



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2022 – WEEK 4

2 Peter 2:4-22 – Blots and Blemishes

...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment...

– 2 Peter 2:9 ESV

- **Peter's Reminder**

*Therefore I intend always to **remind** you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of **reminder**, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to **recall** these things.* – 2 Peter 1:12-15 ESV

- Peter is saying “If you don’t remember anything, remember this”
 - o Remember the goodness, kindness, provision, grace, and mercy of God
- Why is this important?
 - o False teachers have infiltrated the church
 - o They are there in secret and they know what they’re doing
 - o This is something that has AND always will be present in the church
- What were/are these false teachings?
 - o Docetism – Jesus was not fully human
 - o Gnosticism – Jesus was not fully God

Modern Context

- o Health & Wealth Gospel – God wants you to be healthy and wealthy, and if you just had enough faith, you would be blessed by God with health and wealth
 - Also known as the Prosperity Gospel
 - These false teachers are preying on our sinful desires

- Health and wealth become more important than the gospel

in their greed they will exploit you with false words. – 2 Peter 2:3

- How does God deal with this?

*For if **God did not spare angels when they sinned**, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, **when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly**; if by **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes** he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard) – 2 Peter 2:4-8 ESV*

- Peter gives three examples of how God deals with those sinning against him
 - Fallen Angels (Genesis 6:2)
 - The Flood (Genesis 6:5)
 - Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19)
- Don't get bogged down by the specifics of these examples
 - Ask yourself why did Peter choose these specifically?
 - Peter is equating false teaching with fallen angels, the flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah
 - We know God will destroy the wicked and deliver the righteous

*the Lord knows how to **rescue the godly** from trials, and to **keep the unrighteous under punishment** until the day of judgment... – 2 Peter 2:9 ESV*

*Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and **their destruction is not asleep**. – 2 Peter 2:3 ESV*

*For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were **designated for this condemnation**, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. – Jude 4 ESV*

- We know false teaching is here
- We know God will ultimately bring them to their destruction
- This serves as a warning and a reminder

- **Warning**

- Beware of false teachers and the heresy they bring
- It has eternal implications

Bold and willful... these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction... - 2 Peter 2:11,12 ESV

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. – 2 Peter 2:1-3 ESV

- In these few verses Peter uses a form of the word destruction 5 times to make his point

But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand... – Jude 10 ESV

- **Reminder**

- *Even in the presence of false teaching...*

- God is good
- God sits on His throne
- God is in control

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. – 2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

- Remember, we have all we need for life and godliness
- False teachers are giving death and destruction

- **Identifying False Teachers**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. – 2 Peter 3:18 ESV

- Peter tells us to be aware of false teachers among us, but he goes on to show how they can be identified

“False teachers can be recognized by what he says with his mouth, sees with his eyes, and desires in his heart.” – David Helm, 1-2 Peter and Jude, 232

- **What They Say**

Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment

*against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, **blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant**, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.* – 2 Peter 2:10b-13a ESV

- They were blaspheming the “glorious ones”
 - *Doxa* – Glory of God, that which belongs to God
 - This is what these people are blaspheming

“False preachers evidence a certain disdain for those who obediently carry out God’s Word. They repudiate anything glorious and good. And in doing so, their voices become nothing more than the grunts of an animal merely caught to be destroyed. Irrational creatures of instinct, these preachers are difficult, if not impossible, to reason with.” – David Helm, 1-2 Peter and Jude, 233

- The false preachers in Peter’s context apparently had a blatant disregard for authority
- They are bold and willful when it comes to their arrogance

- **What They Do**

*They **count it pleasure** to revel in the daytime. They are **blots and blemishes**, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, **insatiable for sin**. They **entice unsteady souls**.* – 2 Peter 2:13b-14a ESV

- Following the eyes of someone can show you the hidden desire of his heart
 - The difference here is the false teachers were not trying to hide it
 - Evidently, these false teachers lived promiscuous lives
 - They had bought into the lie that their own pleasure and happiness were the things that mattered most
 - The worst part was they were trying to entice others to join them
- False teachers feed on people’s fleshly desires with no regard for sin
 - This is damning
 - Again, we are talking about eternal implications

- **What They Desire**

*They have **hearts trained in greed**. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who **loved gain from wrongdoing**, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.* – 2 Peter 2:14b-16

- The root of all false teachers can be found in the heart
 - False teachers are greedy people
 - This is something we are more accustomed to seeing today

- Most false teachers are spouting these heresies because they personally gain from it
- The example of Balaam
 - Balaam falls into the camp of all three aspects
 - Ultimately, Balaam has his voice, eyes, and heart set on God-forsaken ways
 - God told him the truth, but he found a way around it
 - He was **bold and willful** in his effort to secretly bring in destructiveness to God's people

- **The Truth About False Teachers**

*These are **waterless springs** and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, **speaking loud boasts of folly**, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but **they themselves are slaves of corruption**.*

– 2 Peter 2:17-19a ESV

- False teachers over promise and under deliver
- They sound great with their lofty speech, but they are only leading people astray

*And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with **lofty speech** or wisdom.* – 1 Corinthians 2:1 ESV

"Like a waterless spring, they can only offer the hope of refreshment, but they lack the means to make it happen. Like a reef lying just below the surface of the water, they are a hidden danger, waiting to wreak havoc on any and all who come into contact with them." – Ken Miller, 2 Peter Devotional, 37

- They promise health, wealth, and freedom
- These things will never give us true freedom
- True freedom is only found **IN** Christ himself
- They elevate the gifts over the giver

- **Dangers of Falling into False Teaching**

*For if, after they have **escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.* – 2 Peter 2:20-21 ESV

- Peter is saying it is better to have never known the gospel than to know it and reject it
- We see similar ideas spoken by Jesus in Luke 12:47-48

And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

– Luke 12:47-48 ESV

- Simply put, with greater knowledge, comes greater responsibility
- Peter takes this point even further

What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire." – 2 Peter 2:22 ESV

- People in the 1st Century would have seen dogs and pigs as unclean
- We see the true DNA of these animals in their actions
- The same is true for false teachers

- **What About Today**

- The only protection for false teaching is truly knowing Christ
- We are told to grow in the knowledge of Christ

...take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

– 2 Peter 3:17-18 ESV

- When we continually grow in the knowledge of Jesus, we are equipped to identify what isn't truth
- This is the important charge we have in the world today
 - Not just for us, but for those who don't know better

Discussion questions

What steps should we take in order to make sure false teaching does not gain a foothold in our churches?

How should you address a friend or family member who listens to false teaching?

Why does Peter constantly remind us of who God is when speaking about false teaching? How does this help?