

Remember Your Teaching

2 Peter 2:1-22

A. Introduction

1. In 2Peter 1, Peter highlighted the certainty of God's Word & the glory of Christ.
2. He explained his life mission, & his love & desire for them to grow in faith.
3. It was an encouragement to all, no matter their stage of life, to live life to the end.
4. Don't count your days. Make your days count!
5. Now, Peter gives a blunt warning to be aware of false teachers.
6. Peter now warns that not everyone who speak in God's name is truly His.
7. False teachers are deceptive, corrupt, and destined for judgment.
8. They will become prevalent in the last days, saying or doing anything for money.
9. Spurning the things of God, they will say & do whatever they feel like doing.
10. Proud & boastful, they will be judged and punished by God accordingly.
11. This passage is a sober reminder of discernment, & judgment.
12. Just as God judged in the past, He will judge again.
13. At the same time, God knows how to preserve His faithful people.
14. It also speaks of God's ability to rescue His own.
15. We must be discerning & steadfast, measuring all teaching against God's Word.
16. To be aware of, & beware of, leaders motivated by pride, money, or lust.
17. Stay anchored in truth to avoid deception.

B. The Reality of False Teachers (vv. 1–3)

1. Their presence was said to be inevitable & so, this warning was given.
2. Sadly, false teachers have been a constant concern since Old Testament times.
3. This was also true at the time of Peter's writing, as it is to be in the last days.
4. A pastor's role is one where they must warn the people of heretical teaching.
5. The faithful pastor must risk reproach to protect their church. (1 Tim. 4)
6. Beware of attractive but unbiblical messages.
7. False teachers are dangerous because they secretly spread lies & exploit others.
8. Worse still, they lead people away from Christ.
9. Discernment is essential—measure every teaching by God's Word.
10. Christians need discernment to be able to resist false teachers, filled with pride.
11. They promote sexual sin, & advise against keeping the Ten Commandments.
12. Peter countered them by pointing to Spirit-inspired Scriptures as our authority.
13. We need knowledge of His Word to be able to reject those who distort the truth.
14. Stay alert and discerning; measure all teaching against God's Word.

C. What Are The Characteristics & Future of False Teachers (vv. 1–3, 10–19)

1. Their methods are deceptive, selfish, & corrupt.
2. Their message is empty (vv. 17–19), denying Christ, arrogant and boastful.
3. False teachers may appear spiritual, but their fruit reveals them.
4. We must test every message by Scripture, not by charisma.
5. We see the certainty of God's judgment (v. 3).
6. Their destiny: darkness, chains, and utter ruin (vv. 17, 20–22).
7. Sin is never overlooked by God; judgment may be delayed but it is never denied.

8. God's justice is sure—don't be deceived by temporary success of the wicked.
9. Peter gives three historical proofs: examples of God's Judgment.
10. Angels who sinned, Noah, & Sodom and Gomorrah.

D. False Teachers Are Like Fallen Angels (vv. 1-4)

1. They have no regard for the price Christ paid on the cross, deceiving many.
2. They turn the minds of their hearers to religion instead of redemption.
3. False teachers speak against the truth, creating & preaching another gospel.
4. They use deceitful words to speak against the gospel, just to get the money.
5. God didn't spare fallen angels from judgment, but cast them into hell.
6. The judgment for false teachers is sure to come.

E. False Teachers Are Like the Sinners of Noah's Day (v. 5)

1. Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and was spared (Heb. 11:7)
2. Noah's message focused on faith, & was difficult to deliver but true.
3. False teachers preach falsehoods, close their ears to truth & spread lies.
4. They teach salvation by works or tradition & convince people that truth is error.
5. False teachers await judgment for their twisting of the truth.

F. False Teachers Are Like Those in Sodom and Gomorrah (vv. 6-9)

1. These deceivers reject biblical morality, & scoff at living by biblical standards.
2. Heretical teaching will ultimately lead to destruction (Jude 6-8).
3. Sodom and Gomorrah were turned to ashes as a warning of future judgment.
4. God's holiness demands judgment on sin & rebellion never goes unnoticed.
5. The Lord will deliver His people and judge false teachers.

G. The Assurance of God's Deliverance (vv. 5-9)

1. Noah – preserved as a “preacher of righteousness” amidst a corrupt world.
2. Lot, though weak, longed for righteousness & was distressed by sin.
3. God sees the heart of His people, even in corrupt environments.
4. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly & reserve the ungodly for judgment.
5. Believers can trust Him to sustain us through trials and false teaching.
6. Take comfort: no trial, temptation, or corruption can prevent God's deliverance.
7. God distinguishes between the righteous & wicked, then provides a warning.
8. Those who escape the corruption of the world through knowledge of Christ but then turn back are worse off.
9. Partial reform without true regeneration is dangerous.
10. True faith perseveres; false faith eventually returns to sin.

H. Conclusion

1. God's justice is certain: the ungodly will not escape.
2. God's mercy is sure: the godly will not be forgotten.
3. Trust Him in trials and remain faithful in a world full of falsehood.
4. 2 Peter 2 is both a warning and a comfort:
5. The choice is clear: follow Christ in truth, or face the destruction of the false.