

**New Series: Last Days – 2 Peter
False Teachers are Marked Men
2 Peter 2:10 – 16**

Big Idea – It is important to know what marks a false teacher.

2 Peter 2:10 “That punishment is especially for those who live by doing the evil things their sinful selves want and who hate authority. These false teachers are bold and do anything they want. They are not afraid to speak against the angels.

11 But even the angels, who are much stronger and more powerful than false teachers, do not accuse them with insults before the Lord.

12 But these people speak against things they do not understand. They are like animals that act without thinking, animals born to be caught and killed. And, like animals, these false teachers will be destroyed.

13 They have caused many people to suffer, so they themselves will suffer. That is their pay for what they have done. They take pleasure in openly doing evil, so they are like dirty spots and stains among you. They delight in trickery while eating meals with you.

14 Every time they look at a woman they want her, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lead weak people into the trap of sin, and they have taught their hearts to be greedy. God will punish them!

15 These false teachers left the right road and lost their way, following the way Balaam went. Balaam was the son of Beor, who loved being paid for doing wrong.

16 But a donkey, which cannot talk, told Balaam he was sinning. It spoke with a man’s voice and stopped the prophet’s crazy thinking.”

It is important that a ministry, a church stay balanced in both positive and negative teaching of truths. Example – Charles Spurgeon magazine he titled *The Sword and Trowel* after workers in Nehemiah who worked on the wall with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other.

Some ministries all negative - no positive biblical encouragement

Others, all negative - no warning admonitions to defend the faith.

Peter here gives three marks of apostates or false teachers in vss. 10-16

Their Reviling – 2 Peter 2:10 – 12

They do not respect authority. Bible says God gave human government - you resist the authorities, you're resisting God

Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same."

Parents to have authority over their children – Ephesians 6:1 – 4

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "*Honor your father and mother,*" which is the first commandment with promise:

3 "*that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*"

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Employers authority over employees – Eph. 6:5 – 8

Commanded to pray for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-4) show respect

You can respect their office if you don't respect their person.

in local church are to honor those who lead us and encourage them in love for their works sake (Heb. 13:7,17; 1 Pet.5:1-6).

Pray for those in government to make righteous decisions

1. The reason for their reviling – v. 10

Flesh – do your own thing, if it feels good, do it.

Presumptuous, self-willed, arrogant (Proverbs 21:24)

Proverbs 21:24 A proud *and* haughty *man*--"Scoffer" *is* his name; He acts with arrogant pride.

2. The seriousness of their reviling – vs. 11

Speak evil of others – Titus 3:1, 2 Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must speak no evil about anyone, live in peace, and be gentle and polite to all people.

Even Daniel was gracious in refusing the king's food – Daniel 1

3. The judgment of their reviling

Peter called them unreasoning animals or “brute beasts”
NIV says they blaspheme in matters they don't understand

Peter speaks of their “destruction or judgment” in vss.3-4,9,12,17, 20

Their Reveling – 2 Peter 2:13 – 14a (if you don't like reveling think carousing)

2 Peter 2:13 Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in broad daylight. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They delight in deception even as they eat with you in your fellowship meals.

14 They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. They live under God's curse.

Vs. 13 carries idea of sensual luxury, softness and extravagance. Live in huge mansions, drive luxury cars, wear expensive clothes or sneakers

They deceive themselves and others right in the church fellowship meal. They attend dinners to satisfy their own lusts and to capture converts for their cause.

They keep their eyes open, looking for "loose women" whom they can entice into sin. Paul warned about similar apostates who "creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with "lusts" (2 Tim. 3:6).

Sadly, many "ministers" have used religion as a cloak to cover his own lusts.

Their Revolting – 2 Peter 2:14b – 16

J.B.Philips says “They have abandoned the right road”

One reason was lust; another is covetousness

He is in bondage to lust for pleasure and money! In fact, he has perfected the skill of getting what he wants. "They are experts in greed" says the *New International Version*, and the Phillips translation is even more graphic: "Their technique of getting what they want is, through long practice, highly developed."

Covetousness is the insatiable desire for more—more money, more power, more prestige. The covetous heart is never satisfied. This explains why the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10), for when a person craves more money, he will commit any sin to satisfy that craving.

Already broke the first two of the Ten Commandments, because money is already his god and idol. It is then a simple step to break the others—to steal, lie, commit adultery, take God's name in vain, and so on.

That's why Jesus warned, "Take heed and beware of covetousness" (Luke 12:15).

The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 22-25 – read it later, amazing story

Balaam is a mysterious character, a Gentile prophet who tried to curse the Jews. Balak, the king of the Moabites, was afraid of Israel, so he turned to Balaam for help. Balaam knew it was wrong to cooperate with Balak, but his heart was covetous and he wanted the money and honor that Balak promised him. Balaam knew the truth of God and the will of God, yet he deliberately abandoned the right way and went astray. He is a perfect illustration of apostates in their covetous practices.

God told Balaam not to help Balak - at first, Balaam obeyed and sent the messengers home. But when Balak sent more princes and promised more money and honor, Balaam decided to "pray about it again" and reconsider the matter.

Second time, God tested Balaam and permitted him to go with the princes. This was not God's direct will; it was His permissive will, designed to see what the prophet would do.

Balaam jumped at the chance! But when he started to go astray, God rebuked the disobedient prophet through the mouth of his donkey.

How remarkable that the animals obey God, even when their masters do not! (read Isa. 1:3) God permitted Balaam to set up his altars and offer his sacrifices, but God did not permit him to curse Israel. Instead, God turned Balaam's curse into a blessing (Deut. 23:4-5; Neh. 13:2).

Balaam couldn't curse Israel, so he told Balak how to defeat Israel. All the Moabites had to do was invite the Jews to be "friendly neighbors" and share in their feasts (Num. 25). Instead of maintaining its separated position, Israel compromised and joined the pagan orgies of the Moabites. God had to discipline the people and thousands of them died.

Balaam shows the two aspects of apostasy that Peter emphasized in this chapter: sensual lust and covetousness. He loved money and he led Israel into lustful sin.

Because Balaam counseled Balak to seduce Israel, God saw to it that Balaam was judged. He was slain by the sword when Israel defeated the Midianites (Num. 31:8).

A bank officer approached a junior clerk and secretly asked, "If I gave you \$50,000, would you help me alter the books?" "Yes, I guess I would," the man replied.

"Would you do it for \$100?" "Of course not!" the man said. "What do you think I am, a common thief?"

"We've already determined that," said the officer. "Now we're talking about price."

The person who is covetous does have his price, and when it is met, he will do whatever is asked, even revolt against the will of God. Peter called this attitude madness. The word means "to be deranged, out of your mind."

But Balaam thought he was doing the wise thing; after all, he was taking advantage of a situation that might never come along again. But any rebellion against God is madness and can only lead to tragedy. It was when the prodigal son "came to himself that he realized how stupid he had been (Luke 15:17).

Peter has condemned three sins of the false teachers: their reviling, their reveling, and their revolting.

All of these sins spring from pride and selfish desire. A true servant of God is humble and seeks to serve others (see the contrast in Phil. 2:20-21). The true servant of God does not think about praise or pay, because he serves God from a loving and obedient heart. He honors God and the authority that God has established in this world. In short, the true servant of God patterns himself after Jesus Christ.

In these last days there will be an abundance of false teachers pleading for support. They are gifted and experienced when it comes to deceiving people and getting their money.

Very important that God's people be established in the truth (otherwise, you'll be deceived like thousands were by Jim & Tammy Baker)! Must know how to tell when the Scriptures are being twisted and the people exploited. Glad for agencies that help to expose "religious rackets," but there is still the need for spiritual discernment and a growing knowledge of the Word of God.