



# 2 Peter

## Steady on Course

### Warnings of Danger, Part 2

2 Peter 2:12-22

Message #5 of 7 – S700

Sermon given on August 14, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

## Warnings of Danger, Part 2

*2 Peter 2:12-22*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **2 Peter 2**
- Today, we continue our series through the second letter from Peter – **Steady on Course**
- Last week I had some strong things to say about some of the most popular religious people in the church today
- I called them out as false teachers
- And please understand, I do not intend to offend anyone
- Just as Peter did, it is my desire to warn you of dangers that you might not be aware of
- And we are going to talk about a few more of these dangers today
- 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 2:12-22**
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **Warnings of Danger, Part 2**
- Peter started chapter two by saying that false teachers would be in the church
- And we was right – Jesus also warned of this **Matthew 7:15-16a**  
**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.**
- The Apostle Paul also warned the Ephesian elders and us **Acts 20:29-31**  
**For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.**
- I would not be faithful as your pastor if I didn't warn you of the dangers around us
- These false teacher bring in destructive heresies
- A heresy is a false religious doctrine

- For example, Mormons, JW, and Islam teach that Jesus was a wise man, good teacher, or a prophet of God – but they deny His deity
- That is heresy and it is destructive – it destroys the souls of anyone who believes it
- So Peter is warning us so that we can reject heresy and avoid false teachers
- So that we can stay steady on course to the best possible life with God
- This is part 2 of the message – Warnings of Danger
- Peter opens this section by describing just how wicked these false teachers are
- **2 Peter 2:12**
- ‘natural brute beasts’ – following their natural instincts
- These false teachers are not Christians, they are not saved
- They have no fear of God, nor respect for His Word
- ‘utterly perish in their own corruption’
- Saying: ‘Every sin carries the seeds of its own punishment’ **Galatians 6:7-8**

**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.**

- These ‘natural brute beasts’ are sowing to the flesh and they will get the corruption they deserve as Peter says in the next verse
- **2 Peter 2:13**
- ‘count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime’
- Normal people would work during the day and carouse, seek pleasure at night
- These guys are so caught up in their own deceptions that they openly engage in their sin during the day
- Someone with any kind of conscience would try to hide their sins, but not these guys
- Last Sunday after the message, someone came up and told me of a situation in a big church in New York
- This church had an openly gay worship leader, who was engaged to marry his partner
- The question we need to answer is, ‘Why is that a problem?’

- Recently, I was asked the question, ‘What would you do if an openly gay couple walked into the church?’
- I had to pause and ask myself what the right response was biblically
- Here’s what I came up with – I would go up them introduce myself, welcome them to the church, maybe ask them how they came to visit us. In other words, I would treat them and other visitors.
- Would that be endorsing or condoning their sin – no
- It would be treating them with the dignity they have as creations of Almighty God
- And it would be showing them the same love that God showed me when I walked into the first church I attended as a sinner
- Let me tell you the sign of an unhealthy church: An unhealthy church has no room for sinners
- Now, if that same openly gay couple decided they wanted to be involved in serving, say in the Worship ministry – that’s different
- It is one of our convictions that to serve in the church you should agree with the things we teach and believe – Statement of Faith **Amos 3:3**

**Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?**

- We believe the Bible teaches that marriage is a holy covenant established by God between one man and one woman for one lifetime
- An openly gay couple doesn’t agree with that
- If we were to allow them to serve in the church – would communicate to everyone that we agree with their lifestyle – would send a false message – would be wrong doctrine by example
- Every person serving in the church is a sinner – even Pastor Randy
- But those serving are striving to live a life of holiness in obedience to God’s Word and are not walking openly in sin
- **2 Peter 2:14**
- These guys that Peter is referring to are sold out to their sin
- You can also see this tendency in some of the televangelists on TBN and other channels
- One of the signs that they are false teachers is their constant call for more money – watch out
- **2 Peter 2:15-16**

- You can read about Balaam in Numbers 22-24
- Balaam was motivated by money and a desire for fame
- He was instrumental in tempting the nation of Israel into the sin of sexual immorality and idol worship
- **2 Peter 2:17**
- ‘wells without water’ = empty promises
- The televangelists are famous for making empty promises
- Like: suggesting that you should send them your prayers, and God will answer them if you have enough faith – and you prove how much faith you have by how much money you send them
- It is a prayer lotto – buy enough tickets and eventually God will answer your prayers
- They are preying upon ‘unstable souls’ the spiritual weak – disgusting
- **2 Peter 2:18-19**
- These false teachers are very good at convincing the spiritual weak to do what they want them to
- ‘great swelling words of emptiness’ – they are charismatic, eloquent, and persuasive
- If you don’t analyze their words, they sound like angels from heaven – like they are speaking the very words of God
- They will promise freedom from worries or sickness or poverty
- But they themselves are enslaved by the sins of covetousness and pride **Warren Wiersbe**

**You cannot set someone free if you are in bondage yourself.**

- Only Christ offers words of true freedom **John 8:31-32**
- Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**
- A false teacher does not teach the truth, therefore his words cannot set you free – only Christ’s words can do that
- **2 Peter 2:20-21**
- False teachers tend to go after the spiritually weak or immature
- Those who have a knowledge of the Lord, but it is not a deep knowledge
- It is not my intention to offend you with what I am about to say

- If you don't believe me, examine it for yourself
- One of the signs of a false teacher is they do not want you question them – they consider themselves the highest authority on spiritual matters
- It is hard to say who the last verse applies to; the false teachers or those who follow them – maybe both
- **2 Peter 2:22**
- Very graphic and disgusting
- A dog will eat something that upsets its stomach, so it will throw up
- Once it throws up, it feels better – a false teacher might make someone feel better about themselves
- But it doesn't change the person, and before long they are right back in what had upset them – like a dog returns to his own vomit
- A sow or a pig, lives in filth – a false teacher can convince someone to get cleaned up, to change their behavior, but they can't change the heart, and so before long they are wallowing in the mire of their sin
- Only the Word of God has the power to transform a human heart, to change a person from the inside out
- Only the Word of God faithfully applied to the human soul by the Spirit of God can a person be regenerated and become a partaker of the divine nature that Peter talked about in 1:4
- How do we avoid the false teachers and live the best possible life **2 Peter 1:3**

**...as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...**

- Get to know Jesus better and better
- The false teachers are going after the spiritually weak and immature
- Your best defense is a good offence – know God and His Word

### **Ephesians 3:14-19**

**For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

- The better you know Christ, the more false the false teachers appear to you. Get to know Jesus better.
- Read your Bible, come to church, get into a Bible study
- Amen–**Pray**