

PH 3.18-19 ~ *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

BD4: The Deceptions Declared by False Teachers (2PT 2.18-22)

Bad enough each of these false teachers simply spoke and showed falsehood in their lives. But their teachings **are deceptions declared**: resulting in destruction of those who hear them.

2PT 2.18-22 ~ *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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² 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.”*

EX: Each of these false teachers brought others down with them: alluring, promising liberty, entangling their fellow brethren. It’s like **HS** had prophesied years before: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. ⁷ “The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. ⁸ They eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity. ⁹ And it shall be: like people, like priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds. (HS 4.6-9)*

AP: The damage that comes from False Teachers isn’t just in the fact that they **deceive**—it’s that in their **deception**, they find just the thing that the people want to hear. *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2TM 4.3-4)* It’s a general principle that’s generally true: if a teacher is telling you the exact thing that, deep down, you want to hear, it’s likely not true. Peter and Paul both call to us to resist: to draw back from **the deceptions declared by False Teachers**—but sadly, left to their own devices, most will choose, instead, to draw back from the Truth.

HB 10.38-39 ~ *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

CONCLUSION

Peter knew the damage and danger of the false teachers that would rise and stand against the Truth of God. And he wanted to make sure that the church in Asia Minor would be able to stand. But the only way that could happen was if they took the false teachers seriously: their **destructive doctrines demanded their doom**. Their **depravity and deceptions** risked the destruction of not only their own souls, but those around them. And for that reason, Peter wanted to ensure that they stood again all falsehood and for the truth. Only then would they be free from destruction of sin and of the false teacher.

JN 8.31-32 ~ *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

INVITATION

#698 [Exp-NTGE][2.3]
02/03/2026

Know the Liar and the Lie

2PT 2.1-22 (NKJV)

PC Pchd

QUESTION: How seriously does God view the false teacher?

TRN TO 2PT 1

INTRODUCTION

TRUTH/Liars/Psychology

I hate it when people lie—not the most controversial opinion, I know! But lies are all around us: in the news, in families, even in churches! It’s for that reason that Peter spoke of the importance of Truth.

BACKGROUND (2PT 1.19-21)

2PT 1.19-21 ~ *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; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

BKGRND: Peter is grateful for the word revealed through the Holy Spirit. He’s grateful for the certainty that he knew he’d be leaving the church with following his death: *the prophetic word confirmed*. But he wasn’t naïve: he knew that God’s people had always struggled with full faithfulness: even back to the ages of the prophets and before:

IS 30.9-11 ~ *That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the Lord; ¹⁰ Who say to the seers, “Do not see,” And to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. ¹¹ Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us.”*

Now, as they near the end of their lives, both Peter and Paul are concerned about the growth of liars in the church: false teachers rejecting the truth of God. Paul spoke directly, warning of it: *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (1TM 4.1-3)* Peter, however, takes a different tack.

If you’ve ever read **2PT 2** and **JD** one after the other, something likely stood out to you like a sore thumb: they are extremely similar—to the point where one almost certainly quoted/referenced the other. **JD** had spoken of a coming and rising unfaithfulness, and Peter, by quoting this well-known tract that was likely making its way around the church, is saying, **“it’s here”**.

To help defeat the false teachers and their lies, Peter seeks to help the church to **know the liar and the lie**. For, ultimately, ignorance of these teachers and their teachings would not protect them from their influence. Today, lies and the liars who speak them are still around: and Peter’s strategy still helps us in our attempts to resist and to *“stand firm in the faith”*.

BD1: The Destructive Doctrines of False Teachers (2PT 2.1-3)

2PT 2.1-3 ~ *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. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ 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.*

EX: Peter reveals the reason for the prophets of the *holy men of God* of which he’d spoken in the previous chapter: they’d had to preach truth, because there were *false prophets* who were preaching false. Peter reveals why he’d felt the need to compile this letter (and likely

serve as a primary source for **MK**): because of **the destructive doctrines of the false teachers**. They were speaking of Christ having not come in the flesh (despite the eye witness testimony of men like Peter and the Father and the Holy Spirit, Themselves). But as a result of their false teachings, they were damning and destroying the work of the Apostles and His Spirit—bringing on blasphemy and exploitation: undermining the work of the Lord.

AC 20.29-30 ~ *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

EX: Paul had similarly warned the Elders in Ephesus: speaking of their desire to destroy and divide, to take advantage of the flock and to lead them astray. What we see from both of these examples is a terrible truth: the **doctrines** of these false teachers are dangerous—**destructive!** They are not to be played lightly as unimportant and **“just a matter of interpretation”**. And if you have any doubt, just look back to the previous chapter: *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.* **(2PT 1.20-21)**

AP: Today there are churches that teach that Jesus is not divine, that the Bible is not His Word, that one is saved regardless of faithfulness, that only a small select few can even BE saved. And just like in the time of Peter, these **false teachings** are terribly **destructive**. And so, we must approach them seriously: recognizing the damage that these teachings bring.

JR 23.16-17 ~ *Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord. ¹⁷They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The Lord has said, “You shall have peace” ’; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’ ”*

BD2: The Doom Demanded of False Teachers (2PT 2.4-11)

2PT 2.4-8 ~ *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; ⁵and 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; ⁶and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemning them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; ⁷and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—*

EX: Here, Peter shows how God has treated the **false teacher** in the past: the what has been **demanding of the false teacher** throughout all of history. Whether the fallen angel, the ancient world in the era of Noah, or the faithless citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah—the **doom demanded** of them is all the same. God takes these false teachers seriously—and He viewed their false and destructive teachings as **damnable**. And so ought we!

RM 16.17-18 ~ *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

But why did it matter? Was it just a sense of truth and justice? While that is certainly a part of it, it’s not all of it. Specifically, we see in the case of the unrighteous in the era of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah that God judges the unrighteous on behalf of the righteous! That God **demand**s **doom** for the false teachers so that He can **redeem the righteous**. He judged the world to protect Noah and his family. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah to deliver *righteous Lot*. God **demand**s **doom for the false teachers** to protect the remnant: the Godly. And if God did that for them, *then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰and 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, ¹¹whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. **(2PT 2.9-11)**

PS 34.15-16 ~ *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. ¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

AP: The reason God demands doctrinal purity is because it’s **destructive**—it destroys the reputation and godliness of His people. And to protect His people, He always **demand**s the same thing of the unrepentant false teacher: **their doom**. Not just out of a sense of wrath—but out of His love and protection. For as they remain, they destroy. As they teach, they torment.

2TH 1.6-10 ~ *since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.*

BD3: The Depravity Displayed by False Teachers (2PT 2.12-17)

But are their false teachings really all that bad? Was it really that bad to just believe that Jesus didn’t come in the flesh? Oh, if only they were just words. Sadly, the natural results of their false teachings were the **depravity displayed by these false teachers**.

2PT 2.12-17 ~ *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, ¹³and 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, ¹⁴having 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. ¹⁵They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; ¹⁶but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet. ¹⁷These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

EX: We like to think ideas and teachings can be held without impacting behavior. But that’s not how people work. Their teachings that the flesh was evil and that the soul was untouched by that evil naturally resulted in unrighteousness, carousing, deception, and adultery. To put it simply: you can’t really believe a thing without it affecting how you live.

JR 5.26-31 ~ *‘For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men. ²⁷As a cage is full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich. ²⁸They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend. ²⁹Shall I not punish them for these things?’ says the Lord. ‘Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?’ ³⁰“An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: ³¹The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?”*

AP: We see this all the time, today: as men and women in broader **“Christian”** circles live according to their philosophies—they teach that our actions don’t matter, and so they come to live like they don’t. They teach that the Bible isn’t our sole authority for teaching and practice, and so they live following their own personal passions and perspectives. For all paying attention, **they display depravity** in their lives born naturally from their teachings.