

Stand Fast

2 Peter 2:1-3 / The Path to Destruction
July 17, 2016

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

I. DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES

- It is now apparent why Peter has emphasized godly living and trust in Christ's return—false teachers and false teaching abounds (vs. 1; Matt. 24:11; Mark 13:5; 2 Pet. 3:1-7; 2 John 1:7).
- False prophets arose in the O.T.; false teachers were also among Peter's listeners (Deut. 13:1-5; Jer. 28:15-17; 29; 24-32).
 - Marks of Heresy
 1. That which strays from apostolic teaching
 2. Teachings that deny one or more essential doctrines of the faith
 - *Attack the person and work of the Godhead
 - *Strike at the heart of the gospel
 - *Teachings that have been condemned by an ecumenical council
- All heresies eventually end up at the feet of Jesus. Satan's goal is to destroy the work of Christ (Luke 4:1-13; John 7:7; 15:8; 1 John 4:1-3).
- In God's eyes, intentional false teaching does not lead to a "they're sincerely wrong" attitude, but to swift destruction (vs. 1; Jer. 28:16, Acts 5:1-11; Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30).
- False teaching is tantalizing. It feeds us what we love to hear, therefore many follow it (Matt. 7:13-14; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
- It appears the false teaching Peter was addressing dealt with the denial of Christ and/or the denial of Christ's Lordship over our lives (vss. 2-3; Gen. 19:5; Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:18; Jude 7).

II. A "WIDE AWAKE" JUDGMENT

- We will all stand before Christ, but the condemnation of false teachers is smoldering. It is waiting... (1 Tim. 5:24; 2 Pet. 3:8-10).

KNOW: The church is in no way immune to false teaching. Some false teachers teach poorly, but with good motives, many, however, are sinister. Either way, the results are disastrous, sometimes for the church—always for the false teachers.

DO: Do not be led astray by false teaching.

Suggested Reading:

For the avid/advanced reader:

Against Heresies, by St. Irenaeus (try the abridged version©)

For the "typical" reader:

Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth, by Alister McGrath

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 2 Peter 2:1-3

1. Why do you think false teaching is so appealing?
2. What is it about heresy that is so much more destructive than a simple difference of opinion?
3. Can someone in your group talk about a time when they were "taken in" by a false teaching? What was the result?
4. What's the difference between a different understanding of a biblical text or teaching and a heresy? Talk about some of the "marks" of heresy that Pastor Jym spoke about.
5. Is greed always a mark of heretical teaching? Are there good teachers who are also greedy?
6. What is the best way for the church to guard against heresy and false teaching?