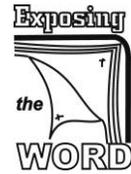


# “REMINDERS OF Truth” ©2009

## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



### XV- Remember to Beware of Deception: 2Pe 2:1-14

One of the greatest illusionists of our time is a man named David Copperfield. He fools the senses to make things appear that defy the human eye. He is a master of deception. Now I am not saying that what he does is evil for it is certainly not but it is deceptive in that it fools men.

Peter in the previous chapter has laid out a case that the prophecies were proof of the truth concerning Messiah. However he now is going to state that everyone and anyone who claims to be a prophet of God necessarily is. For a multitude of reasons, many of which have a dollar sign in front of them, men will use the language and the good will of God's people to deceive them. We must constantly be aware of deception. We just put into practice what the Bereans did on Paul's missionary journey. Listen to *Acts 17:10-11* ***And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.***

Why do we need to beware of deception and make sure what we are told and taught and believe is true? Lets explore this in this section of 2 Peter.

#### I- False Prophets and Teachers:

*2Pe 2:1* ***But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you...*** The idea of false teachers was not a new concept but was as old as man.

*Mat 7:15* ***Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.***

*Act 20:29-30* ***For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.***

There had been false prophets in the past and would be false teachers in the future.

These false prophets that are alluded to here are men like Balaam and the prophets of Baal. Also there were many times false prophets who tried to confuse

the message of God's true prophet. Jeremiah the prophet was sounding forth the destruction of God and a false prophet Hananiah was saying the Babylonian yoke was broken. *Jeremiah 28:15-16* ***Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. 16 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD.***

So these false teachers were just another falsehood or imposter of the faith like the false prophet of old.

#### II- Deny Lord Jesus:

*2Pe 2:1...who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

Peter calls these damnable heresies that they brought in. Then he gives us an example of their heresies. They deny the Lord. *Jud 1:4* ***For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

*1Jn 2:23* ***Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.***

*2Jn 1:9* ***Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.***

It is simple, if a man does not have the Son he cannot hope to attain heaven because he cannot have the Father without the Son. The sin that condemns the souls of men is the rejection of the grace of God offered in Christ. So we must be careful that what someone is saying and teaching is not denying the Lord Jesus and His rightful place as the only way to God.

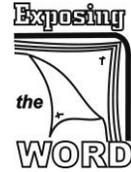
#### III- Beware of Deception:

There are many who are not grounded in the faith of Christ that are easy picking for the cults and false

# “REMINDERS OF Truth” ©2009

## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



religions of the world. Just being religious is not enough there must be a relationship with Christ.

*2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

The HCSB says in *2 Peter 2:3 In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced long ago, is not idle, and their destruction does not sleep.*

A lie is very deceptive because of the fallen nature of men. We must be on guard against this because we are told in *Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

We can see two men who have made headlines with their lies and deception that lead many to their deaths in Jim Jones and David Koresh. How many more are active today?

### IV- Examples of Past Judgments:

Peter gives us some past judgments to show that God has an will judge and take care of His business.

**A- Fallen Angels:** *2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

Jude refers to this in *Jud 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

**B- Pre-Flood Period:** *2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

This is the story of the flood and the wickedness that precipitated the destruction of all but Noah and his family. It says Noah found grace.

**C- Sodom and Gomorrha:** *2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*

During the time of Abraham God destroyed these cities because of their wickedness. *Gen 19:24-25 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon*

*Gomorrhah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.*

### V- Righteous Delivered:

Peter also reminds us of the security that God gives the righteous. *2Pe 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,*

Now to read the story of Lot it did not seem he was a righteous man. He made a lot of bad decisions but his righteous was not in his acts but in his faith. God knows how to deliver those that are His children from the deception and destruction that those lies bring.

### VI- Unrighteous Destroyed:

*2Pe 2:9...and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:*

Peter reminds us that destruction is awaiting these. We will explore what false prophets look like in our next session. Let me leave us with one summary thought.

Peter reminds us that we must be on guard because false teachers are among us and that if we are not careful we can fall for the lies and it is God who protects and preserves.