

1. What stood out to you during the message?
2. Why can't we just let false teachers be?
3. How is a false teacher covetous?
4. How do they use covetousness to attract followers?
5. Why would someone follow a false teacher?
6. Does it comfort you to know that God will deliver the righteous?
7. What does it mean that God will deliver the righteous in light of our current covid-19 crisis?

Answers to blanks

popularity
delivered
allure

2 PETER

False Teachers

Text: 2 Peter 2:1-22

1. The presence and work of false teachers - 2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets: Even as there were *holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit* (2 Peter 1:21), so also there are **false prophets** and **false teachers**.

Peter stated this as a fact and not as a possibility. No false teacher ever announces himself as a false teacher.

False teachers bring in **damnable heresies** that destroy by telling lies about Jesus Christ and His work for us and in us. By these **heresies** people are hurt and destroyed. Heresy isn't harmless.

2. The _____ of false teachers - 2 Peter 2:2

This reminds us that false teachers may be popular. Just because something succeeds in attracting a crowd of followers, it doesn't mean that it is of God.

3. The strategy and destiny of false teachers - 2 Peter 2:3

False teachers use **covetousness** – both their own and in their followers. Many false teachers, both today and in previous times, present a gospel that has self-gratification at its core.

4. They will be judged - 2 Peter 2:4-6

These three examples of judgment show us the important principle that Peter wants to highlight.

- God judged **the angels who sinned**, so *no one is too high to be judged*.
- God judged **the ancient world** before the flood, so *God doesn't grade on a curve*, only comparing man among other men.
- God judged **Sodom and Gomorrah**, so *even the prosperous can be judged*.

The ungodly have no reason to think they can escape God's judgment. Their coming judgment is certain. As Jesus said in Luke 10:10-12, for those who reject the truth "***it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom.***"

5. The righteous will be _____ - 2 Peter 2:7-9

Peter already told us how the Lord delivered Noah (2 Peter 2:5). Now, he shows us that the Lord **delivered just Lot**.

Even as the Lord delivered Lot, He knows how to deliver us from the **temptations** we face, and He knows how to **reserve the unjust** for the day of judgment. We can trust in God's deliverance of the godly because it is just as certain as His judgment of the ungodly.

6. The unrighteous are fleshly and proud - 2 Peter 2:10-11

These ungodly ones are *especially* reserved for judgment. They live according to the flesh, not the spirit, and are marked by **uncleanness**.

7. Their reward is waiting - 2 Peter 2:12-13a

Since they function in the flesh, not the spirit, they are like animals. They are fit only for destruction and they are ignorant.

The ungodly will be "paid" for their evil – and their fleshly lives will be paid the **reward of unrighteousness**.

8. A list of the sins of the false teachers - 2 Peter 2:13b-17

These ungodly false teachers are a dangerous and corrupting presence in the body of Christ, not only deceiving others but deceiving themselves also.

Their heart is set on the flesh, and their **eyes** on **adultery**, both spiritual and sexual. They prey on the unstable to join them in their ways (**beguiling** (enticing) **unstable souls**).

9. The _____ of the false teachers - 2 Peter 2:18-19

The message of the ungodly false teachers is empty of real spiritual content, though it is swollen big with words.

Their allure is to the **lusts of the flesh** in their audience, just as the crowds who wanted bread from Jesus, but didn't want Jesus Himself. They promise freedom, but freedom can never be found in the flesh, only in God's Spirit. Freedom isn't found in what Jesus can *give* us, but only in Jesus Himself. When we seek freedom in the wrong way, we become **slaves of corruption**.

10. The danger of following false teachers - 2 Peter 2:20-22

It is better for a person to have never known a thing about Jesus than to hear some truth, hold to it for a season, and then later reject it. Greater revelation has a greater accountability.

Peter described a picture that certainly has the *appearance* of people losing their salvation. However, a born again child of God can never be unborn. You cannot lose your salvation.

I think the best way of understanding the text here is to say that it is certainly true that those who *appear* saved – those who fit the description of Peter here – can end up in a place where **it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness**.

The nature as **dogs** is displayed by the way he returns to the **vomit** of the flesh and the world.