

FALSE WORDS DECEIVE UNBELIEVERS

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Know the truth about the Lord from the Scriptures so you can recognize false doctrine.

Suggestion: This lesson will call attention to important truths in this week's Lesson. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: In chapter one, Peter said a true knowledge of God was needed for developing a fruitful Christian life. In chapter two, Peter warned believers about persons coming into their churches to teach false things about the Lord, destroying their fruitful Christian lives - 2:1. "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" - 2 Pet 2:9.

How can people bought by the Lord bring upon themselves swift destruction? 2:1, 20, 21

Some people interpret these verses to mean that a believer can lose his salvation. This interpretation is contrary to verses that say we have eternal life now when we receive Jesus Christ and He shares His resurrection life with us (Jn 1:12; 3:16; 10:28-29; 11:25-26; Rom 10:13). It is His gift to believers (Eph 2:8-9); He keeps us by His power (Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:5); and we can know we have eternal life (1 Jn 5:11-13). So how should we understand these verses? The Lord bought every sinner when He paid for the sins of all people (1 Jn 2:2). Those who receive His payment for their sins are given eternal life; those who reject His payment are given His wrath (Jn 3:36). Unbelievers may claim to be saved and join a good church. In the society of godly people they will escape the pollution of the world like Judas, but they have no divine power or divine nature to keep them from the doctrines of false teachers (2 Pet 1:3-4). They will fall and will deny the Lord as their Savior.

How do false teachers get people to follow their destructive ways? 2:2, 3, 19

The false teachers speak against the Scriptural words of truth and they deceive their followers with misleading words of lies. They promise them freedom from the laws of God, so they can do whatever they desire. These words are lies because those who promise them liberty are slaves to sin and their followers will likewise have the same experience. Beware of those that teach this way.

What do we know about Noah's spiritual ministry while he built the ark? 2:5

Genesis 6 says that God would no longer strive with man, but He would wait for 120 years while Noah built an ark before He would destroy them with a flood. It was a strange thing for Noah to build a huge boat or barge away from an ocean, so he must have had many who asked him why he was doing such a thing. This gave him an opportunity to preach the message of righteousness that God had given to him about His plan to destroy all living creatures with a flood that did not enter the ark that he was building. His family was the only humans that believed his message, but he was faithful in building the ark, in preaching the message God had given him and in obeying God when they were to enter the ark.

What do false teachers do that angels will not do? 2:10-12

False teachers are not afraid to speak evil against dignities (glorious ones, angels), but angels, which are greater in power, do not bring a harsh accusation against them. Even Michael, the archangel, did not bring a railing accusation against the devil, but said, "The Lord rebuke you" (Jude 9).

How does Balaam illustrate the sin of false teachers? 2:3, 14, 15

Balak, King of Moab, was afraid of the Israelites, so he sent messengers to Balaam to curse the Israelites by his divination powers. He offered Balaam a large sum of money if he would do it (Num 22). The money that Balak offered him eventually got Balaam to sin against God when he caused Israel to sin against God (Num 25). Money is the motive of false teachers in getting followers (2:3, 14). They are like Balaam, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. Be alert! Giving money to God is good, but giving money to false teachers is evil. False teachers that pedal the prosperity gospel are like Balaam.