

THEIR PERNICIOUS WAYS

2 PETER 2:1-3

Text: 2 Peter 2:3

2 Peter 2:2

² *And many shall follow **their pernicious ways**; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

Introduction:

Often warning go unheeded. God's warning should always not only be heard but should also be heeded. God's warnings are given concerning this world and connected to the world to come.

Notice the warning God gives us in this passage.

2 Peter 2:1-3

¹ *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.* 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 real issue in life is whether or not we know the truth and are living lives of obedience to the truth.

The enemy dealt with in chapter two is the greatest enemy we face. If people do not hear and heed the truth, the gospel message of God's saving grace, they are going to live and die without Christ.

It is absolutely heart-breaking when we realize that so many people have heard some religious message that seems to have made them immune to the truth.

It is a religious message that falls short of salvation. It is a most serious matter when someone who is supposed to represent the Lord in the eyes of the people does not speak the truth.

Quote:

Remember the most dangerous error is that error that is nearest to the truth.

Notice:

1. THE FALSE PROPHETS (VS. 1)

2 Peter 2:1

¹ *But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

One of the tools God uses to teach His people is memory. Here he reminds them that there were also false prophets among the people.

We must realize that false prophets are very capable and winsome people but Paul instructed Timothy:

2 Timothy 3:1-5

¹ *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.***

These false prophets want to bring in damnable heresies.

The word heresy comes from a word having to do with choices.

What is heresy?

The word heretic comes from a word meaning “choice.”

A heretic is a man who claims to be religious but says, “I don’t like what God has chosen to say about this matter. I’ll choose a different opinion and promote and teach that opinion as truth.”

He disagrees with the truth of God’s Word.

It is his choice over Gods Word.

These as the Bible says bring in damnable heresies.

Where do these heresies lead?

2 Peter 2:12-13

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;

The moral filth and corruptions started with heresy.

Sadly today there is so much loose living in churches where there is loose preaching.

God warns us.

Quote:

What we believe determines how we behave.

Notice not only the “The False Prophets” but also:

2. THE FOLLOWING OF THEIR PERNICIOUS WAYS

2 Peter 2:2

² And **many shall follow their pernicious ways**; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Notice – many shall follow their pernicious ways.

This deception or lie is not something that just a few people follow.

Note the Bible says “By reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

To justify themselves they not only speak against what is right but they also speak evil of those who are living the truth.

Yet MANY follow their pernicious ways, their deceitful ways which bring about corrupt behavior.

Notice how the Lord dealt with false teachers in John 8:42-47.

John 8:42-47

⁴² Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. ⁴⁴ Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. ⁴⁵ And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. ⁴⁶ Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? ⁴⁷ He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

Many people preach a religious message, but they are not preaching the truth of God's Word.

We need to hear and heed the warning and not become a follower of pernicious ways.

Notice

Notice not only the “The False Prophets” and the Followers of Pernicious Ways but also:

3. THE FEIGNED WORDS PROPAGATED

2 Peter 2:3

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.*

Their motive in their words is not to please God; it is greed.

They want to draw people to themselves and use them for personal gain.

They use words they don't really mean to achieve their goals.

They take people, souls for whom Christ died, and they merchandise them.

Note again what God says, “whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

God warns us that these people will be judged.

Close:

May God help us to heed the warning, to see clearly the false teachers and the followers of these “pernicious ways.”

May He help us to understand that they are using feigned words because of greed to make merchandise of people to draw them to themselves and not point them to the Saviour.

The need is great.

The laborers are too few.

Be true to Christ. Love Him and serve Him with all your heart.