

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"TRADEMARKS OF FALSE TEACHERS"
2 PETER 2: 10-16
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

FOCAL POINT: What are some of the most recognizable logos you can think of? Why are they so important? Why are their some trademarks and logos people want to identify with?

A trademark helps you identify the product. And if the product is good, the trademark is valued. Peter wanted to point out that the false teachers invading the church had trademarks as well. And when you identified them, it would serve you well to avoid them.

TEXT:

*especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority. Bold, arrogant people! They do not tremble when they blaspheme the glorious ones; **11** however, angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous charge against them before the Lord. **12** But these people, like irrational animals—creatures of instinct born to be caught and destroyed—speak blasphemies about things they don't understand, and in their destruction they too will be destroyed, **13** suffering harm as the payment for unrighteousness. They consider it a pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, delighting in their deceptions as they feast with you. **14** They have eyes full of adultery and are always looking for sin. They seduce unstable people and have hearts trained in greed. Children under a curse! **15** They have gone astray by abandoning the straight path and have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness **16** but received a rebuke for his transgression: A donkey that could not talk spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's irrationality.*

Peter shared some very important identifying marks of false teachers in the church. He unmasked them in order to protect followers of Christ from falling prey to what they were teaching. He wanted them to stay on the path Christ had laid out for them.

Here are some trademarks of false teachers:

Arrogance (vv. 10-12)

1.It's a little eye opening to see that false teaching in the church isn't a recent phenomenon. It's something the church has been dealing with since the beginning. But a quick way to identify a false teacher is through their arrogance. Look in vv. 10-12. How was their arrogance displayed?

2.In v. 10, what was their motivation? Who/what was the focus of these false teachers? How does this contradict Scripture? *Read* 1 Cor. 6: 19-20, Jer. 17: 9. Can you think of an incident of arrogance that you've seen before that turned you off? Why did it bother you?

3.The end of v. 10 tells us the false teachers don't tremble when they blaspheme. "Blaspheme" means "to despise." What was being despised? The truth. What is the truth? That to be saved one must repent. What does repentance mean? Why is repentance difficult?

Seductiveness (vv. 13-14)

1.The word "seduce" means "to lure, to bait a trap." False teachers want to bait a hook for you to bite into it. How do you see false teachings made attractive to get the church to buy into it? What was the purpose for false teachers to "bait a trap"? What are some effective traps you see being laid today in churches?

2.Who are the most likely to fall for the trap? *Read* v. 14. What comes to mind when you think of "unstable"? I think of a person who has no balance. It's a person who doesn't know God's Word or who won't put themselves under its authority. What's a practical step to gain balance? *Read* Acts 17: 10-12.

3.What's the importance of a tuning fork? What is the tuning fork in your life?

Worldliness (vv. 15-16)

1.Someone briefly share the story of Balaam (*refer back to Numbers 22*). At first glance it doesn't seem like Balaam did anything wrong. After you read through Numbers 22, what was Balaam's mistake? What was his motivation for doing what he did? The end of v. 15 gives us the answer.

2.False teachers turn out to be the greatest beneficiaries of their teachings. Their listeners turn out to be victims. How do you see Ps. 119: 105 being important in protecting you from false teaching?