The Hope that is in You

Lesson 10

False Teachers – 2 Peter 2-3

In chapter one, Peter stressed the importance of building yourself up spiritually. In chapter 2 he gave the reason it is so important to be mature in the faith with a strong warning against false teachers who subtly present a message that distracts from the gospel the church originally believed in. Peter's denunciation of false teachers in chapter 2 and 3 reminds us of Jesus pronouncing the woes on the hypocritical Jewish religious leaders in Matthew 23.

Read 2 Peter 2

1. Historically, were there false prophets in Israel (Jeremiah 23:11-27, Ezekiel 13:1-9)? Were there false teachers among Peter's churches in the first century (2 Peter 2:1-3)?

2. What are the three characteristics that Peter attributes to the false teachers in v 1-3? What is their primary motivation in v 3?

3. What precedent has been set for divine retribution in the past according to 2 Peter 2:4-9? How certain is it then that God's promise of future judgment will happen (v 9)?

4. What are the consequences of false teaching (2 Peter 2:4-9)?

5. Describe the conduct of false teachers (2 Peter 2:10-19).

6. What are the two metaphors that Peter used to describe false teachers in v 17-19? Do they offer the spiritually thirsty false hopes of relief?

7. In 2 Peter 2:20-22, Peter appears to be saying the false teachers had temporarily found superficial moral reform through religion, but it was devoid of true saving faith. What metaphors did Peter use to describe their eventual return to the defilements of the world?

8. What do Christians need to always remember (2 Peter 3:1-2)? Who will attempt to criticize and mislead them concerning the Word of God (v 3)?

9. What great promise of Christ and prediction of every N.T. author will false teachers mock (2 Peter 3:4, Matt 24:30, Acts 1:11, Phil 3:20, 1 Thes 3:13)? What is currently delaying Jesus Christ from returning (2 Peter 3:8-9)?

10. How will the whole creation change after the second coming of Christ (2 Peter 3:7, 10-12)? At that time, how will God deal with evil (2 Peter 3:13)? With this in view, what is left for us to do (2 Peter 3:14-18)?