

2 Peter

The Error of Unprincipled Men – 2 Peter 2:1 – 10



Sermon Discussion Guide

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New Life
Christian Church
4701 E CR 462
Wildwood, FL 34785
nlchristian.org

STUDY NOTES

Sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15). Prophets often wore animal skins (Matt. 3:4; 2 Kings 1:8). People might dress in this fashion and claim to be a prophet. Or, metaphorically, they might act as innocent as sheep while their true nature is that of vicious wolves who feed off others.

False prophets (2 Pt 2:1). The presence of Israel's lying prophets (Deut. 18:20; Jer.14:13-16) is used to expose the presence of false teachers within the Christian community. The major problem of these teachers was their rejection of the Lord (2 Pt.1:16-21; 2:18-21; 3:3-11).

Destructive heresies (2 Pt.2:1). Literally, "teachings of destruction."

Greed (2 Pt.2:3). The motivation for these false teachers is to teach that which people will pay to hear.

1. Share with one another as many sayings as you can which heard growing up that were not true, but, told to you as true. For example: "Eating the crust on your bread will make your hair curly," and "smoking cigarettes will stunt your growth." Why do you think all the sayings you shared are believed to be true by many?

In Matt's message, "The Error of Unprincipled Men," he guided us through a study of the apostle Peter's warning about false teachers. Peter was now living through what Jesus had warned His disciples about. As Peter writes, he must have recalled Jesus' words.

Read Matthew 7:15 – 16 and Matthew 24:1 – 5.

2. How does Jesus say you can identify the false teachers?
3. What are some challenges when identifying the false teachers?

Peter, now experiencing what Jesus had predicted, gives strong exhortation to his readers.

Read 2 Peter 2:1 – 10.

4. How do false teachers introduce their destructive heresies? Of which things do we need to be aware, so we are not also influenced (v. 1 – 3)?
5. What are the four or five incidents that Peter cites to show how God will deal with the false teachers who have led these Christians astray (4 – 10)?
6. If it is so plain that judgement awaits false teachers, why do they lead people astray? Why do people follow them?

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7. What was different about Lot? What did God do for Lot? What is the message to all godly men and women?

8. Peter closes his letter with one final warning which directs us as to what followers of Jesus are to do. **Read 2 Peter 3:17.**

9. What do you think it means to be “on your guard” as Peter declares (v.17)?

Matt shared three specific suggestions that we should apply to be “on your guard” concerning our faith. They were:

- Stop: Determine if someone’s teaching is scripturally founded before you become involved in that ministry.
- Look: Take a look at what those who follow an individual’s teaching do.
- Listen: Ask yourself if there is a hidden message in an individual’s teaching? Pay attention to both what they say and what they do.

10. To put into practice these three suggestions, do you see false teachers attempting to influence the church today? If so, what are they teaching?

11. What steps can you take to ensure that you are not influenced by a wolf in sheep’s clothing?