

Like Precious Faith Character Of A False Teacher 2 Peter 2.9-23¹

There are False Teachers all around us. The Word of God reveals that they have always been and will always be. False Teachers and False Prophets use the Word of God to twist the Truth's of God and teach False Doctrines.

Last week in the first half of this chapter we discovered How To Spot A False Teacher, we Spot them through,

A. Their Message

1. The Source Test – Are they using the true Word of God? Do they add to the Word of God.
2. The Savior Test – Is Jesus Christ God and our only Savior
3. The Subject Test – The Gospel and the Word of God only.
4. The Salvation Test
5. The Sanctification Test – How are they living their life.

B. Their Method – Feigned words, Privily.

C. Their Manner

D. Their Motive – Make Merchandise. Using the people of our Lord.

Today we will consider the second half of 2 Peter 2 and continue our study of False Teachers

Illustration – Have a Money Bomb Fire – If you were to find a counterfeit one hundred dollar bill, when you discovered it was counterfeit perhaps you should, in your disgust, go to the bank and withdraw all your money and burn it in your back yard. Does that sound like a good idea? No it does not. You should be thinking right now, How silly is that! Do you know what a counterfeit anything does? It reveals the value of the real thing. People do not counterfeit something that is worthless.

So it is with the Christian Church. People go to church. Get involved. And then eventually realize that they may have been going to a counterfeit church all along. Many of those people get so disgusted that they decide that they just wont have anything to do with the Church anymore. A counterfeit church and teacher reveal the value of the real thing. Don't throw out the valuable Church of the Lord Jesus

¹ Resourced from Adrian Rogers – The character of a counterfeit

Christ because of a counterfeit Church. Get involved in the true Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many False Teachers and many counterfeit Churches in our world. This is the subject of our text again today.

2 Peter 2:1 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, . . .

There were and are hypocrites in the Church, but don't throw out the Church because of these hypocrites.

Some Doctors are quacks, but you don't stop going to the doctor when you are sick.

Some lawyers are shysters, but you don't stop going to lawyers when you need legal advice.

Adrian Rogers Quote - “*Don't let hypocrites keep you from Jesus. I had rather spend a few years with hypocrites in church than spend all eternity with hypocrites in hell.*” - Adrian Rogers

The second half of this chapter talks about what False Teachers and Prophets are like. It talks about their character.

The Character Of A False Teacher,

- 1. They are Proud-fully Presumptuous (vs 9-10) - *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*** ¹⁰***But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.***

The Lord Jesus Christ had mercy and compassion on drunkards, prostitutes, publicans, and sinners. But our Lord had direct and harsh words for religious phonies.

Chiefly (vs 10) – Our Lord's Judgment is directed toward these selfwilled people.

Notice these people are **Pride-Fully Presumptuous**. Where does their Presumption Come from?

Notice in our text,

- **The Root of their Presumption - The Flesh (vs 10)** – *But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, . . .*
. - This flesh is not talking about skin and bone, it is talking about the predisposition to sin called the flesh.

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The Character Of A False Teacher,

1. They are Proud-Fully Presumptuous

The Flesh is our innate desire we are all born with that craves sin.

These false teachers are in The Flesh. Sin is their greatest desire.

Notice they are in the “. . . **the lust of uncleanness** . . . (vs 10)” that is the flesh.

- **The Result of their Presumption (vs 10)** - *But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. . . .* – **They despise Government. Government speaks of authority.** These False Prophets are rebellious in heart. They despise any and all authority. They don't want anyone telling them what they can or cannot do.

All sin roots in rebellion. This was Lucifer's great sin, rebellion against God. The devil despised the authority of God.

- **The Revelation of their Presumption (vs 10-11)** - *But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*

2 Peter 2:11 - *Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.*

Jude 1:8-9

Notice they say things they ought not to say. They say things that are unthinkable. They say things even the angels, mighty is supernatural power, would not venture to say.

They talk about things they likely know nothing about. They have loose lips and they let that mean little member of their body set things on fire; The deals with their tongue, the things they say which pour out of their heart, the things they believe.

They have weird doctrines, they are not subject or surrendered to the Word of God. So they imagine all kinds of vain and fleshy teachings and teach them like they come from God.

Our example of this principle,

Jude 8–9 - Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. ⁹Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

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The Character Of A False Teacher,

1. **They are Proud-Fully Presumptuous**
 - The Root of their Presumption – The Flesh
 - The Result of Their Presumption – Despise Authority
 - The Revelation of their Presumption

Notice that Micheal and the Devil were disputing over the body of Moses, yet Micheal did not dare to bring an accusation against the devil but laid him in God's hands. The Devil was the covering angel over the throne of God. He was given glorious power and authority and Micheal would not dare speak wrongly against him. We must learn to recognize the glorious authority granted by God and be very careful to not speak wrongly about those authorities.

Our God is a God of structure and authority and we must be surrendered to that authority.

False Teachers are not such, they are presumptuous.

2. **Their Beastly Behavior (vs 12) - But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;**
 - **Their Beastly Ignorance (vs 12)**

Notice they are Brute Beasts. They have taught themselves that they are nothing more than highly evolved animals. When you teach someone they are nothing more than an animal then don't be surprised when they act like animals. We are seeing this in our cities all across America today.

Have you ever thought about how much harder it is to believe in evolution than to believe in our creator God. They really have to work at it.

Notice they,

**2 Peter 2:12 - . . . speak evil of the things
that they understand not; . . .**

They develop wild imaginations and philosophies.

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2. Their Beastly Behavior

- Their Beastly Ignorance

Many today believe in Pantheism. This believes that God is in everything and everything is God. This is the core meaning of the Star Wars movies. The force is teaching people Pantheism. Many people just don't realize that many movies teach philosophies that are against God and the Word of God. This is what I mean when I say technology and entertainment are not our friend.

These False Teachers are natural brute beasts. Remember the book of Revelation talks about a coming beast that will be revealed during the Tribulation Period; The beast of all beasts upon which the great whore, the one world religion, will ride.

- **Beastly Immorality (vs 13-14)**

2 Peter 2:13–14 - And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time [for all to see]. Spots [filth, dirt] they are and blemishes [scab], sporting themselves [Pretending no shame] with their own deceivings while they feast with you; ¹⁴Having eyes full of adultery [consumed with immorality], and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling [like fishing, to lure] unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

3. Their Godless Greed (vs 14c) - . . . an heart they have **exercised with **covetous practices; cursed children:****

Exercised – The is the same word we get our word gymnasium from. These false teachers have trained themselves to separate people from their money. They are covetous.

They have worked and trained themselves to see things the way they do. They worked to overcome the Knowledge of God that was placed within them (Rom 1) and the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ God placed within them (John 1). They train themselves to be as they are and to be as covetous as they are.

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- Their Beastly Ignorance
- Their Beastly Immorality

They are Cursed Children – They know what they are doing they have forsaken the right way.

2 Peter 2:21 - *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*

Notice they have known the right way and have chosen to go in a more profitable way for themselves. They are not so much deceived as they are deceivers.

This does not teach that they were saved and have lost their salvation. It teaches that they were taught the right way and chose purposefully to reject it and to go in another way of their choosing.

2 Peter 2:15–16 - *Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;* ¹⁶*But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.*

Balaam was willing to sell out the children of Israel for personal profit. These follow in the way of Balaam.

Notice these characteristics of false teachers and when you look at a preacher or teacher just look for these characteristics. Have they become rich and grossly prosperous off the people of God? Then they are likely a false teacher condemned by God.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not go in the way of these False Prophets in His ministry. He walked with very little and reached out to sinners who needed the physician of their souls.

So it ought to be in the Church and the minister and pastors in our Lord's kingdom.

Overcoming False Teachers and their presumptuous teachings starts with the Lord Jesus Christ and the never changing Word of God.

When you choose the Lord Jesus and call out to Him for your salvation you are receiving Him as your Lord and Savior. He saves you and gives you the New-Birth and becomes the Authority of your life of your life, to whom you ought willingly surrender.

CrossRoads Baptist Church, May 16, 2021

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