

# GROWING <sup>in</sup> GRACE GUARDED <sup>by</sup> TRUTH

Study in 2 Peter



**Sermon Title: “The False Root and Poisonous Fruit of False Teachers”**

**Scripture Title: 2 Peter 2:17-22**

**Chris Fritz / Sunday, April 23, 2023**

## INTRODUCTION

Note: In verse 17, Peter makes some sweeping and bold CLAIMS about false teachers, and then, in verses 18-22, HE EXPLAINS WHY these claims are true. And by explaining these claims, Peter shows us clearly why JESUS is so much BETTER!

### I. DON'T BE FOOLED... JESUS IS BETTER!!!

#### 2 Peter 2:17 -

**BIG, BOLD, SWEEPING CLAIM:** False teachers are hopeless, empty, and destined for the darkest, gloomiest, most miserable expressions of God's anger and wrath.

John 7:37-39; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 1:5; 2 Peter 2:4; Matthew 22:13

#### 2 Peter 2:18 -

**1) False teachers love to PREY UPON new(er), young(er), less mature believers!**

Note: False teachers either subtly or overtly encourage people to follow the flesh.

#### 2 Peter 2:19 -

**2) False teachers love to PROMISE what they themselves don't possess!**

John 8:36; Galatians 5:1; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 1:5-7; Romans 6:12-14

## 2 Peter 2:20-21 -

### 3) False teachers love to **PLAY** with the Gospel but never truly submit to it.

Note: What Peter writes here makes sense when we think about a) Jesus' Parable of the Seed and the Sower, b) Jesus' teaching in Luke 11:26, c) Jesus' warning in Luke 12:47-48, and d) the life and example of Judas, who knew much truth and betrayed Jesus anyway.

Jesus' Parable of the Seed and the Sower (Matthew 13:22)

Jesus' Teaching (Luke 11:26)

Jesus' Warning (Luke 12:47)

The Life & Example of Judas Iscariot (John 12:6)

## 2 Peter 2:22 -

### 4) False teachers love to **PRETEND** like they've changed only to return to old sins.

### Three Points of Application:

**Application #1** - Press on towards maturity in Christ!

**Application #2** - Dare to question. Dare to use God's Word to examine and test ALL that you hear, and, as you do this, ask for God's help; pray for discernment!

**Application #3** - Be courageous to help others keep their eyes on Christ and His Word!

### Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why does Peter compare false teachers to "waterless springs" and to "mists driven by a storm"? What's the point he's making?
2. According to verses 18-22, why will God sentence false teachers to "the gloom of utter darkness"? What does that mean?
3. What is so ironic about the false teachers' claims about freedom? (verse 19)
4. Why does Peter say that the false teachers' condition is worse now and that it would have been better for them to have never known the truth?
5. Why is Jesus so much better than these false teachers? What does Jesus offer and give in contrast to these false teachers?
6. Where do you see false teaching alive and well today? What can you do to lovingly promote truth and the worship of Christ?