

2Ti 3:1-5

7-19-20

1. This morning we will continue the study of Second Timothy where Paul from prison writes to Timothy in Ephesus. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.
2. For a written and/or audio presentation of this lesson go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and *click-on streaming audio of services*.
3. Before we continue, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
4. When the clock tolled 11:30 last week I was in the process of analyzing the *Doctrine of False Communicators*.

NIV

2Ti 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2Ti 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God --

2Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

5. There were many false teachers actively resisting the Lord during the Kingdom Age.
6. The Scriptures are replete with teachings about false communicators called: false prophets, wolves in sheep's clothing, Satan's ministers, wells without water, hireling prophets, profane vain babblers and lastly ship wreckers of the faith.
7. Several Old Testament examples:
 - 7.1 Satan convinced one-third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion and terrible act of pride.

7.2 Satan was a deft false communicator when he possessed the snake, a creature originally created as a thing of beauty but later cursed to its present state because of his seduction of Eve.

7.3 Satan, as with all sin, was also a major player in the slaying of Abel.

7.4 There were false communicators who no doubt tried to dissuade Noah in building the ark.

7.5 There were false communicators who rose up against Moses.

7.6 Aaron could not handle the Exodus generation in Moses' absence. He became a false communicator forsaking his "responsibilities as High Priest."

8. In Numbers chapters 22 through 25 we find the terrible example of Balaam. So evil was this man, he became the New Testament example for false teachers; especially those with improper motivations.

Prophets Were Not Exempt

1. **Isaiah** who ministered to Judah during the 8th century B.C. was opposed by false communicators who urged Judah to rely on Egypt for protection against Assyria—a false hope. The help will ultimately come from God when the Father will establish a “kill record.” The Assyrians are destroyed in droves. Isa 30:1-3, 37:33-37

2. According to 2Ki 19:32-36 there were 185,000 Assyrians killed by the Lord. The Assyrians returned to Nineveh.

3. **Jeremiah** was resisted by many false teachers during his 7th century ministry to Judah; recall he warned repeatedly of resisting Babylon. Jer 43:1-2

4. This led Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian emperor, to lead an army against Judea and besiege its cities, notably Jerusalem. Jeremiah urged the people to surrender peacefully, in keeping with his earlier messages. But they continued to resist, and ultimately the Babylonians defeated them, destroyed Jerusalem, and sent most of the rest of the people into exile.

5. **Malachi** was opposed primarily by the priest of the land. They were rebuked for falsely communicating God's Word. Mal 2:1-9

6. **Nehemiah** was faced with numerous adversaries as he led the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. Several of these men made false accusations against the Jewish effort to rebuild the city plazas, walls and moats outside the wall.

New Testament False Teachers

1. There were false teachers in Corinth teaching there was no "bodily resurrection." 1Co 15:14-16

2. There were false teachers in Corinth who were critical of Paul's speech, devotion to grace and his appearance. 1Co 11:3-16

3. There were false teachers at Jerusalem in c. A.D. 68 who mixed Judaism and Christianity, e.g., Hebrews chapters 1-8. Let me give you a few selected passages: Heb 3:1-6; 4:8-12; 5:11-14

4. There were false teachers who came from Jerusalem to Galatia, particularly Antioch, to teach a doctrine of salvation and spirituality by faith and works.

5. These legalists also taught false doctrine about circumcision which Paul successfully resisted.

Gal 2:1 Fourteen years later (just after the 1st missionary journey in about A.D. 50) I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

Gal 2:2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

Gal 2:3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

Gal 2:4 This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

Gal 2:5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you ...

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Acts 15:2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question ...

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them ...

5.1 The "they" in verse four included Peter who testified concerning his encounter with Cornelius and his friends. Peter wowed them with his testimony. Acts 15:7-9

Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

Acts 15:9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith ...

5.2 Let me refresh your memories of the events described in Acts chapter ten when the Holy Spirit taught Peter a lesson. A lesson he would share with James as the leader of the Christian Jews in Jerusalem.

Acts 15:22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers ...

Acts 15:23 With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

Acts 15:24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

Acts 15:25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul ...

6. There were false teachers teaching post tribulation and partial tribulation theories of the rapture; they seem to abound in Thessalonica.

2Th 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2Th 2:2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord was at hand.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

7. There were false teachers who tried to put church age saints back under the Mosaic law. 1Ti 1:3-11

1Ti 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach **false doctrines** any longer

1Ti 1:4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith.

1Ti 1:5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1Ti 1:6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.

1Ti 1:7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

1Ti 1:8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

1Ti 1:9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

1Ti 1:10 for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine

1Ti 1:11 that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

8. There were false teachers who, it would seem, love to obfuscate the truth with speculation which at least in part contradicts the Scriptures; they love to wax eloquent with reference to "knowledge, science, etc." 1Ti 6:20-21

1Ti 6:20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, (*perhaps Gnosticism*)

1Ti 6:21 which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

9. False teachers in every age, pervasively will abound in various forms; spanning the gamut from do-gooder legalist to antinomian despisers of morality. 2Ti 3:1-13

2Ti 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

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2Ti 3:6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,

2Ti 3:7 always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.

2Ti 3:8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

9.1 Most expositors agree Jannes and Jambres were the names of two Egyptian magicians mentioned in Exo 7:11 and 22.

2Ti 3:9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

2Ti 3:10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

2Ti 3:11 persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

2Ti 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

2Ti 3:13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

10. Paul says on the island of Crete there are false teachers who love to speak of the merits of the law, discoursing on genealogies, endless contentions and pontifications. Paul urges Titus to confront these false communicators and to protect the congregates by urging Pastors to teach sound doctrine.

Tit 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

Tit 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

Tit 1:12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

Tit 1:13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith

Tit 1:14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.

Tit 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

Tit 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

11. Peter warns against the perils of false teachers in 2Pe 2:1-3.

2Pe 2:1 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.

2Pe 2:2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

2Pe 2:3 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.

12. John in 1Jo 2:18-19 warns against false teachers much in the same way as Peter. These false teachers, like those warned against by Peter, would deny the Lord that bought them.

12.1 John warned they would gain a following and cast a shadow on the way of truth - "They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves."

1Jo 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

13. In 1Jo 2:22-23 we have a warning that "little antichrists" abound who deny the Father and the Son. Their purpose would be mercenary; they would be motivated through covetousness - "In their greed these teachers will exploit you."

1Jo 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

1Jo 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

14. The judgment of these false teachers is said to be a certainty.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell (*Tartaroo*), putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 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;

2Pe 2:6 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;

2Pe 2:7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—

2Pe 2:9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

15. The characteristics of the false teachers are enumerated by Peter. Their fleshly self-indulgence is recounted in 2Pe 2:10-12.

2Pe 2:10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;

2Pe 2:11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

16. Their perversion of Christian conviviality and sociability is warned against in 2Pe 2:13.

2Pe 2:13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

17. Their moral instability is described in 2Pe 2:14.

2Pe 2:14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed--an accursed brood!

17.1 Their crassly selfish motivation is described as being similar to Balaam. False teachers are often motivated by approbation, prestige and monetary gain.

2Pe 2:15 They have left the straight-way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

18. Their spiritual barrenness, even though saved, is further delineated in 1Pe 2:20-22.

2Pe 2:20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

2Pe 2:21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

2Pe 2:22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

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