



1, 2 Peter; Jude Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 12: On Guard
Potential Sermon Title: "Confronting False Teachers"
Passage: 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 16-25

Connection to 2 Peter 2:1-22 and Jude 1-25

Both Peter and Jude issued warnings about false teachers who wormed their way into the fellowship of God's people to deceive and destroy them. Peter had already confirmed God's truth in Christ (2 Pet. 1:12-21), and now he confronted false teachers. Note also the differences between Peter's and Jude's descriptions of false teachers and Jude's description of those who walk in truth (Jude 20-24).

Introduction/Opening

Imagine if you were leaving this service today and were confronted by someone who told you they were sent by God to test our church. How would you react? What criteria would you use to determine if he was legitimate? Would you confront him if you overheard him say something you knew to be contrary to Scripture?

Peter and Jude called for boldness when it came to false teachers. We cannot and must not tolerate them or their work in our congregations. As 1 John 4:1 says, we are to test the spirits to see if they are from God, because there are many false prophets and teachers in the world.

Outline

- I. The Coming of False Teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Jude 4)
 - a. Just as there were false prophets long ago, Peter taught that false teachers would infiltrate God's people and try to deceive them. "They will secretly bring in destructive heresies" and blaspheme the truth (2 Pet. 2:1). Jude taught that they will "come in by stealth" (v. 4), warning as Peter did that their goal was to deny Jesus Christ and cause others to do the same.
- II. The Condemnation of False Teachers (2 Pet. 2:4-10,17; Jude 13)
 - a. Neither Peter nor Jude minces words about false teachers. They are not to be tolerated, and they deserve judgment. If God did not spare others in the past for their wickedness (2 Pet. 2:4-7), then He won't spare these false teachers either. However, God preserved the righteous then, and He will do so among us as well.
 - b. Peter noted that "gloom of darkness has been reserved for them" (2 Pet. 2:17), and Jude confirms it: "the blackest of darkness is reserved forever" for them because of their shameful deeds (Jude 13).

- III. The Character of False Teachers (2 Pet. 2:12-22; Jude 12-19)
- a. Peter and Jude both described these false teachers as promiscuous, deceptive, greedy, irrational, and arrogant. Let God's people be warned: those who live this way, even though they pretend to represent God, are worthy of condemnation for their falsehood. Their character betrays their true selves.

Conclusion

To be a Christian is a call to be discerning and to act with courage. As we follow Christ through the crucible of suffering and persecution, as Peter taught, we must not be deceived about God's truth. Many false teachers are deceiving God's people by feeding them lies about wealth, health, faith, and the lack of suffering. Let's not be swayed by false teachers but be prepared to recognize them by their character and error.

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