

Destructive Doctrines

The Apostle Peter speaks of the reality and destructiveness of false teachers. Tragically, there have always been and will always be false teachers, and, tragically, there have always been and will always be those who are deceived by and will follow after them. Some false teachers use their words to purposefully deceive, while others do such out of ignorance. Either way, the end result is the same - lost souls. Peter makes some very poignant observations concerning false teachers

The means of false teachers are destructive, going against the very Lord who bought them (2 Peter 2:1). Whether purposefully or in ignorance, their false words will bring about swift destruction. The deceptive words of the knowing false teacher are done out of covetousness, seeking to pad his own bankbook with no regard for the souls he is destroying (2 Peter 2:3). The reward of such false teachers is the promise of blackness and darkness forever in eternity (2 Peter 2:17).

False teachers walk according the ways of the world, despising the authority of the Almighty God of heaven (2 Peter 2:10). Again, the knowing false teacher's heart is trained in covetous practices. These false prophets are so into their own lifestyle that they do not cease from sin as they entice unstable souls (2 Peter 2:14). These false teachers have forsaken the right way, the Truth, following the lure of the riches of life (2 Peter 2:15). Tragically, false teachers use swelling words of emptiness to lure through the lusts of the flesh even Christians (2 Peter 2:18), thus the Christian's need to continuously be on guard (1Peter 5:8).

False teachers negatively affect those who listen to and believe their lies and error. The Apostle Paul warned the Christian's in Corinth regarding even listening to one who would teach anything other than the Gospel Truth (2 Corinthians 10 & 11). Paul also condemned the Christians in Galatia who had turned away so quickly from the one, true

Gospel (Galatians 1:6-10). Paul's words complement in an instructive manner the points Peter makes in 2 Peter chapter 2.

Peter explains that God will take care of false teachers using specific examples: "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned..." (2 Peter 2:4); "And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah..." (2 Peter 2:5); "And turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes... leaving them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly..." (2 Peter 2:6). Our God knows how to punish, but He also knows how to rescue "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18).

Let us each purpose to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord so that false teachers never come between our God and us. *Rob*