



2 Peter

Steady on Course

Warnings of Danger, Part 1

2 Peter 2:1-11

Message #4 of 7 – S699

Sermon given on August 7, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

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Warnings of Danger, Part 1

2 Peter 2:1-11

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Colossians 1**
- Today, we continue our series through the second letter from Peter – **Steady on Course**
- As a pastor I love teaching texts like **2 Peter 1:3-4**
- That's awesome stuff – I could teach messages on stuff like that every week
- But there is a problem with doing that – it would make us easy pickings for our enemy – prowling around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour
- A good pastor/shepherd will not only feed you the tasty bits of Scripture, but he will also the stuff that is harder to swallow
- **Colossians 1:24-29**
- Turn to **2 Peter 2**
- This chapter is a warning
- It is a very strongly worded warning about false teachers
- Peter is warning us that there are people who will try to steer us off course from the best possible life
- I will share with you some of those false teachers we need to watch out for
- So that you can stay steady on course to the best possible life
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **2 Peter 2:1-11**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Warnings of Danger, Part 1**
- Peter concluded the last chapter saying that God moved holy men to write the Scriptures
- And he opens this chapter by saying the holy men had to contend with false prophets

- **2 Peter 2:1**

- Just like there were false prophets around the holy men of the OT, there will be false teachers among you
- That was almost two thousand years ago, not very long after Jesus was resurrected and ascended
- Today, they are everywhere
- ‘secretly bring in destructive heresies
- A heresy is a false doctrine or false teaching
- Here are just a few examples
- Rob Bell – past of a large church in the Midwest
- Doesn’t believe in Hell – teaches that all people will be saved
- No hell = no judgment = no need for atonement = no reason for Jesus to die
- Creflo Dollar – name says a little about what he teaches
- Recently told his church and the whole world that his private jet was no longer meeting his needs, need to give him \$65M to buy a new jet
- Joel Osteen – largest church in America – teaches a feel-good, self-improvement gospel – doesn’t teach judgment or repentance – rarely mentions Jesus
- Believes that the Mormons are Christians – they are a cult
- Oprah Winfrey – teaches her followers that there are many ways to God
- Sadly many will follow their false teaching
- **2 Peter 2:2**
- These four and many like them are wildly successful – Why? 2

Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

- Because they give people what they want, not what they need
- And that is why some people do not stay at a church like this
- We are going to tell you what God says you need to know
- Because God loves you and He has put His love in our hearts for you, that is exactly what we are going to do

- Even if it means we are never wildly successful
- Then Peter addresses their motivation and their future
- **2 Peter 2:3**
- These false teachers want something from you
- Creflo Dollar does not need a \$65M jet - Wants it for his image
- There is a judgment coming for them that is terrible **James 3:1**
My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.
- It is one thing for me to stand before God and give an accounting for my sins, it is another thing entirely to have to account to God for the sins of others that my teaching led them to commit
- There is a lot of similarity between this chapter and Jude
- Especially in these next few verses
- **2 Peter 2:4**
- Contrary to what Rob Bell and other false teachers say, there is a real Hell and it is still hot and unrepentant sinners are still going there
- Most commentators believe that this is referring to Genesis 6, where fallen angels were somehow having sexual relations with human women
- God saw it as so wicked that He cast them into hell and bound them in chains until the final judgment
- Peter is saying, if God didn't spare the angels, you know he is not going to spare false teachers either
- Then uses another example
- **2 Peter 2:5**
- The ancient world was doing whatever they wanted to do
- Some false teachers today tell you that you can live anyway you want to – be true to yourself – be sincere – that's what God is looking for
- Those people are going to be in for a shock when God tells them that what He was looking for was people who would be true to Him, not themselves
- God's patience with their rebellion and wickedness ran out – flood
- God's patience will run out with these false teachers and they will get the judgment they deserve
- A third example is given

- **2 Peter 2:6**
- We read in **Jude 7** why God judged Sodom and Gomorrah ...as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
- Sexual immorality was their sin – ‘strange flesh’ not just homosexuality but every form of sexual perversion
- Peter is saying the judgment coming to false teachers will be at least as severe as Sodom and Gomorrah
- In verse 5 Peter reminded us that God saved eight people from the world-wide destruction of the Flood
- And here he points out who was saved from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- **2 Peter 2:7-8**
- For most people hearing that Lot was a righteous man is a little bit of a stretch
- Righteousness is about being right with God – not about being perfect
- Lot had a terribly compromised witness to Sodom and to his family
- The conduct of the people of Sodom grieved his spirit, tormented his soul, but he was too weak to leave
- Lot was a man with a right relationship with God living in the wrong place
- He was so weak that the angels had to drag him out of the city before it was destroyed
- With all this talk about judgment, Peter reminds us Christians, not to worry about it
- **2 Peter 2:9a**
- He saved Noah and his family and He saved Lot – he can save you and your family both from His wrath and from the hard things of this world
- The false teachers have no such hope
- **2 Peter 2:9b**
- There is a day coming sometime in the future when all the books will be opened and the wicked dead will stand before God and give an accounting

- It is then that their punishment will be handed out
- But this text tells us that it has already been determined
- Ends with some characteristics of false teachers
- **2 Peter 2:10-11**
- ‘lust of uncleanness’ – do shameful things
- ‘despise authority’ – don’t want to be subject to anyone
- Any teacher who will not allow someone to question his teaching or doctrine is someone to be avoided
- ‘presumptuous’ – bold
- ‘self-willed’ – self-pleasing, want things their own way, no other

Proverbs 21:24

A proud and haughty man—“Scoffer” is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.

- Might say – so full of himself, no room for anyone else including God
- ‘not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries’ – blaspheme – false teacher sees himself/herself as above other people
- Not afraid to let the venom fly – even the angels won’t do that
- These false teachers have a terrible destiny ahead of them
- Peter doesn’t want any of his people to follow their destructive path
- We know that many so-called Christians will – Jesus said so **Matthew 7:13-14**

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- Watch out for false teachers
- I have named a few, there are many more out there
- In this valley, there are plenty of them
- And that is not even counting the cults – the Mormons, JW, and Islam
- Your only and best defense is knowing Jesus and His Word so well that you can spot the counterfeit or false teacher by their words and life
- It concerns me when I see Christians posting things that someone like Joel Osteen says
- Here is why it is a problem – he is using our vocabulary, but he is not using our dictionary
- His words do not mean what you think they mean

- False teachers will lead you away from the best possible life in Christ Jesus – to stay steady on course, you need to know Jesus better and better
- We'll look at part two next week
- Amen–**Pray**