

# “Denying the Master”

## 2 Peter 2:1-3



**Theme:** False teachers prefer their own doctrines to the truths of God’s Word.

### I. THE SUBVERSION OF THE TRUTH – 2:1

#### A. The Purpose of False Teachers – v. 1a

1. Peter contrasts the integrity of the divinely called prophets with the counterfeit prophets who taught fallacy – *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you ...”*
2. There is a distinction drawn here between *“false prophets”* [ψευδοπροφήτης] and *“false teachers”* [ψευδοδιδάσκαλος]
  - a) *“false prophets”* – one who falsely claims to be a prophet of God – claiming that they speak for God.
  - b) *“false teachers”* - *false/bogus teacher, quack teacher*, of someone in the Christian community who pretends to be a qualified instructor, but whose teaching is contrary to the generally accepted tradition<sup>1</sup>
3. The same tactics that have been used in ages past will be used again – woo the people of God away from God.

#### B. The Process of False Teachers – vv. 1b, 3a

1. This tactic is revealed here – that they will cause truth to coincide with error – thus blurring any distinctive – *“... who will secretly introduce destructive heresies ...”*
  - a) *“heresies”* [αἵρεσις] – refers to opinions or “ways of thinking” that are divergent or contradictory to the prophecy of Scripture provided by the Holy Spirit
  - b) Their “opinions” are called *“destructive”* [ἀπόλεια] – that which brings ruin, destruction, or waste.

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1096.

2. There is a play on words here – they will attempt to make a gain of people by using “forged contracts” – swindlers – “... *and in their greed they will exploit you with false words ...*” – **v. 3a**
  - a) “*exploit*” [ἐμπορεύομαι] – the word from where we get “emporium” and means to carry on activities of buying and selling, to be in business.
  - b) “*false words*” [πλαστός] – something that is “fabricated” – (“plastic”)

### C. The Partiality of False Teachers – v. 1c

1. False teachers consistently call attention to themselves instead of pointing men to the sufficiency and excellence of the Son of God – Jesus Christ – “... *even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*”
2. Their teaching discounts the mastery of Jesus Christ and is the key focus of saving faith – cp. **Galatians 1:6-10**
3. This person is one who prefers his own theories or ideas, or who is partial to “private interpretation” – cp. **1:20**.
4. The discussion of “*denying the Master who bought them ...*” digs into the issue of whether Jesus’ death paid any price for the non-elect.
  - a) “*bought*” [ἀγοράζω] – refers to “secur[ing] the rights to someone by paying a price, *buy, acquire as property*”<sup>2</sup>
  - b) It seems that what Jesus secured on the cross was the right to redeem all men, but only redeems those who are elect.
  - c) This demonstrates the validity of the atonement being sufficient for all men, but efficient only for the elect. – cp. **1 John 2:2**.
5. The point that Peter is making is that the false teachers are partial to their own agendas, not the agenda of Christ Jesus, the Redeemer.

## II. THE SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE MANY – **2:2**

### A. The Influence of Sensuality

1. What causes “*many*” to follow these teachers?
2. These false teachers appeal to the flesh with which they’re wrestling – “*Many will follow their sensuality ...*”

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<sup>2</sup> William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 14.

3. *“sensuality”* [ἀσέλγεια] – lit – “unbridled living” – lack of self-constraint which involves one in conduct that violates all bounds of what is socially acceptable, *self-abandonment*.<sup>3</sup>
4. It refers to the ability to fulfill the natural impulses constantly being fought within us – cp. **1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:7, 18-19; Jude 4**
5. This false teaching panders to man’s natural state and is welcomed because it excuses the life that he lives.
6. Thus, within the natural man there is a predilection to following such teaching that advances their flesh.

#### **B. The Impact on Truth**

1. Although it is true that false teaching produces false living, it is also true that false living seeks enabling teaching – cp. **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
2. As a result of this, the *“way of truth”* will be spoken against – “blasphemed” – *“... and because of them the way of the truth will be **maligned**.”*
3. *“maligned”* [βλασφημέω] – literally to speak in a disrespectful way that demeans, to slander or revile.
4. It essentially means that they were causing the *“way of the truth”* to be demeaned, thereby blaspheming the God of truth as well.

### **III. THE STIRRING-UP OF JUDGMENT – 2:1c, 3**

#### **A. The Swiftmess of Their Judgment – v. 1c**

1. The judgment these men receive is said to be swift – *“... bringing swift **destruction upon themselves**”*
2. The reference here is to their condemnation or doom – cp. **Hebrews 10:26-31**.
3. This destruction has as its view either death or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming when Christ’s avenges Himself against lawlessness and false teaching.

#### **B. The Storing-Up of Their Judgment – v. 3**

1. Their judgment is not *“idle”* – pictures the wrath of God churning in anticipation – *“... **their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep**.”*
2. He warns these Christians not to think that because God has not consumed them, that they will not be judged – cp. **Romans 2:4-5**

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<sup>3</sup> William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 141.

3. God's wrath, although not immediately dispensed when worthiness is determined, is actively accumulating until it is unleashed toward the false teachers when they are cast into the intensity of the Lake of Fire.