



Daily Bible Habit

The Epistles Of Peter

Thomas F. Fischer, M.Div., M.S.A.

Focus Points...*For 2 Peter 2*

Listen...

- * To Peter's warning that Christians should not fall victim to false leaders and evil prophets who would exploit them.
- * Peter's reminder that God's blessing awaits those who remain faithful.
- * Christians need not worry about condemning false and evil leaders. God has already taken care of them...and reserved a special fire for them in hell.

Prayer:

Father, I do not know the time You have appointed for the second coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As I await His coming, I eagerly anticipate the joy in that moment in which Your just and right judgment will be finalized. Judge those who have sinned and caused others to fall away. Bless those who, amid trial and persecution, have remained faithful to death. Amen.

+ + +

Commentary:

Peter's final exhortation to the Christians of his day continues in 2:1ff. with a warning regarding false prophets. These prophets, Peter reminded them, will come from "among the people" outside the Church and from within the Church itself.

The motive that these false prophets have is greed. This is nothing new. Jesus, Paul and the prophets have all said the same thing. The method false prophet's use is deceit. They use cleverly spun "stories they have made up."

These false prophets get what they want by exploiting others. In order to draw attention from their own deceit, they discredit believers and all those who speak the Truth of the Gospel (2:2-3). Their evil is so deeply ingrained that they even slander celestial beings without fear or shame (2:10). Their destiny is judgment in hell

Peter's message to his hearers is simple: They have what's coming to them. God did not spare the angels who sinned. Neither did He spare the evil ones in Sodom and Gomorrah. Instead, He sent both to hell.

But, Peter reminded them, God's protecting eye is always on the righteous. Noting how God rescued the righteous man, Lot, from the evil schemes of Sodom and Gomorrah, Peter reminded his audiences that God will rescue those Christians who remained faithful.

"The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment." (2:9)

Peter continues in 2:10ff. with a rather extensive—and unflattering—catalog of evil in which the false prophets engage. Perhaps the false prophets' greatest danger is,

"They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him." (2:19)

Of the "dogs" and "pigs," Peter wrote,

"If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them." *2 Peter 2:21-22*

The message for Christians is quite clear. Expect false prophets. Be aware of their deceit. Turn away from their message. Know their selfish, evil motivation. And don't let them destroy you or your trust in God. God is faithful. He has reserved the fires of hell for these "brute beasts" (2:12). As surely as they will suffer the most excruciating flames of hell, God's people who have remained faithful will be saved.

Peter's warning is even more applicable today than it was in his day. The forces of evil in our nation, in our culture, in our churches—not to mention the forces of evil in our own sinful will—make us vulnerable to those who would deceive and exploit us.

Will you remain faithful? Will you be able to recognize the false prophets? Can you stand up under the destruction they would wreak upon you? Peter's words are a call—and a warning: don't be deceived. Stand firm to the end and you will be saved. It's God's promise.

Prayer:

Jesus, Satan truly does roar like a roaring lion. It seems there are so many who would exploit others. There are so many selfish leaders who falsely claim to be concerned for us, but their actions demonstrate otherwise. Curb these false leaders wherever they appear—whether in the Church or in society. Though they have been reserved for judgment, by Your grace reserve and protect me that I may boldly confront these evil people and remain faithful to You. Lord, be with

me today and each day from this day forward so that I may remain true and loyal to You, my Guide and Protector. Amen.

Thomas F. Fischer

Copyright 2009 Thomas F. Fischer
www.DailyBibleHabit.com All Rights Reserved.

+ + +

Unauthorized Duplication Or Distribution Of This Material
(by printed, electronic and/or internet/email)
Is A Criminal Violation And Strictly Prohibited
For Questions, Please Contact info@DailyBibleHabit.com

TFF 7/09