

GROWING ⁱⁿ GRACE GUARDED ^{by} TRUTH

Study in 2 Peter



Sermon Title: “You Will Know Them By Their Fruit”

Scripture Title: 2 Peter 2:10b-16

Chris Fritz / Sunday, April 16, 2023

INTRODUCTION

2 Peter 2:9-10a and 2 Peter 2:15a

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” (Proverbs 16:25)

Note: It's NOT unkind or unloving to talk about false teachers/teaching; it is necessary.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but INWARDLY are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them BY THEIR FRUITS.” (Matthew 7:15-16a)

I. THE PRESENT SLAVERY AND FUTURE DESTRUCTION OF FALSE TEACHERS

2 Peter 2:10b-11 -

1) False teachers are loud, proud, and imagine themselves to have much more power than they actually do!

“But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did NOT PRESUME to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you.’ BUT THESE PEOPLE blaspheme all that they do not understand...” (Jude 9-10a)

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. RESIST HIM, FIRM IN YOUR FAITH...” (1 Peter 5:8-9a)

2 Peter 2:12-13a -

2) False teachers are beast-like in their foolishness; they are in rebellion toward their “image-bearing” status; they are preparing themselves for destruction!

Psalm 8:3-9 and Galatians 6:7-8 -

2 Peter 2:13b-14 -

3) Outwardly and inwardly these false teachers demonstrate that they are enslaved to their own lusts and desires; they are NOT “free”; they are consumed with sin.

Hebrews 10:31 and 1 Peter 1:18-19 -

2 Peter 2:15-16 -

4) This New Testament situation involving false teachers is kind of like an Old Testament situation involving a greedy, immoral false prophet named Balaam. There is something very encouraging AND something very sobering about this comparison.

Numbers 22:32-33 and Numbers 31:16 -

Note: The Church can never be conquered from the outside in; God’s people can never be destroyed by external forces; God will take the curses of the enemy and turn them into blessings, BUT our hearts and minds can be corrupted, our hearts and minds can be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ. This is the real danger.

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

1. Why is it necessary to talk about false teachers and false teaching? Why should we not be anxious, worried, or panicked when thinking about this topic?
2. How can we recognize false teachers? Jesus said that we would know them by their what?
3. How do false teachers boast? What do they boast about?
4. What inwardly motivates and drives false teachers?
5. Why does Peter bring up Balaam? What is encouraging about the situation involving Balaam? What is sobering and instructive for us regarding Balaam’s situation?