commentary (Unlimited Atonement)*

Even denying the Lord that bought them; literally, as in the Revised Version, *denying even the Master that bought them*. The word for “Master” (δεσπότης) implies that the deniers stand to the Lord in the relation of slaves, bondservants. The Lord had **bought them**; they were not their own, but his, bought with a price, “not with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:18; see also the parallel passage Jude 4). These words plainly assert the universality of the Lord's redemption, He “tasted death for every man” (Heb. 2:9), even for those false teachers who denied him. The denial referred to may have been doctrinal or practical; most of the ancient forms of heresy involved some grave error as to the Person of Christ and the germs of these errors appeared very early in the Church (see 1 John 2:22, 23), denying sometimes the Godhead of our Lord, sometimes the truth of his humanity. But St. Peter may mean the practical denial of Christ evinced in an ungodly and licentious life. The latter form of denial appears most prominent in this chapter; probably the apostle intended to warn his readers against both. It is touching to remember that he had himself denied the Lord, though indeed the price with which our souls were bought had not then been paid; but his denial was at once followed by a deep and true repentance. The Lord's loving look recalled him to himself; his bitter tears proved the sincerity of his contrition.

Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). [2 Peter](#) (p. 43). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

John Walvoord & Roy Zuck, Dallas Theological Seminary (*Unlimited Atonement*)

The focus of their heresies was **the sovereign Lord**, Christ, whom they denied (cf. Jude 4). This in turn led to their own spiritual **destruction** or ruin (*apōleian*; cf. 2 Peter 2:3; 3:16), which will be **swift** (*tachinēn*, “sudden”; cf. *tachinē* [“soon”] in 1:14). How can these false teachers, who were said to be **among the people**, and whom the Lord had **bought** (*agorasanta*, “redeem”), end up in everlasting destruction? Several suggestions have been offered: (1) They were saved but lost their salvation. But this contradicts many other Scriptures (e.g., John 3:16; 5:24; 10:28–29). (2) “Bought” means the Lord created them, not that He saved them. But this stretches the meaning of *agorazō* (“redeem”). (3) The false prophets merely *said* they were “bought” by Christ. This, however, seems to read into the verse. (4) They were “redeemed” in the sense that Christ paid the redemptive price for their salvation, but they did not apply it to themselves and so were not saved. Christ's death is “sufficient” for all (1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2), but is “efficient” only for those who believe. This is a strong argument for unlimited atonement (the view that Christ died for everyone) and against limited atonement (the view that Christ died only for those whom He would later save).

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