
a *Grace Notes* course

2 Peter

Lesson 6

2 Peter 2:1 to 5

by Dr. Grant C. Richison

2 Peter Lesson 6

Contents

2 Peter 2:1	4
2 Peter 2:2	7
2 Peter 2:3	9
2 Peter 2:4	11
2 Peter 2:5	13

2 Peter*Course Outline*

There are ten (10) lessons in the 2 Peter course. Each lesson has a Quiz, to be completed and returned to Grace Notes after studying the lesson. Here is a list showing the portion of 2 Peter to be studied in each lesson.

Lesson 1	Introduction; 2 Peter 1:1 to 4
Lesson 2	2 Peter 1 :5 to 6
Lesson 3	2 Peter 1:7 to 9
Lesson 4	2 Peter 1:10 to 14
Lesson 5	2 Peter 1:15 to 21
Lesson 6	2 Peter 2 :1 to 5
Lesson 7	2 Peter 2:6 to 16
Lesson 8	2 Peter 2 :17 to 22
Lesson 9	2 Peter 3 :1-9
Lesson 10	2 Peter 3:10-18

2 Peter 2:1

"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."

We now turn to the minor key of 2 Peter. A drastic change in tone in Peter's writing occurs here. Chapter two deals with those who deny the truth as it is in the Bible, the devil's leaders. These leaders are religious. They are family men (2:9) and their progeny follow them (2:10). They focus on wealth (2:11). They often become famous (2:13).

The first three verses give a general description of these false prophets and teachers. They are religious people, teachers in the organized church. We should not take incursion into Christianity lightly because it means the very survival of Christianity.

But there were also false prophets among the people

"But" is an about-face word and contrasts the authors of Scripture in chapter one (1:21) to the false teachers of chapter two. Scripture is the absolute criterion for determining truth. False prophets attack Scripture in this passage.

"Were" means came into being. These false prophets appointed themselves as leaders of the church.

"Also" – the church as well as Israel. Israel executed false prophets (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). The church is to deal decisively with false teaching.

Peter identifies the devil's leaders as "false prophets." The term "prophet" is a religious term. "False" indicates that they were counterfeit religious leaders. Peter uses harsh, blunt and straightforward language to describe these leaders. He minces no words and spares no feelings because of the grave nature of their teaching.

In our society we give serious concern to shyster lawyers and quack doctors. Why should we not concern ourselves with shyster religious leaders

and quack preachers (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29-30; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 John 2:18,19)?

"False teachers" here may be false teachers among Israel (Jeremiah 28). The "false prophets" of the next phrase are heretics of New Testament times.

"Among the people" may refer to the church.

"False prophets" came from inside the church.

Where we find wheat, we find tares. Where we find the genuine, we will find the imitation. Where we find the real thing, we will find the counterfeit. In no area is this truer than in Christianity. God's people are so gullible that they believe almost anything they hear.

Principle

Fakers will invade Christendom.

Application

We find counterfeits throughout Christendom.

This does not mean that true Christianity is a hoax. It means that there are phonies within Christendom, not Christianity. As there are shyster lawyers, so there are phony preachers. Just because there are shyster lawyers does not mean all lawyers are shysters (all current jokes notwithstanding).

Attacking Christianity from without is not nearly as dangerous as attacking from within (Acts 20:29,30; 1 John 2:18,19). Apostates were already in the church in the first century.

"Even as" draws an analogy to Israel. "As" sets up an analogy between Israel and the church. "False teachers" will come to the church just like in Israel. First Peter says that these religious leaders are "false prophets." Now he calls them "false teachers."

"There will be" indicates that the church will always be plagued with false teaching. We can expect false teachers in any generation of the church. Christians who do not expect false teaching to come to the church are naive.

who will secretly bring in destructive heresies

"Who" is indefinite and means representatives of a category or class. "False teachers" are a category or class that the church needs to identify.

False prophets and teachers carry a "nice" facade. They teach content that tickles the ears of those who listen. They adjust what they teach to accommodate what their listeners want to hear.

"Secretly bring in" is one word in the Greek and means bring in along side. It comes from three words: to lead, into, and along aside. This word carries the idea of a secret agent. These false teachers lead people to their side to teach false doctrine. The idea is to "covertly interpose" false teaching into the church (Galatians 2:4). These heretics infiltrate the church of that day. They create smoke screens whereby we cannot distinguish truth from error.

False teachers do not simply hide what they teach; they also distort the truth of the Bible. They do not set themselves up as opponents of Christianity. Far from it. They insidiously, imperceptibly and gradually bring their teaching to the church. They lure people from God's truth to their private notions.

"And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage)" (Galatians 2:4).

False teachers came to the church at Galatia. They came in unaware. No one knew it. None detected it until after they fell for false teaching. Now false teachers are difficult to unseat from leadership. They are in the saddle and run the show.

"Destructive heresies" are teachings contrary to the New Testament (Acts 24:14; Galatians 5:20). A heresy is an opinion contrary to Scripture. These "heresies" are "destructive" for they lead people astray and into spiritual devastation. "Heresies" is the content of teaching that is not true. This brings in teaching that destroys the soul.

False teachers must teach some truth or they could not bring in their false teaching secretly. They do not deny biblical truth outright. They change the emphasis to something other than what the Bible says.

Principle

All religion comes from Satan.

Application

No Christian can be demon possessed. The only way Satan can reach the believer is through deception. Satan's ideas gain momentum through religion. All religion has its origin in Satan. Religion is the worst deception to come into the world and is responsible for many evils in the world.

This particular passage warns us against those who communicate religion. For us to understand this, we must remember that Christianity is not a religion. Religion gains God's favor through attempting to get God's approbation through works. Christianity is the antithesis of religion. In Christianity, God is the giver and man is the receiver.

Some religious teachers are smart operators. They do not want us to know what they actually believe so they create smoke screens. Hypothetically speaking if Al is in love with Betty. Al does not want anyone to know that he is in love with Betty so he dates Cindy. Cindy is a smoke screen for Betty. That is what "bring in along side" means. If Cindy gets smart, she will drop Al like a hot potato. Cindy will destroy herself if she hangs around with Al. Cindy, is just a smoke screen.

Much of what is taught in religion is straight out of the mouth of the devil. Few people stand up and say, "No to religion!! I do not want to have any part of this." Religion is a smoke screen for Satanic doctrine. People can be so nice and sincere but they secretly bring in false doctrine. Most people who accept false doctrine are not aware of its source.

Many false teachers manipulate people into believing things contrary to the Bible. They do not come out and say, "Frankly, I do not believe the Bible. I do not believe that the blood of Christ is the only way of salvation. I do not believe in the deity of Christ." They are too smart for that. They omit essential truth like heaven and hell, the gospel and the integrity of Scripture. They devote themselves to religious shadowboxing. As a result, many churches fall for their phony teaching. These churches leave their historical teaching. These false teachers insidiously betray what is true to Scripture.

even denying

"Denying" is a term of disdain. False teachers say "no" to the One who paid for their sins. They refuse His payment for sin. They renounce the cross of Christ.

"For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4).

These false teachers develop negative thinking toward God when they first encounter exposure to the Bible. This negative volition draws religion into their souls. People who are suckers for religion are people with negative volition toward God's Word. This is *cosmos diabolicus* (the Devil's cosmology).

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1).

If you want to get a reputable doctor's blood to boil, talk to him about phony doctors who put the health of people into jeopardy.

These false teachers deny the deity of Christ. They also deny Him a place in the Trinity.

the Lord who bought them,

The word "Lord" here means Master, the absolute Lord. These religious leaders repudiate Jesus as absolute Lord. This term refers to the deity of Christ.

These heretics deny both the person ("Lord" – Master) and work of Christ ("bought" – paid for our sins on the cross). Their heresy is two-fold: First, they deny Jesus as Lord God Almighty. Secondly, they deny the fact Jesus' suffering on the cross was sufficient payment for sin. Thus, these false prophets and teachers are unbelievers for they reject the essential way of salvation.

The word "bought" means redeem. "Bought" means to purchase out of a slave market and refers to Jesus' unlimited atonement for our sin (Mark 10:45; Galatians 3:13; Revelation 5:9). There seems to be a conflict in some minds that if Jesus paid for the sins of these heretics, why are they not Christians? Did they lose their salvation? John

teaches that the moment a person believes, they enter into eternal life, not temporal life.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24).

The obvious meaning is that Jesus paid for their sins in principle but they never exercised faith in the finished work of Christ. This passage teaches that Jesus died for everyone, not just the "elect" (1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2).

Principle

Jesus suffered all that is necessary to suffer for our sins.

Application

Jesus has done it all. He paid for all our sins.

It is our sin that recommends us to Jesus. Jesus is our only hope. From God's viewpoint, there can be no neutrality toward His death for our sins.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 10:45).

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" (Galatians 3:13).

"Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Timothy 2:6).

and bring on themselves swift destruction

"Bring" means to bring something upon, make answerable. False teachers bring destruction upon themselves.

"Swift" here means these false teachers will face immanent ruin. It is coming soon.

Their self-deception led to their spiritual ruin (2:3; 3:16). They will eventually be condemned to hell for all eternity. They will bring a state of ruin upon their souls.

Apostates bring upon themselves damnation. They destroy themselves by their teaching. God does not send us to hell without the co-operation of our wills. When you land in hell, you will know that you sent yourself there. Do not blame it on the church or others. Blame it on yourself.

Principle

Ultimately, it is we ourselves who choose hell.

Application

Destruction comes on souls not because they behave badly but because they straight-arm the Lord Jesus' death for their sins.

We do not say, "I will go to the doctor as soon as I feel better." If we do, we are a nut. Our pain recommends us to our physician. We do not say, "As soon as I straighten out my life, then I will come to Christ." No, we go to the Physician who forgives our sin. We do not make a moral life and then become a Christian; we become Christian and then Christ changes our lives.

Come to Christ. What do you have to lose? You tried everything else and it did not work. Everything else is secondary and peripheral.

2 Peter 2:2

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

And many

Now we see the effect of the teaching of the false teachers of verse one.

The sad reality is that "many" follow false teaching (Matthew 24:11). The "many" are unbelievers. Many will fall victims for this false teaching. Religion is the way Satan deceives people into believing a lie (2 Corinthians 11:3-4).

Principle

Religion is the devil's trump card.

Application

The devil's trump card is religion. The way he leads people away from Christ is to get them involved in religion.

Most people go for religion. False teaching is very popular with most people. A case in point is the doctrine of hell. Religious liberals and cults both reject this Bible teaching. They either eliminate it or air-condition it. People love to hear that there is no hell. Denying a doctrine of the Bible does not negate it.

It is easier to believe a lie than to believe the truth. This explains why "many" believe error and why it is so popular. Error appeals to the fallen minds of the unbelievers. There are hundreds of false religions in North America alone. To many, God's statement in the book of Acts is very embarrassing:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Jesus is the only way. That statement is a difficult pill to swallow in a society that believes in pluralism. God says there are not five ways to heaven but that there is only one way. If we reject Jesus Christ there is no "outside chance" to go to heaven. He is the only way.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).

Do you believe God's Word that Jesus is the only way to heaven?

will follow

"Follow" means to follow out to the end. These people imitate the teaching and behavior of these false teachers very closely. They will follow the false teachers to the end (2 Peter 1:16; 2:15; Job 31:9; Isaiah 56:11; Jeremiah 2:2; Amos 2:4). They follow in a detailed and dependent manner. These people conform to false teaching and life-style. These are all out followers.

In war, some soldiers will follow their squad leader into death. Converts of false teachers will follow their teaches into hell.

their destructive ways

The Greek word for "destructive" occurs four times in the first three verses.

"Destructive" means debauchery, filthy. This is unbridled lust and also acting upon that lust. Often, this word refers to debased sexual routine.

People who enter debauchery pass the stage of concealing their sin. These people place no value on their reputation. They do not care what other people think of their sin.

Principle

People who reach the stage of debauchery no longer care about their reputation.

Application

People in debauchery do not bridle their behavior. They enter orgies. They are reckless. They live as they please. They do not care what other people think about them.

An example of "debauchery" today would be the homosexual and lesbian community. With pride, they "come out of the closet." They love to flaunt their depravity.

We live in a day of latitude and permissiveness. Everyone is broad-minded now. No one believes anything for sure. We would not want surgeons to operate on us who had that attitude. They might say, "Well, we've never been trained in this operation but we will do as best as we can." I don't know about you, but I would not want those surgeons operating on me. Yet, millions of people buy into fuzzy pluralism and relativism without understanding that those doctrines themselves are presuppositions about truth.

We have lost our sense of the outrage today. We no longer have a sense of the temperate. Satellite, cable television and the Internet bring limitless choices of pornography right into the home. People who would never go to places of pornography now imbibe this destruction daily into their lives. Our society in general and Christians in particular have lost their sense of shame. We take what we want when we want it.

because of whom

"Whom" are these false teachers. The blight of false doctrine bedevils Christendom throughout the world. For every true teacher such as Paul or Peter, there are many false counterparts. Sometimes phonies who disseminate diabolical doctrine are more impressive and charismatic than genuine teachers of the Word.

the way of truth

Note the term "way" in other texts:

"These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17).

"So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:26).

"And the way of peace they have not known" (Romans 3:17).

Principle

There is only one truth and Christianity is that truth and the way to heaven.

Application

People do not want to hear there is only one way to heaven. That sounds too dogmatic and exclusive to them. However, the Bible teaches plainly that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

You may say, "That sounds like discrimination to me." If we do not accept God's way of salvation, this is discrimination against God. God's character demands that all sin be paid by Jesus' death on the cross. He must do this because this is the only way He can be true to His character and yet accept us into His heaven. If we reject this, we discriminate against Him!

Have you bought into the propaganda that there are many ways to God?

will be blasphemed

False teachers lead many into debauchery and this brings Christendom into disrepute. Satan spawns these false teachers to malign the truth of the Word of God.

We can tell whether teachers are true to the truth by what they think of the person and work of Christ. In the first verse they "deny the Lord that bought them." Tell me what you think of Christ and His work, and I will tell you whether you are true to the truth of Scripture. If you say simply that "He is a wonderful teacher, a profound scholar or the greatest philosopher the world has ever seen," you miss the point. Affirming the ethics of Jesus, the greatest code of ethics the world has ever seen, is fine, but it is not to the point.

If Jesus is not God Almighty, He is the biggest faker on earth. If He is not who He claimed to be, we cannot believe anything He ever said. No, the Lord Jesus, the Lord of Glory, is a member of the Trinity. He is not one of three gods. He is God who exists in one essence. He is God and in His humanity He died for our sins.

Principle

We learn the way of truth from the Word of God.

Application

We learn the way of truth from the Word of God. We would not know anything about salvation if it were not for the Bible. People do not want a salvation that excludes other religions. They want a salvation that includes everyone and tolerates all beliefs, so they invent new religions and say, "We'll take our chances with our religious invention."

Christianity is under attack from both the outside and the inside. It is under attack from secularists, atheists and false religionists from the outside. These groups undermine the truth of Christianity. Those who hoist their flag of false teaching and make their teaching clearly known are not nearly as dangerous as those who hide what they believe.

The second attack upon Christianity is from within. These are spiritual termites within Christendom. These people still want to be called "Christian," yet they deny the essentials of Christianity.

2 Peter 2:3

"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"

By covetousness

"Covetousness" literally means a desire to have more. "Covetousness" is a desire to have more in a bad sense (Romans 1:29; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:5). It is a strong desire to acquire more and more material possessions or possess more things that other people possess. This is irrespective of need.

Covetous false teachers want to possess financial gain for themselves. A covetous person always

wants a larger portion of the pie. Religious con men grab the attention of religious people by offering them more than they now have. This is how false teachers extort others and satisfy their own greed.

Principle

False religionists make money out of their suckers.

Application

We can tell a charlatan by whether they are oriented towards greed. They exploit people for their own mercenary purposes. They turn their ministry into an exploitative marketplace.

they will exploit you

"Exploit" means to commercialize, buy, sell, trade. We get our English word "import" from the Greek term. False teachers import false doctrine. Then this word came to mean exploit, to exploit by deception or cheating. These people take advantage of others by implying that what they offer is better than what it actually is.

Principle

False teachers are in the business of manipulating and marketing souls.

Application

The sad reality is that some religious leaders give people the business. They swindle their followers. Every generation has its religious con men who come to exploit religious people for financial gain. They use religion for profit. They will buy your soul and then sell it down the river.

These people take the wonderful things of Christ and take advantage of people with them. Today these people blatantly go on TV to make their wares known. Those who have biblical discernment can see the corruption in these religious con men immediately. They can tell who true preachers are as well.

with deceptive words

The Greek word for "deceptive" occurs only here in the Bible. We get our English word "plastic" from this word. Plastic is easy to forge.

"Deceptive" means to fabricate. Like plastic, people can fabricate and fashion words so that

they are so well turned that they appear real. Some people are good at making up words to fit the situation.

"Deceptive" was used to mold clay or wax. False teachers manipulate their suckers by molding words to suit the situation. They make up stories to mislead people. They are clever in the way they construct words and arrange words so that they can mislead people (Colossians 2:4). We can easily recognize a lie when a lie is set forth as a lie. However, when false teachers mask a lie as truth, the lie is much more deadly.

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:17-18).

"For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error" (2 Peter 2:18).

Principle

False teachers can sound scriptural, but they deceive by distorting truth.

Application

Most people are so biblically illiterate that they cannot discern phony religious leaders from true preachers of the gospel. They are so maudlin that they could not possibly believe that someone in religion could deceive them. They seem to be totally ignorant of the fact that great sections of the Bible warn against religious deceivers.

False teachers can turn their words well. They make their religious wares very attractive to sell. By this they mislead, delude and cheat their followers. Their religious inventions have mere surface attraction.

for a long time their judgment has not been idle

Peter now turns to the future of religious swindlers.

The "long time" is about to be explained as an event in the Old Testament.

"Idle" means linger. God's judgment will not linger. Judgment is still functional in God's economy even though these false teachers may not think so. God's judgment is still in force.

and their destruction does not slumber

"Slumber" means to sleep. God plans doom for these deceivers. Their ultimate end is at hand. God is not sleeping and His judgment is not dozing.

Peter uses the term "destruction" four times from verse one. It also occurs in 3:7 where it is translated "perdition" and 3:16 where it is translated "destruction." These words describe what happens to false teachers -- perdition.

"What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction" (Romans 9:22).

"But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:9).

Principle

The mills of God grind exceedingly slow but they grind exceedingly fine on false teachers.

Application

Judgment on false teachers will come. He gives them plenty time to repent but His judgment will come apace.

The reason God judges false teachers is that their teaching has serious implications on the lives of people. If you undermine biblical truth, you undermine biblical ethics. No wonder there is so much immorality in our society! This is the result of a relentless attack upon the authority of Scripture that has gone on for centuries.

Our generation is left without absolutes. There are few standards left anymore with the exception of murder. With abortion, even the latter standard is in the process of being undermined. With each successive generation, standards lower further and further.

Collectively, our society is losing its soul. The erosion of its absolutes lessens the impact of the Judeo-Christian value system. The things that shocked us a generation ago no longer shock us.

God, help our generation. God, deliver us from judgment.

2 Peter 2:4

"For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment"

Chapter two is in the minor key. It tells the dark tale of apostasy. The Bible warns that the church will go into apostasy in the latter years.

For if God

In previous verses, Peter talks of false teachers. Now he gives a number of examples of apostasy. First, he turns to fallen angels (Ezekiel 28:15; Jude 6).

The "if" here assumes the reality of Peter's proposition. It is true that God did not spare angels who sinned. Peter now compares the false teachers of his day with beings who apostatized centuries ago. This is the first of three historical comparisons with the past. The other two judgments are the flood (v.6) and Sodom and Gomorrah (v.6).

If God punishes angels who commit apostasy, surely He will punish people in Peter's day who apostatize. God will not "spare" fallen angels. God will inflict retribution upon angels.

It is interesting that the "if" clause begins here in verse four and ends with a "then" clause in verse nine. That is all one sentence. If we do not take note of this, we will lose contact with Peter's argument.

did not spare the angels who sinned

"Spare" carries the idea of refrain, abstain. God did not refrain with these people. God cannot refrain from His justice. God cannot abstain from justice. God cannot hold back His essence and abandon His standards. He must act according to His own character for He is immutable. There is no latitude in God, so God cannot be lenient toward sin. He must judge sin or the sinner who will not accept His judgment of sin.

The sin of these angels was fornication with human beings. God must judge sin no matter how high the creature might be. If God does not spare a

higher order of beings, He surely will not spare human beings.

Who are these angels that "sinned?" These angels may be the angels of Genesis 6:1-9. This may have been a strategy of Satan to mix angelic and human natures so that when Christ came, He could not represent humanity in His death for their sin. Their sin was a sin of sex perversion. The next term for hell may support the idea that the Genesis six situation was co-mingling of humans and angels.

There are two kinds of angels: good and bad;

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'" (Matthew 25:41).

Principle

God must be consistent with His own character.

Application

I have never seen a liberal who could not mouth sloppy sentimentalism towards God's character a dozen different ways. Let us look at the character of God. Some of God's attributes are absolute, sovereign, purely just, absolutely righteous and perfectly loving.

God is immutable in all these attributes. He does not bend His character to fit a situation. Can He get tough? You bet He can. We cannot read the Old Testament or the New Testament without getting this point.

If we think we can get away with things with God, we fool ourselves. We need to flag ourselves down in time. We need to alert ourselves to our folly as quickly as possible. If we detect cancer early enough, our lives may be spared. It is the same with the gospel. If you discover early enough, you still have a chance to receive Christ. If you come to Christ, you will never come to judgment. The gospel is the good news that we are forgiven in full and free.

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

but cast them down to hell

"But" is a term of strong contrast. Instead of abstaining from judgment, He judged these angels. He had to judge them. He could not overlook their rebellion.

There are a number of terms for hell in the Bible. Hades and Sheol are temporary hells. Gehenna (12 times in the Bible) is the "Lake of Fire" found in Revelation 20 (five times). The "Second Death" is another term for hell and occurs four times in Revelation. Revelation tells us of the "bottomless pit" seven times.

We now come to yet another word for hell -- Tartarus. The normal word for hell is Gehenna. Gehenna is what we normally think of as hell and is the permanent hell. Tartarus is a temporary place of torture or torment for angels (Jude 6). It is a temporary hell. The Greeks thought of Tartarus as a subterranean place where divine judgment was meted out. It was the nether world. Evidently, this was a place of punishment for fallen angels.

Tartarus is not Sheol or Hades where men go at death. Nor is this where God will place the wicked permanently which is permanent hell (Gehenna). Nor is this the place where people go for punishment. This is a temporary place of punishment for angels.

Principle

God's character demands that there be a hell.

Application

The important thing about a highway is the destination. The Bible tells of two highways, one to heaven and the other to hell. "I am on a wonderful road but where does it lead me? I am on an interstate but it is not taking me in the right direction." The road to hell seems like a nice road but it takes me in the wrong direction. The road to hell is all downhill.

Where do you want to go? Biblically, there are only two roads, one to heaven and the other to hell. You do not have to go to heaven. That is your choice.

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which

leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

and delivered them

"Delivered" means to give over to something else. God handed these fallen angels over to another place with a view to judgment. God will give them their due. God is consistent with His character. Either God must judge Jesus for our sins or He must judge us for not accepting His payment for our sin.

Principle

God sent Jesus to the cross in order to resolve our acceptance to Him.

Application

There is no judgment for people who receive Jesus as their Savior (Romans 8:1) because Christ died for their sins (1 Corinthians 15:3). Jesus paid in full for any sin we have committed or might commit (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus took our curse (Galatians 3:13). Immediately, at the point one receives Christ's death in payment for one's personal sins, a person passes out from under judgment and enters eternal life.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24).

into chains of darkness

The word "chains" means pit or deep hole. Secular Greek uses the word "chains" for an underground granary. We get the English word "silo" from this term. This is a place of imprisonment for fallen angels until the time of final judgment.

"Chains of darkness" is a place of intense gloom where it is extremely dark. This is the gloom of the world below, nether darkness, a place of punishment. This is the gloom of the nether world. Feelings of despair and foreboding accompany this place (Hebrews 12:18). This pit of intense "gloom" is extremely dark. False teachers are kept in Tartarus, a place of intense darkness (I guess intense ""darkness" befits their teaching). This is a place of eternal depression.

to be reserved for judgment

These angels are "reserved for judgment." When placed into Tartarus, they are not yet in final judgment. God will haul them out of Tartarus for the final judgment (Matthew 25:4). These angels have been in Tartarus for thousands of years, yet it is still a temporary hell for them. They will be placed in permanent hell in the future. God is protecting His plan of salvation by having these rebels in this hell-jail.

Principle

God is consistent with His own character; therefore, He must judge that which is not consistent with Himself.

Application

It comes as a shock to the "do-gooder," bleeding-heart type of person that God can be a God of judgment. This is the general characteristic of liberal thinking today. Liberalism destroys the toughness and fiber of a national entity and they destroy the toughness of Christianity.

If you walk down a street and someone picks a fight with you, you have no choice but to fight that person (some of you do not know what I am talking about). You have never lived in a situation where you had to fight to survive. You were never in a corner where you could not get out. Some people in the world do not understand how to "communicate." These people do not understand good manners and politeness. That is their way life. We deal with these people differently than civilized people.

It also comes as a great shock to some people that God is consistent with Himself. God is immutable and He cannot change His character. God has a tough side. It is a "fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God." If God were to change His character, He would no longer be absolute. God has a perfect being. How can He change that? He would be stupid to change perfect consistency.

Liberals emphasize God's love to the exclusion of His other attributes. Love is only one of God's characteristics. Judgment is another. We cannot separate love and judgment when it comes to God. God is not free to give eternal life to everyone.

Only very stupid people love everyone the same way without discretion. We have heard the phrase "fat, dumb and happy." This is an idiom that everything is "wonderful." God has more than one attribute. He is more than love. Love is at His essence, but He has more attributes than love. Just because you love people does not mean that you do not use discernment in business.

Certain attributes call for different situations. If it is necessary for you to be wise and tough, you do it. If it is necessary for you to love, you do it. Liberals latch on only one attribute—love. This is distortion. It is a distortion of God, for God is more than love. God can love, and God can be tough (toughness is also part of His love). God is love, but He is also justice and righteousness.

Some organizations try to sell us on the fact that our relationship with God does not mean anything. These organizations are hard core apostate organizations. These people are often very pleasant and charismatic. They are always self-righteous and very sincere, but much diluted about the Bible. So, they peddle their false doctrine of a distorted God. These people even delude evangelical Christians. Naive sheep drink from muddy water. Sheep who know the Bible do not drink from muddy water but drink from the clear springs of God's Word.

For God to be consistent with Himself, He must judge false teachers. He will always judge false teachers. The goat is the false teacher. Do not look for any horns or red epidermis or forked tail!

There is only one thing worse than injustice and that is justice without her sword in her hands. When right is not might, right is evil. God's justice grinds slow but sure.

2 Peter 2:5

"And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly"

We come now to the second illustration of God's judgment.

And did not spare the ancient world

The "ancient world" here is the antediluvian (pre-flood) civilization. God did not spare the

antediluvian civilization but destroyed it by the flood. He did spare eight people out of the flood. Peter talks of the flood in three places in his Epistles (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:6).

God will not spare apostates. He did not spare the apostates before the flood and He will not spare apostates after the flood. God did not withhold retribution.

but saved Noah

Noah spoke out against the depravity all about him.

one of eight people

The eight people were Noah, his wife, his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their three wives (Genesis 6:10,18).

a preacher of righteousness

Noah preached righteousness. This is judicial--the righteousness of God's salvation.

"Preacher" means herald. A herald was an eminently respected person. This person frequently spoke for the emperor or an ambassador. The verb means to proclaim or announce. Noah announced God's message for 120 years to the antediluvian civilization warning of the coming flood.

Noah preached for 120 years with only his family as converts. This was 120 years of long suffering on God's part.

Principle

God cannot spare societies that compromise the essence of who He is.

Application

God deals with societies that lose their standards and become corrupt. The media condition us to accept filth, profanity and vulgarity. Our educational institutions pass off filth for art. They parade pornography as literature. This we call education!

Nothing shocks us any more. It is going to get worse and worse. Today it very difficult to spare our children from filth and smut.

bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly

The word "bringing" alludes to God's sovereign judgment on the world at that time.

"Flood" means deluge. The flood was worldwide and catastrophic. The Grand Canyon and the Himalayan Mountains testify to this flood (there are thousands of fish fossils on the top of the Himalayan Mountains). This flood was of such magnitude that God promised never to do it again and gave the sign of the rainbow to ratify this promise.

"Ungodly" are those who do not hold reverential awe towards God. They are impious. There were only eight people on the entire earth at that time that held awe toward God. God exterminated everyone else. This catastrophic judgment was of such magnitude that God never duplicated it again. Such an unprecedented result demands an equally unprecedented reason. With an effect of such magnitude, there must have been cause of equal magnitude.

What contributed to such devolution on earth? Why did the pre-flood world become so polluted and corrupt? That generation became so degenerate that God had to exterminate all of civilization except eight people. Genesis six gives four contributing factors for the flood:

1. Perversion of the human race (6:2)
2. Widespread wickedness (6:5)
3. Corruption (6:11)
4. Violence (6:11)

There will be a future day that will be as degenerate as Noah's day. Jesus made the prophecy that His Second Coming will come with judgment like the flood came in judgment.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:36-39).

Jesus is the speaker in Matthew 24. He believed in the flood. To question the credibility of the flood

is to question the credibility of Jesus. If you deny the flood, you call Jesus a liar.

The antediluvians would have been saved had they turned to God. They heard Noah preach and saw him build the ark. Every nail Noah drove into the ark nailed their judgment. They had plenty of warning and opportunity by the time the flood came.

Principle

Christ died for the ungodly; God sent His Son to die for the non-God crowd.

Application

Do you know that the reason Jesus came to earth was to die for the "ungodly?" Jesus came to die for those who do not have God in their life.

"But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6).
