

Peter's First Epistle

II-PETER

CHAPTER 2:1-3

TAPE SM. #270 - SEPTEMBER 21, 1997

TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WILL THE REAL FALSE PROPHET PLEASE STAND UP”

THE CHRISTIANS JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF THE WORLD

THEME OF THE BOOK:

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,

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text

2:1-3

We have to, right from the start, ask Why?
Why even ask a question like that to begin with

The Epistle is Dedicated to
“Living in the Last Days”

Remembering Pastor Peter's Heart as an
Experienced Old Christian Now...

***“WILL THE REAL FALSE PROPHET
PLEASE STAND UP”***

Can't we just **not** touch *on this part of the Bible - skip to the next chapter*

(The Jack in me says, "I would love to" But The Holy Spirit in me says, "Follow my Word"

A Negative Church Growth Message

the society around us is demanding tolerance

But there is one thing that our tolerant society cannot tolerate and that is the direct and unwavering absolutes of God, as revealed to the world in His manual for life - The Holy Bible!

To A Different Drum

God's people have always marched to the beat of a different drum. And the Christian, under the power of the Holy Spirit, is someone that, by nature (divine nature) is altogether different from the world around him.

The world is on a continual ride,
Up and down, from trend to fade

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.¹⁰ Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us.

At my High School,
to be cool you had to wear; • A white, J.C Penny's Towncraft T-shirt
• Converse Hi-Top Tennis Shoes (light blue preferred)
• with Levi 501's straight leg, with a button fly

In Jr. High, it was Bell Bottoms & Board Shorts

What's In Now?...

That which has been is what will be that which is done is what will be done

What does it all?...

- it means that if you hang on to all your old clothes,
they'll all back into style again - and you'll save money !!!

Even the New Age Movement isn't New at All

It's really "Old Easter Mysticism" dressed up in western clothes

It's what **Maharishi Mahesh Yogi** has been saying for Decades and nobody listened to,
“That all the animals and fish are one with each other and we are
one with them, that god is all things, and all things are god...
including you, you've just forgotten all that you see...”

But Shirely McClaine reintroduced it on the shores of Malibu
There is a force that is in all things, and that force is in you too and that force is an ancient reminder
that you are a god, you just don't remember that part.

So **George Lucas** said... That's great, all we have to do is remind the people of the earth, that they're gods by offering to them a prayer
.... **“May the Force with You”**

Genesis 3:4-5

When Satan came to tempt Eve, Eve countered the temptation with what God says... I'll die if I eat that fruit... and what Satan said to Eve he's telling Shirley McClain **"shirley, You will not die,"** - - **"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Him**

Hebrews 13:8

Malachi 3:6a

Last Week

Peter Challenged us to take the Bible at its claims and examine it!

3.) The Christian Faith Demands The Facts *vv. 19-21*

2 Peter 1:19-21

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Previously - Peter Recounted for us His "Personal Experience" as Jesus was transfigured on Mt. Tabor there, just 10 miles north of the Galilee...

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow **cunningly devised fables** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

2 Timothy 4:2-4

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ 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; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to **fables**.

Chapter 2 **The False Teacher**

a.) Their Condemnation 2:1-9 b.) Their Character 2:10-17 c.) Their Claims 2:18-22

Exposing Satan's Counterfeit Church

Satan is just like a good spy... he will wait until someone goes through all the hard work to design and engineer a solution to a problem or to create a new technology and then he steals it rewards by counterfeiting another from the original

He has Produced False Christians:

Matthew 13:38 (tares) & John 8:44 (devil)

He has Produced a False Gospel:

Galatians 1:6-9 (another gospel)

He has Produced a False Righteousness:

Romans 9 & 10

He has Produced False Prophets:

He has Produced False Teachers:

He has Produced a False Church:

Revelation 17

And his ultimate Fraud, The False Christ:

Very soon Satan will unveil to the world his only begotten son known in scripture as: the son of perdition, the Idle shepherd, the Beast,
The Antichrist... Mr. 666 Himself...

All with one Specific Goal in Sight...

to produce his version of what a church should be like. Not a pure virgin bride kept for Christ and for the day of the wedding,

But a twisted, well-worn prostitute made up with world's religions, prepared for the antichrist himself... Satan's ultimate counterfeit

The churches outward appearance may look the same but the internal workings, the insides are completely opposite

“WILL THE REAL FALSE PROPHET PLEASE STAND UP”

1.) Be Ready to Identify Them; *By Their Conduct* vv. 1

Verse 1

But there were also false prophets among the people, **even as there will be false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

* **False Prophet** **GRK 5578 pseudoprophetes**

a counterfeit / unauthorized prophet, one pretends to foretell the future or a religious impostor that proclaims a different message.

God had always given Israel a testimony from the prophets...

the people would often reject the message and seek to find a new message. one that said what they wanted to hear...

During Old Testament Times

&

During Jesus' Day

&

During Our Days as Well - - Even more so

1a.) Their Conduct will be Deceptive:

Verse 1a

But (calling you back to verses 12-21) there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you...

Jesus Said This.... **Matthew 23:24-34**

"Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

²⁵ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ²⁶ "Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. ²⁷ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. ²⁹ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ "and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² "Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. ³³ "Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? ³⁴ "Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,

1b.) Their Conduct will be Predictable:

Verse 1b

even as there will be false teachers among you...

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

² For (because) men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.
And from such people turn away!

There is the False and The True... Often Side by Side

John 10:7-14

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

1c.) Their Conduct is Influential:

Verse 1c

...who will secretly bring in destructive heresies,

* **Secretly** **GRK 3919 pareisago (par-ice-ag'-o);**
 to bring it alongside. to dwell along side you. to infiltrate

The cowbird

lays its egg in the nest of another bird and shares the nest... for a while!

* **Heresies** **GRK 139 hairesis (hah'-ee-res-is);**
 to offer a choice, i.e. a party or disunion: KJV-- heresy [which is the Greek word itself], sect.

In early Grecian days and during the time of Peter the word meant to offer a choice. To present an alternative. to give someone an option where a real option did not exist.

Imagine a man hanging from a cliff...

he's in need of a rope to himself pull up. so, two men come and one of the men lowers a strong and able rope while the other lowers a thread from his grandmothers sowing machine... which one will you grab? Do you really have an option to choose?

I John 5:12

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Consider The Source of their Offer

THE FIRST HERESY EVER SPAWNED was from Satan himself

John 8:44

"The devil, Satan, He was a murderer **from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God really say**, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "**shirley You will not die**," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Him**

1d.) Their Conduct is Arrogant:

Verse 1d

**even denying the Lord who bought them,
and bring on themselves swift destruction.**

* **Denying** GRK 720 **arneomai** (ar-neh'-om-ahee);
to contradict, to disavow, reject, to refuse.

PETER'S HEART HAD TO LOOK BACK TO THE NIGHT OF HIS FALL PETER'S DARKEST HOUR

Many years earlier Peter had followed Jesus at a distance... then denied Him

These “willfully” ignore and to reject
the opportunity to be forgiven

Verse 1e

and bring on themselves swift destruction.
they must be responsible for their final destination, not God

The Judgment, once it begins, will fall with lightning speed

2.) Be Ready to Identify Them; *By Their Lifestyle* vv. 2

Verse 2

**And many will follow their destructive ways,
because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

2a.) Not a Few, But Many Will Go After Them

And many will follow their destructive ways,

Matthew 24:1-5

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.⁵ "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' **and will deceive many.**

Matthew 24:11

"Then many false prophets will rise up and will **deceive many.**

Matthew 24:23-24

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.²⁴ "For false Christ's and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders **to deceive**

A Grave Warning Here

What is Implied is that at First the people will follow the man who has excited them and then once their eyes are filled with the visual temptation... they then step forward...

During the times of Jesus and after, there were marauders and bandits that would steal the sheep and flocks of other shepherds. The bandits would build a rock pen and then secretly release his very own goat into the flock. (It picked up a nickname that we all known today "The Escape Goat") would call to the other sheep and they would follow his lead as he ran. he would run into a pen and then out a little open reserved especially for him. Once the escape goat was through, he was then rewarded for his deception with grain & oats saturated in fat. while the sheep would be butchered for their wool or meat, even to feed the of the bandits' dogs...

2b.) They Will Depart From The Truth in Action
because of whom **the way** of truth will be blasphemed.

The Way To Eternity is Well Ordered

Consider for a moment what's at stake

The Bible teaches that; God is a real personal being, infinite in nature and all loving Satan is a finite created being, limited in power, but with an attitude it also teaches that mankind is focus of these two and that the playing field is planet earth

God loves YOU with a perfect love
(God's love, not man's love)

Satan hates YOU with a perfect hatred
(Satan's hatred, not mans)

And at stake, In the Middle of it all, is **YOUR**
Eternal destiny !!!

Identifying the voice of God

John 10:24-30

Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ "I and My Father are one."

John 10:1-5

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

² "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

³ "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

⁵ "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

James 1:21-22 NIV

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

- * **To Blaspheme** is much more then to just say something against God. It is to live contrary to what is required of God...

You may never use a curse word

and yet still be guilty of blasphemy by how you live against the standards of God...

-+-+--+It's what you do +-+-+--

Exodus 20:7

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Like it with you... wherever you go.....

3.) Be Ready to Identify Them; By Their Message vv. 3

Verse 3

By **covetousness** they will **exploit** you with **deceptive words**; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their **destruction does not slumber**.

3a.) A Message of Sensuality

By **covetousness** they will **exploit** you

BY covetousness
(They make converts worst then they are themselves)

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

3b.) They Use Words That Kill

They will Exploit you
(They will siphon what they can before moving on)

They will use words
(Words are like keys that unlock or lock up
a person's heart and mind)

With **deceptive words**

* **Deceptive** GRK 4112 **plastos (plas-tos')**;
artificial words, fictitious words, molded words in English
the word is plastic

(That which cannot take the heat)

I John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

The Motive of Every False Prophet & Teacher:

Acts 13:6

Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, **a Jew** whose name was **Bar-Jesus**,

Acts 13:7-8

who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, **seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.**

Will someone or something turn you away from the faith?

Matthew 7:15-16a

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ "You will know them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:20-23

"Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Titus 1:9-11

holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

3c.) Their End is Certain

for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their **destruction does not slumber.**

A Fearful Thought...

"They are knowledgeable about the truth and are familiar about it....
They engineer their counterfeit message around the truth masterfully"

The Destination of the False Prophet

reserved in hell

smoking or non-smoking

The Destination of those Who Follow Them

Revelation 20:10 NIV

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Matthew 23:13-15

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.¹⁵ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

II John 1:7

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Jude 1:8-13

In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"¹⁰ Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals-- these are the very things that destroy them.¹¹ Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.¹² These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm-- shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted-- twice dead.

¹³ They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, **for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.**

Reserved Seats in Hell, can you imagine such thing

Did you at all notice the frequency of use
regarding a certain 'word'?

vv. 1 - destructive & destruction vv. 2 - destructive & destruction
vv. 3 - destruction !!!

* False Prophet	GRK 5578 pseudo-prophetes a counterfeit / unauthorized prophet, one pretends to foretell the future or a religious impostor that proclaims a different message.
* False Teacher	GRK 5572 pseudo-didaskalos a counterfeit / unauthorized teacher, a propagator of erroneous Christian doctrine: One who puts forth un-biblical doctrine
* Destructive	GRK 684 apoleia (ap-o'-li-a); to lead someone toward physical, spiritual or eternal ruin or loss a damning of the whole person. to die THE death

How Will You Know

if There's a False Prophet Among Us"

- **Don't Always Expect Signs**
- **"False Prophets Ahead"**
- **"Watch For False Prophets"**

By Being Prayerful: Being on your Knees

By Being Alert: Being in the Word

By Being Here: Being in Fellowshipping

BUMPER STICKER
(I speed up for false prophets)

They're Not Always Easy

to Identify

Paul had them on his missionary team

Jesus had one among the twelve