

***Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days***  
***The Reality of False Teachers***  
***2 Peter 2:1-3***

*I've titled today's message, "The Reality of False Teachers"*

*We began our journey with the now aged Apostle Peter in him teaching us what he reminded all believers throughout the Church...*

*The walk of a believer is marked by a holy life empowered by the Holy Spirit...*

*He then guided us in the reliability of God's Word through the prophets and apostles...*

*As we continue our journey with Peter, he now wants to expose the antithesis to the true Christian faith...*

*Chapter 2 of 2 Peter is composed entirely of Peter's exposure and assessment of FALSE TEACHERS...*

*We are beginning today by looking at the REALITY of the existence of false teachers...*

***2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV) — 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. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 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.***

*Satan has an ungodly counterfeit for everything godly...*

***1. They will DWELL among us***

***2 Peter 2:1a (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you ...***

***Peter doesn't state this as a POSSIBILITY, but as a REALITY...***

***Where did Peter get this idea?***

***First from HISTORY...***

***Later in Peter's assessment he will refer to one the most notorious false prophets...***

***2 Peter 2:15–16 (ESV) — Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.***

***Second, from JESUS!***

***Matthew 24:11 (ESV) — 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.***

***1. They will DWELL among us***

***2. They will DIVIDE between us***

**2 Peter 2:1 (ESV) — 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.**

**Secretly – introduce with stealth beliefs from outside the truth...**

**“destructive heresies”**

**“To destroy or to cause the destruction of...”**

**“heresies” comes from the Greek word, αἵρεσις**

**The word, heresies means, “The content of teaching which is not true—‘false teaching, untrue doctrine, heresy.’”**

**It is DIVISIVE DOCTRINE...**

**Again, Jesus told the same...**

**Matthew 24:5 (ESV) — For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.**

**Paul told the elders in Ephesus the same thing would happen after his departure...**

**Acts 20:29–31 (ESV) — I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.**

**1. They will DWELL among us**

**2. They will DIVIDE between us**

**3. They will DELIGHT many of us**

**2 Peter 2:2 (ESV) — And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

**Blaspheme...**

**to speak against someone in such a way as to harm or injure his or her reputation (occurring in relation to persons as well as to divine beings)—‘to revile, to defame, to blaspheme, reviling.’**

**2 Timothy 4:3 (ESV) — For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,**

**They will allure us by saying things we somewhat believe...**

**1. They will DWELL among us**

**2. They will DIVIDE between us**

**3. They will DELIGHT many of us**

**4. They will DECEIVE some of us**

**2 Peter 2:3 (ESV) — 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.**

**“exploit you with false words”...**

**Again, Jesus spoke of this deception...**

**Matthew 24:24–25 (ESV) — For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.**

**1 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV) — 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, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,**

**2 Corinthians 11:3–4 (ESV) — But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.**

*Have you ever heard the phrase,*

**“It doesn’t matter one iota”**

*You ever wonder where it comes from?*

**In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD there arose a teaching in Alexandria, Egypt called ARIANISM**

**It derived from ARIUS, a Bishop of Alexandria.**

**Arius taught that God the Son was at one point created by God the Father, and that before that time the Son did not exist, nor did the Holy Spirit, but the Father only.**

**A fierce battle ensued between the followers of Arius and who rejected his degradation of Jesus...**

**Arius used the statements “only begotten” and “firstborn” as proof to his claims**

**During this controversy the Lord raised up a man by the name of Athanasius.**

- **Born 298 AD in Alexandria, Egypt**
- **His family was well to do**
- **He was Greek educated**

**Athanasius was shaped not only by his Christian educators, but by their lives**

- **Feb, 303 AD began the last and greatest of the persecutions by Rome against the Christians**
- **Diocletian was Emperor**
- **It ended in Egypt in 311 AD**

**So from the age of 5 to 14 young Athanasius saw many of his family, friends, and teachers martyred for their belief that Jesus is God**

**He not only learned Christian faith, he saw it in action**

**He, himself had faced the possibility of martyrdom and he embraced for himself the faith for and by which the martyrs died**

**About 318 AD Athanasius wrote the book, “On the Incarnation”**

**It was in 319 when Arius began teaching regarding Jesus that “once he was not”.**

**They battled back and forth for years over this non-negotiable truth regarding Jesus AS God!**

**In 325AD, at the Counsel of Nicea, Arius’ views were condemned and a CREED was released**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father ...**

**This became known as the Athanasian Creed**

**The phrase, “being of one substance” is the Greek word**

**ὁμοούσιος — *Homoousios*  
Of the same nature**

**Arius and his followers argued for a different Greek word**

**ὁμοιούσιος — *Homoiousios*  
Of a similar nature**

**The difference between these two words is the one Greek letter “iota”**

***Homoousios* ↔ *Homoiousios***

***Homoousios* ↔ *Homoiousios***

**So when someone says that it doesn’t matter one iota, you have the opportunity of explaining to them that IT DOES!**

**You can then show them that Jesus IS God!**

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**3. They will \_\_\_\_\_ many of us**

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