

**“The Deception of False Teachers”**  
**“Grow in Grace and Knowledge”— Part 3**  
*2 Peter 2:1-9*

**1. How can you spot a false teacher?**

*But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*

*2 Peter 2:1-3*

**Four characteristics of false teachers:**

**Destructive heresies—a “party” spirit.**

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...factions...*  
5:19-20

*Galatians*

These teachers talk about grace, salvation, and inspiration, but they do not mean what the Bible means. Their words are plastic and can be twisted.

**Denial of orthodox truth—They know the truth, but deny it.**

*These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.*

*Jude 19*

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9*

**Disgraceful lifestyle—“*licentious conduct*”. They deny the truth so that they can live the way they desire - in the lusts of the flesh.**

*... They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*

*Jude 4*

**Extravagant lifestyle—They have one interest - making money!**

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great*

number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

... For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

## **2. What is the fate of false teachers?**

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly...if this is so, then the Lord knows how to... hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

2 Peter 2:4-6 & 9

### **Three examples of their destruction:**

**Fallen angels**  
**Noah's Flood**  
**Sodom and Gomorrah**

## **3. The destruction of false teachers contrasted to the deliverance of true believers.**

...and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials...

2 Peter 2:7-9

### **Two examples of deliverance:**

**Noah**  
**Lot**

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:10

**4. Warning**—Our present day is not unlike the days of Noah and Lot. Many believers have abandoned the truth of God's Word to fit in with the world. The professing church has a weak testimony to the world because we have succumbed to the world's dreams.

Therefore, my brothers, *be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 1:10-11

*For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.* 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

### **Build each other up!**

"The Deception of False Teachers" is third in a series titled, "Growing in Spiritual Knowledge." January 19, 2014.  
All verses are from the New International version unless noted.