

**Passage:** 2 Peter 2:1-22

**Title:** Know Your Adversaries

**Summary:** Peter is writing his last letter; he knows death is near. This letter is only three chapters, yet Peter spends 33% of it warning about false teachers. If false teachers were a minor thing, Peter would have only needed to write a sentence or two, but considering a whole chapter, and Jesus telling us in last days many false teachers will arise.... this is a much-needed study for the days we live.

**2 Peter 2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup> By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup> and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup> and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—<sup>9</sup> then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, <sup>10</sup> and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, <sup>11</sup> whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. <sup>12</sup> But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, <sup>13</sup> and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, <sup>14</sup> having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. <sup>15</sup> They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; <sup>16</sup> but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. <sup>17</sup> These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. <sup>18</sup> For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup> While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. <sup>20</sup> For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup> For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. <sup>22</sup> But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

### Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

### **Written to – Like Precious Faith**

People with like precious faith. These people as we know from the first epistle were scattered from their homes because of the persecution that was upon them, everything they knew as familiar was gone, and they are living in areas foreign to them. But this book is timeless, as it is written to each of you who have that same precious faith that Peter and these people did:

(2 Peter 1:1 NKJV) Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who have obtained like precious faith with us** by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

**Written Peter / 66AD / Dies 67AD / From Prison**

Written by Peter around 66AD, it has been about 30 years now since Jesus had ascended into heaven; and in less than a year (According to church tradition/early writings) that Peter will be crucified (67AD). Because of such a late writing, many deduce that Peter is writing this letter from a prison cell in Rome (and according to the writings of the early church fathers).

### **Peter's Knew Time Near / Just as Jesus Said – John 21 / Hands Spread**

Peter clearly knew that his time was near:

*(2 Peter 1:14 NKJV) knowing that **shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.***

Just as the Lord had shown him:

*(John 21:18 NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."*

*(John 21:19 NKJV) **This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."***

Your hands will be spread Peter and you will have no control over where they take you. Church tradition says that Peter was crucified, but Peter did not feel worthy to die in the same manner of his Lord, so he asked to be crucified upside down.

### **Time Near – Must Write / Outward Pressures – Inward Pressures / False Teachers – Mocking 2nd**

Peter knows that his death is near and writes to the church. In his first letter he had turned his attention outward pressures that were coming upon the church such as the attacks of Nero, and the pressures of the world. But in this second letter he writes concerning pressures within the church such as false teachers, and people mocking the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. You know false teachers are not just these guys with funny hair trying to fleece people of their money; but they are people who diminish the power of Christ in people's life. They water down the Word, they wink at sin, they twist the Scriptures and say this is ok, and that no longer applies. I believe the church is seeing more false teachers than any other time in the history of the church.

### **Why he Writes - Stirs Us Up**

Peter tells us in this Second Epistle why he writes to them (and us), to stir us up, to remind us, that we hang on to the things we have been taught in the Old Testament, the Epistles of the Apostles, and the teachings in the Gospels. He says remember these things, hold on to them, no matter how hard life may get.

*(2 Peter 3:1 NKJV) Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),*

*(2 Peter 3:2 NKJV) that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,*

### **Peter's Heart / 30 yrs Later**

Peter's heart really comes across to us here, we see the heart of the Shepherd caring for his flock, and we see him 30 years later doing what Jesus told him to do, what a good shepherd is suppose to do, feed the flock:

*(John 21:15 NKJV) So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"*

*(John 21:16 NKJV) He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"*

*(John 21:17 NKJV) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Feed My sheep.**"*

### **Peter Feeds / Wants them to Know / 16X / Peter's Solution – Through His Divine Power**

Peter feeds the flock, and we see this as the theme of this epistle. He wants them to "Know". The word knowledge appears in some form 16 times in these 3 short chapters. It is not too much to say that Peter's primary solution to false teaching is knowledge of true doctrine, the solution against misunderstanding the "end times" is knowledge of true doctrine. But this knowledge is also the solution to every problem and situation in your life. Whatever problem or situation is going on in your life, God has a promise or

example in His Word to meet us where we are at. And, it is through the knowledge of Him, that we tap into His divine power, and it is through that power that we have all we need to live this life.

## Theme

This knowledge, will give us power. The theme of this book is given to us in chapter 1:  
*(2 Peter 1:2 NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,*  
*(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

### Outline of 2 Peter

- Introduction - (1:1-3)
- Know Your Salvation - (1:3-11)
- Know Your Scripture - (1:12-21)
- Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)
- Know Your Prophecy - (3:1-18)

### Outline of Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)

- Dangers of False Teachers – (2: 1-3)
- Destruction of False Teachers – (2: 4-9)
- Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)

## More than Birth / Growth & Development / Can't Live Godly Life

The Christian life is more than just a birth, it is also a growth and development. It is only through the knowledge of Christ that you can live down here and grow to be more a more godly person. Everything that you need to live a life of godliness is provided for us by God. We cannot live that life in and of ourselves. We don't have the capacity. I can't say, Well I'm going to live like God. And by my resolve, do it. But God has given to us all that is necessary to live that life of godliness. It's imparted to us, that is, through the word of God.

## Don't Need Further Revelation – New Truth / New Experiences of Old Truths / Form their God

We do not need further revelation. We need not be interested in new truth. We just need to lay hold of the truths already revealed to us here in the Word. It's all there! I am not interested in these religious systems that want to peddle their formulas for the church. Or the Cults like The Latter Day Saints with their special revelations, the Holy Laughter movement, etc. Don't need it. All that is necessary to live the life of godliness has been provided for us, and we don't need further revelations. That also applies to each individual; those who they form in their mind who they think God is, but that is incorrect, it is only through His Word can we know who He is.

### Dangers of False Teachers – (2: 1-3)

Studies like these are always hard because whoever teaches them can come across with the attitude of we are the only church, or look how holy we are compared to them. There are many great ministries going on all around the country and world, and many great denominations as God builds a body of Christ, offering a flavor and type for all. But there are some that are not right on, in line with the teachings of Christ, and that is what is being addressed here.

**(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;**

**(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,**

**(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

**(2 Peter 2:1 NKJV) But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.**

### **Simultaneously / Unusual Growth / Matt 13**

Now notice that simultaneously while men inspired of God are bringing the Word, so too are there these false teachers. That is the way it will be then, now, and until the Lord returns. Jesus spoke about this, he said there will be unusual church growth, huge church growth, and right in the midst of the church will be uncleanness:

*(Matthew 13:31 NKJV) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,*

*(Matthew 13:32 NKJV) "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."*

### **Mustard Seed / Birds**

You see a mustard seed grows a bush not a tree, so that is unusual. And the birds of the air in Biblical typology are unclean animals. So Jesus was saying hey the church is going to grow, explode, it will look great, but it isn't. Many people inside the church will be inside physically, but not spiritually.

### **Peter Feeds & Warns / Acts 20**

Peter is doing what is commanded by Paul in Acts. A Shepherd doesn't just feed the Flock of God, He protects them to, he warns them of the dangers that seek to devour them:

*(Acts 20:28 NKJV) "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

**(2 Peter 2:2 NKJV) And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

**(2 Peter 2:3 NKJV) By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.**

## **Covetousness / Cross – Cloth – Wallet – Letters – God Broke – Dollar\$ - Bread**

Verse 3 - By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words: Verse 3 tells us what motivates these men and woman, covetousness. They seek not to feed the flock, but fleece the flock. They make merchandise out of the people of God. You have seen them on television, maybe received something in the mail from them. Like pieces of the original cross, or a piece of Jesus' burial cloth, my favorite is the miracle wallet – yes if you send them 20 dollars they will send you the wallet and guarantee that every time you open the wallet their will be a 20 dollar bill in it (I always wonder why they need my 20 dollars when they can just open up their miracle wallet and get a 20 out of there). I love getting the letters in the mail from them, they say dear Anne, for the envelope is addressed to Anne Arundel, and then the letter goes on to say how I have been on their heart, is everything ok, Anne write me back and let me know, and while you are at it, could ya put a love offering with it so we can keep the ministry going and I can continue the ministry. You hear them say send us money or will go off the air, basically God is broke and you have to bail Him out. That isn't a very powerful god if you have to bail him out – especially after they just taught on His mighty healing power. I remember one guy taking us on a behind the scene tour and he showed the viewers all the frayed cable and how at any moment they could lose their signal. Hey there is nothing wrong with a church or ministry sharing the needs with its members and prayer partners, but be weary of the false teacher making merchandise. Also let me say not everyone on television is a huckster, for there are many great ministries on the air bring glory to God. I can remember 2 rip-off ministries personally, one of them in the Ukraine promised kids on the street one American dollar if they

came to Sunday School, and then when they did come they took a picture, put it in their newsletter, sent it to the States and said our Sunday school is exploding, these kids are hungering for the Word, send money so we can get a bigger building. In Russia they pulled a truck up loaded with free bread, so all the peoples hands (hundreds of people) were raising their hand to get the bread, so they took a picture, sent it to the States and said we came to hand out Bible and look at all the people, send money. These men got their money and lived like royalty there in third world countries, all having servants and cooks waiting on them.

### **Kingdom – Power - Glory**

They don't just covet money, they also covet the power and the fame. So we see man striving for the Kingdom, the power, and the glory. Only place for that to be found is in Christ:

(Matthew 6:13 NKJV) [And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.](#)

### **How Avoid Dangers of them / Theme**

How do we avoid the dangers of these false teachers, these charismatic people who can lead away believers, the theme of this book:

(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) [as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,](#)

### **Destruction of False Teachers – (2: 4-9)**

You know many, many of these men and woman, false teachers, are so charismatic, appear so godly, almost angelic, look at verse 4, Peter says even the angels will be destroyed. The end of them will be destruction. They will take the same path as the angels that rebelled, the unrepentant in the days of Noah, and the perverse of Sodom:

**(2 Peter 2:4 NKJV) For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;**

### **God Serious – Nowhere to Hide / Wheels turn Slow – Grind Thoroughly / History**

God is serious about these false teachers leading His children astray, He makes it clear that there is nowhere you can hide from me that I will not find you, and my wrath will be in totality. Know this, the wheels of God's judgement turns slowly, but grind thoroughly. Peter's point is that they will be dealt with, they should not mistake His patience as if He will not judge.

Peter makes it clear to them, for us, look at history, fallen angels, days of Noah, and day of Sodom, judgement will come, false teacher you will not escape history.

### **3 Cases of False Teachers / Satan – Noah - Sodom**

Here we see three serious cases of false teachers, Satan in the heavens telling the angels to rebel with him, I can only imagine what the father of lies promised them. Imagine all the false teachers in Sodom, hey it's ok, it is just the way you are made, you can't help it. You can come to church here, we are an open minded church. How about in the Day of Noah, hey he is just some crazy nut, there is no such thing as rain, nor rapture. Eat drink and be merry (Luke 17:26-27).

**(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;**

### **Note – 1 in 2 Billion**

Hey just a note here, it was estimated that there were 6 billion people on the planet at that time based on that they lived such long lives, yet only 8 people got saved. Noah and wife, Noah's sons and 3 wives. Can I point that out to you singles, God will find you a saved mate, even if the odds are 1 in 2 billion.

### **Noah Preacher**

Noah, we are told was a preacher of righteousness. So he preached while he worked, and his work was his witness as well.

### Days of Noah

Jesus tells us, that as it was in the days of Noah so will it be when the Son of Man returns:

*Matthew 24:36–39 (NKJV)*<sup>36</sup> *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

When we study the days of Noah in Genesis we see there was population explosion happening, there was strange demonic activity going on and there was perverse unbridled sexual activity among the people (sons of god mating with woman), and the earth was filled with violence.

*Genesis 6:1 (NKJV)*<sup>1</sup> *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,*

*Genesis 6:4 (NKJV)*<sup>4</sup> *There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*

*Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)*<sup>5</sup> *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

### Other Preachers

From the context, it appears to me that there were “other preachers”, preachers of unrighteousness, who were telling people, that their lifestyle was fine, that Noah was legalistic and judgmental, to which there preaching brought destruction upon the people.

Preachers today who skip the hot topic issues because they don’t want to offend people, risk empty seats and dwindling bank accounts, are no less false teachers than in the days of Noah; because they are preparing people for destruction in the next life to come, and they are leading people into right-living before God today, which leaves and lends many lives to ruin, and anything close to the abundant life God promises.

*John 10:10 (NKJV)*<sup>10</sup> *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Paul says he preached the whole counsel of God..... not just the parts that made people feel good.

*Acts 20:25–31 (NKJV)*<sup>25</sup> *“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

**(2 Peter 2:6 NKJV) and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;**

### Other Preachers

In context, in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, there would be those who would counter what was righteous before God. They would hear the story of the flood, and dismiss it as a fairytale.

Today they can say what they want, as many will say they do not believe in God, or the Bible. But then there are those who do say they believe in the God of the Bible, profess Jesus as Lord and Savior, and because of their desire to follow after the lusts of their heart, they rewrite the Bible, teach it, and get other who will gladly buy into it so they too can “ease” their conscience of their lifestyle.

My case -in-point, the “rainbow”. The rainbow is God’s promise to never flood the world again over sin and unrighteousness, and the homosexual community today has made it their flag of promise that God will not judge them for their unrighteousness.

*Genesis 9:13–17 (NKJV)*<sup>13</sup> *I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; <sup>15</sup> and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and*

*you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*

### **Christian – Don’t Grow Numb**

Christian, Do not grow, numb to all the wickedness and immorality that is around you. It is so easy for us to grow, numb to it, and then not be moved by it or insulate ourself and not be moved into what we clearly see being spoken of here. The spiritual realm is engaged and engaged in this matter.

As Jesus would say, they just kept marrying and given to marriage what's next to eat? They took the attitude that this will go on forever, that God will not bring a judgment of our wickedness. Even when a preacher of righteousness preached in God's long suffering of what appears to be 120 years of preaching, people would not repent. They would mock and they would laugh, and they just kept living like nothing was ever gonna change in the realm of God doing something about it. And so we see the day around us so much the same. Everyone thinks this will just go on forever and it will never be dealt with, but it shall be. And God's making it clear that the day will come, but he's making it clear to us. Don't grow numb in the middle of it.

*Matthew 24:36–39 (NKJV)<sup>36</sup> “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

### **Extreme Pleasure**

The sin of Sodom Gamora predominant was homosexuality. And it says because they had an abundance of ease, as we're told in Ezekiel. But what's happened with their abundance of ease was, what's the next pleasure that I can have?

*Ezekiel 16:49–50 (NKJV)<sup>49</sup> Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. <sup>50</sup> And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.*

And when a person looks for extreme pleasure, then they have to amp up to the next level some extreme pleasure, as in they're not satisfied with the simple God-given beautiful way that God has designed man and his relationship, male and female, in the bounds of marriage. So what's happening in Sodom and Gomorrah was the normalization of homosexuality. Why do we call it perversion? I know it connotes such a wickedness in its realm. It sounds like, an aggression and a hateful speech. But perversion simply means twisted. And what it means here is twisting God's perfect design. And then after it's twisted to normalize it and even go as far as now, God is the one who is not right. And out of order, he's twisted. See how it reverses itself?

### **Numbing / 4-Walled Discussions**

And Christian, you can't become numb about this. And you can't come inward to your inner circle and only speak of it within the walls of the church. It has to be prayed, it has to be honest. Conversations, always talking about having honest conversations. But the minute you show up with the honest word to God, people get real angry about it and say it's not an honest conversation. Once again, it's twisted into their favor, not what the word of God is. But here's why. Christians need to be praying about it. Christians need to be engaged in it because as a society, every society or homosexuality has been embraced, promoted and exalted that society has crumbled. There's not a civilization that has lasted under that promotion. And so United States of America, Europe, they're on the fast track to be the society that will be judged. It will self implode itself because history will always repeat itself.

### **Love will Tell Truth**

Love will tell you the truth. Today's mantra and promotion is love. But they will say, love wins. They leave out the truth and the truth of will speak the truth. And here is the truth. These people promoters, whether they're so-called religious leaders or government leaders or organizational leaders for the homosexual community, your workplace that promotes it, they're not your friends. They're not your champions. Anyone. And anything that keeps you from God and separates you from Christ is not your friend. I will go as far to say they are your enemy because they are bringing harm upon your life, even your eternal life.

### **And – We Have to Live Above It**

Christians, we are not just anybody in this world. We're chosen by him. We're owned by him. We cannot live in any immorality, whether it's homosexual immorality or heterosexual sex before marriage. We've been bought with a price. New paragraph. Christian, this word is true. We can never be defeated from the outside, ever. No man government program or demon realm can defeat us. We can only be defeated from the inside when we cross into a place that the Holy God must judge us for our sin and rebellion.

**(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked**

**(2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);**

**(2 Peter 2:9 NKJV) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,**

### **Story of Lot / Looks – Lives – Sits / Great for Cattle – Terrible for Kids / Economically – Spiritually**

But back to our story, and you know the story of Sodom, Lot saw the lush green plains of Sodom and pitched his tent facing the city. Next thing we find him in living in the city, and sitting at the gate as a leader in that wretched city. Sodom was a great place for cattle, a terrible place for kids. A great place economically but a terrible place for a family. A great place materially, but terrible place spiritually. There is a message in that if you ever consider moving.

### **Rest of Story / Rape – Sons – Wife – Daughter / Pitched his Tent / God says he is Righteous**

You know the rest of the story, the angels come into town, they want to rape them, the angels blind the perverse men's eyes, say get out of town Lot and family, but the son-in-laws won't go, the wife looks back, and the daughters do the unthinkable. It all started when he pitched his tent facing the city. Now Lot looks like a marginal Christian at best, but look here, God calls him righteous.

*Genesis 19:1–11 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. <sup>2</sup> And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." <sup>3</sup> But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. <sup>4</sup> Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally." <sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! <sup>8</sup> See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." <sup>9</sup> And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.*

### **Context / Foolish Mistakes – Still Mine – Inheritance / Lot Struggled**

Christian, here is what God is saying in the context here, Lot made foolish mistakes, and made foolish decisions which put his family in a bad situation and they ultimately paid for it, but.....Lot is still mine. Foolish mistakes and all, Lot is still my son, my child, has part in the inheritance of the Kingdom. I will not cast him out for bad decisions and foolish mistakes. We see here what we see nowhere else in Scripture, there was a struggle in Lot's heart. That is a picture of all of us:

*(Romans 7:15 NKJV) For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*

### **Talking Destruction – Shows Grace / Know your heart Christian & False Teacher Looks Good**

Even when God is talking destruction, he still shows His mercy and grace. God says I know what's in your heart, I know you want to do right, but so often you blow it. I am not going to judge and condemn you, I am going to save you, just like Lot. But false teacher, I know what is in your heart, you can say all the right things, look so godly and angelic on the outside, but I know your heart, and my wrath will come upon you.

### **Have you Blown It / Rest / Comfort / 2 Cor 5:21**



Christian have you blown it lately, take rest and be comforted, God loves you, you are still His, you are still righteous before Him, right standing, because;  
(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

### **Example / Can't Judge**

Let Lot be an example to us that we cannot judge another man's heart, examine him fruit yes, judge his heart, no. I would have lost the bet on Lot.

### **Prophecy Students / Tribulation Period / Rapture**

*Verse 9 - then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,* - Important for you prophecy students, the righteous will not go through the Tribulation Period. Sodom was God's wrath against a God rejecting city, and we saw God pull righteous Lot out of the city before His wrath came down. So too will God pull His Church out before His wrath comes down in the Last days against a Christ rejecting world.

### **Chapter 3 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

This little nugget is important for chapter 3 when Peter is talking about Christ's soon return, and don't mock His second coming:

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

### **Like a Thief / Looking for AntiChrist – Rather than Jesus Christ**

It could happen at any moment, like a thief in the night, never announced. If a person thinks that Christians are going to go into the Tribulation, then they will be looking for the Tribulation, they will be looking for the Anti-Christ, instead of looking for Jesus Christ.

### **Take Eyes Off – Easy Led Astray / Focus on Word – Became Flesh / Theme**

Take your eyes off of Jesus Christ, and you will be easily lead astray by false teachers. Understanding prophecy is important for every believer, that is why we study it here. Keep your eyes on the Word.....for the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14):

(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

### **Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)**

Let us take a look at the description given of these false teachers. We see the same description given of them in Jude too. God is serious about His word, and He is not going to waste precious space of the Word. He means business with these false teachers, and he wants His Church to be protected from them.

(2 Peter 2:10 NKJV) **and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,**

(2 Peter 2:11 NKJV) **whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.**

(2 Peter 2:12 NKJV) **But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,**

### **Bold & Arrogant**

They are bold and arrogant. They are so sure of themselves because they are so in love with themselves. They put everyone down, in order to raise themselves up. They slam dignitaries and other godly leaders, they don't care. Even the angels it says don't do that yet these brash false teachers do.

**(2 Peter 2:13 NKJV) and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,  
(2 Peter 2:14 NKJV) having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.**

### **Easy Believism / Most in World / Counter TV / Entices the Flesh**

I see here the worse type of false teacher, the easy believism. These types of false teachers exist more than any other in the world as far as I can see. Give me one of those guys on television or in the mail and it doesn't take much to point out their financial covetousness. So many of them have their jets and million dollar homes (by the way Jesus was poor, the apostles were poor – a servant is a servant, or he is not). But easy believism, now that is tough because they entice the fleshly nature of a believer. I'm not going to enter into whether they are saved or not, especially after looking at Lot.

### **They Live in Sin Themselves / Sit Amongst You / Live in Sin Still Heaven Bound**

But these false teachers are living in sin themselves and they are leading other to follow. These false teachers do not have to have pulpit ministers, they are people who sit amongst the congregation, or are in the workplace, on the ball team, and they say you can do that sin, you are still saved, let me quote some Scriptures to you that support it. We can live in these sins of adultery, fornication, drunkardness, lie, cheat, or steal, whatever it takes to get ahead. It is easy for them to have followers because they entice the flesh.

### **Verse 3 – Deceptive Words / Plastic**

Back in Verse 3 it says they use deceptive words:

[\(2 Peter 2:3 NKJV\) By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.](#)

The word for deceptive is where we get our plastic: plastos, plas-tos'; from G4111; moulded, i.e. (by impl.) artificial or (fig.) fictitious (false):--feigned. So these guys take words/Scripture that is close and then they mold and make it fit what they want it to.

**(2 Peter 2:15 NKJV) They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;  
(2 Peter 2:16 NKJV) but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.**

### **Balaam / For a Price / Entice - Hook**

Balaam was a prophet of God, you read about him in (Numbers 22-23). Balaam was a prophet of God, but for a price he gave counsel to the enemies of God on how to take down the Children of Israel. He told the enemies to send over your young woman and entice the men of Israel, and then after you hook them with sex, introduce them to your false gods. Balaam knew that when they started following after false gods, then God would turn His back on them. So the plan of attack was mixing the fleshly appetite, with what appears to be spiritual things. Still works today.

### **Greed**

The way of Balaam was greed, and for a price he would sell out being a prophet of God.

### **Powerful – Nothing on the Outside Can Take Us Down**

But before moving on I note something pure powerful, and that was that Balaam told the King of Moab that it was impossible to defeat the children of Israel from the outside, but if he could get them to sin inwardly, then God's righteousness would have to deal with them, to which God did. For us, that is power in that no outside force can defeat us (world, devil, and the likes), the only thing that can defeat us is ourselves and our choices we make for (or against) personal holiness, which is totally within our control.

**(2 Peter 2:17 NKJV) These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

### **Form of godliness / Same Doctrine / Everybody Saved / Hard to Counter**

Empty wells, and empty clouds. These false teachers are hard to counter for the Christian today. There are many churches who have the form of godliness, they say the right things, but there is no substance to their ministry. They are within denominational structures, they are large, they agree in tenets of the Christian faith, but they don't teach it. Everybody is saved, or as long as you go to this church. That is pure heresy. Again give me a cult any day and I can prove their error through the Bible, give me a church that Statement of Faith reads the same as mine, but they say everybody is saved, or as long as you don't murder somebody you are a good person, it is heresy, it is blasphemy.

**2 Timothy 3:1-9 (NKJV)**<sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup> For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup> but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

### **Defense Against You / Legalistic / Don't Waver / Just Read God will Judge – Wrath Noah & Sodom**

What is their defense against you, Legalist. You are a legalistic, you are a Bible Thumper, you are a Jesus Freak. Christian, we all hate that legalist label, we cringe, we say no we aren't, we even question are self – am I, is this too much, am I shoving this down peoples throat. Christian don't waiver, it is not true, you know the Word and you know the wages of sin for all who follow these false teachers. We just read that God is a God of wrath, we just read that not everyone goes to heaven, we just read that God will bring destruction upon those that lead others astray.

### **They Misrepresent God**

I know many a ministers personally who will be the hospital of funeral homes and be comforting the family and saying it is ok they are in heaven right now, even though they never had any signs of life spiritually, God receives all. That is not truth, it misrepresents God and Jesus' work on the cross.

**(2 Peter 2:18 NKJV) For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.**

**(2 Peter 2:19 NKJV) While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.**

**(2 Peter 2:20 NKJV) For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.**

**(2 Peter 2:21 NKJV) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

**(2 Peter 2:22 NKJV) But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."**

### **Swelling Words / If Everybody Likes You / The Word will Offend**

*Verse 18 – swelling words* – flattering words, nobody gets upset. Ministers, witnesses of Jesus Christ, now I am not saying be in peoples face, but let me say this, everybody likes you, it most likely you are not preaching the word. Read Oswald Chambers Devotional for December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Focus of Our Message. The word will offend people, Jesus said it would:

*(Matthew 10:34 NKJV) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

*(Matthew 10:35 NKJV) "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';*

*(Matthew 10:36 NKJV) "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'*

### **Promise Liberty – But Bondage / Only 1 Place for Freedom**

These people promise liberty but bring people into bondage and captivity, because there is only one place for freedom:

*(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

*(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."*

### **Give them the Truth / Theme**

Give them the truth, and you give them everything they need for life and godliness:

*(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

### **Application / Be Bereans**

Application for us, how do we examine a teachers fruit, how do we know if they are right on, be good Bereans:

*(Acts 17:11 NKJV) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

### **Whole Counsel / They take 1 Verse**

Their words have to be in accordance with all 31,102 verses of this Bible. Remember last week we studied that the cults and the false teachers take a verse or two and build their whole doctrine from it. It has to be all 31,102 or nothing.

### **NT Test / Jesus – Acts - Epistles**

And here is how we test them through the Scriptures, is what they are saying or trying to lead people to:

- Did Jesus say or do it?
- Did the Early church in the Book of Acts continue with it?
- Do the Epistles teach it and back it up?

### **Will Have a Wonderful Christian Life**

You will have a wonderful Christian walk if you stick to this principle, people will be drawn to you because they will see that your walk is real and genuine.

### **Read Into – Take Out Of / IBS - OIA**

False teachers read into the passage, we are to take out of it. Again, the Inductive Bible Study Method, Observation – what does it say, Interpretation – what does it mean within the context and theme of the epistle, and Application – what does it mean to me, how am I to apply this word to my life.

### **God Draws through Word / Nothing to Add or Change**

God has been drawing people to Himself through this Word, He needs nothing new added to it or changed to draw people.

### **Be careful / May End Up Losing**

Be careful if you think this message doesn't apply to you, for Satan comes so subtly, he whispers in you ear, hey I got something more exciting, more godly, the spirit is rally moving here, and you can find yourself drifting away without even realizing it. I am not saying you will lose your salvation, but you may end up losing.....

### **Outline of Know Your Adversaries - (2:1-22)**

- Dangers of False Teachers – (2: 1-3)
- Destruction of False Teachers – (2: 4-9)
- Description of False Teachers – (2:10-22)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*