DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

In this week's text, <u>2 Peter 2:10b-22</u>, Peter concludes his examination of the sordid character and dangerous messaging of the false teachers who plagued the early church.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. It is not just the teaching of the false teachers that makes them dangerous to the fellowship. Peter uses a variety of **adjectives** to describe the **character** of the false teachers. What are some of those adjectives?
- 2. Peter speaks of several of the **actions** of the false teachers. What are some of those actions?
- 3. Peter uses a variety of **figures of speech** (similes: "like," and metaphors: direct comparisons). What are some of those figures of speech?
- 4. How does Peter **contrast** the false teachers with the angels?
- 5. Peter compares the false teachers to **Balaam** (see Num 22). Who was Balaam, and how are the false teachers like him?
- 6. How does the **proverb** at the end of the chapter portray the false teachers?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. The false teachers can always gather a **following**. What makes their toxic message so attractive?
- 2. Peter calls them "**bold and willful**" (v. 10). What does that bold willfulness look like to their followers?
- 3. What does Peter mean when he calls the false teachers "waterless springs and mists driven by storms" (v. 17)?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. How have mass media (TV, radio) and social media amplified the influence of false teachers?
- 2. How can the church guard against the influence of false teachers?
 - What role do spiritual leaders play in guarding the church against the influence of false teachers?
 - How can congregants respond faithfully to their leaders' exhortation on false teaching without following their leaders blindly?
- 3. **Guarding against the influence of false teachers isn't the sole responsibility of spiritual leaders.** We each must protect our families and our own minds against the toxic influence of false teaching.
 - What can you do to guard your own heart and mind against false teaching?
 - Parents, what can you do to ensure that your children are not exposed to false teaching, and how can you equip your children to respond wisely when they do encounter it?
- 4. How does the Jewish community in Berea demonstrate a healthy response to novel teaching? When they first heard the Gospel, they didn't embrace it right away, as the believers in Thessalonica had.
 - The believers in Thessalonica responded enthusiastically, perhaps a little too quickly, to the preaching of the Gospel (see 1 Thess 2:13 and Paul's gentle rebuke in 5:20-21).
 - How did the Jewish leaders of the synagogue in Berea respond differently (Acts 17:11)?
 - How can we cultivate a "Berean mindset" with regards to false teaching? (See <u>blog</u> for this week).

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