

2 Peter 2:1-3

¹ Now 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 Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

² Many will follow in their depravity, and because of them the way of truth will be defamed.

³ In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you with deceptive words. The longstanding verdict against them remains in force, and their destruction does not sleep.

Berean Study Bible

¹ Note, there were also false prophets among the people,
just as among you there will also be false teachers.

They will subtly include destructive heresies,
even contradicting the Master who purchased them;
bringing impending destruction on themselves.

² Many will follow in their rejection of restraint,
and because of them, the way of Truth will be defamed.

³ In their greed, they will exploit you with deceptive words.
The longstanding verdict against them is not yet enacted,
and their destruction does not drift away.

My own translation

1

Fake news. 2 Peter 2:1-3

False teachers. 2:1a “false teachers”

False master. 2:1b “denying the Master”

False way. 2:2-3a “the way of truth... defamed”

False hope. 2:3b “verdict against them”

2

2 Peter 2:1-3

Beware of destructive heresies. 2:1 “destructive heresies”

Beware of the defamed way. 2:2 “the way of truth will be defamed”

Beware of deceptive words. 2:3 “exploit you with deceptive words”

3

What we learn from history. 2 Peter 2:1-3

What we learn from the past is historic facts. 2:1a “there were false prophets”

What we learn for the future is heresy is coming. 2:1a “there will be false teachers”

What we learn of our people is heavy-hearted. 2:2-3a “will follow in their depravity”

What we learn of justice is God is not heavy-handed. 2:3b “in force... not sleep”

4

How to call out a cult. 2 Peter 2:1-3

Their focus is human. 2:1a “prophets... teachers”

Their content is false. 2:1a “false”

Their method is stealth. 2:1 “subtly”

Their target is misaligned. 2:1b “denying the Master”

Their attraction is fleshly. 2:2a “depravity / sensuality”

Their desire is selfish. 2:3a “greed... exploit”

Their message is empty. 2:3a “deceptive words”

Their result is death. 2:1b, 3b “destruction... destruction”

5

How to choose your church, or Pastor. 2 Peter 2:1-3

Ask whose word is taught. 2:1a

Is the focus on a human word. 1a “prophets... teachers”

Is the focus on the Divine Word. 1a “among you”

Ask what word is taught. 2:1b

Is this group Bible-based? 1b “subtly... heresies”

Is this group Christ-centred? 1b “contradicting the Master”

Ask how the word is lived. 2:2

Do they live by the flesh? 2a “reject restraint”

Do they live by the Spirit? 2b “way of Truth”

Ask how the word is honoured. 2:3

Is the focus on present benefits? 3a “greed... exploit”

Is the focus on eternal consequences. 3b “destruction”

Stop putting up with dud church. 2 Peter 2:1-3

Put Godly people at the helm. 2:1a

Faithful, not false. 1a "false prophets... false teachers"

Among, not above. 1a "among the people... among you"

Put Bible teaching to the fore. 2:1b

History, not heresy. 1b "destructive heresies" (psychology, current events)

Christ, not comfortable. 1b "denying the Master" (purchased from sin)

Put practical application as the direction. 2:2

Spiritual, not sensual. 2a "follow their sensuality"

The way, not a way. 2b "the way of Truth"

Put eternal values as the foundation. 2:3

Encourage, not exploit. 3a "exploit... destructive words"

Heaven, not Hell. 3b "verdict against them"

How God's people get the best. 2 Peter 2:1-3

God's people seek good people. 2:1a

Good people give God's Word. 1a "false prophets among the people"

Good people give God's advice. 1a "there will also be false teachers"

God's people follow good teaching. 2:1b

Good teaching is Bible-based. 1b "subtly include destructive heresies"

Good teaching is Christ-focused. 1b "even contradicting the Master"

God's people establish good boundaries. 2:2-3a

Good boundaries limit actions. 2a "many will follow in their rejection"

Good boundaries limit words. 2b-3a "Truth defamed... deceptive words"

God's people set good directions. 2:3b

Good directions are long-term. 3b "the longstanding verdict"

Good directions are beneficial. 3b "not yet enacted... not drift away"

Danger is all around us. 2 Peter 2:1-11

Destructive processes are all around us. 2:1-3

They have minds set on falsehood. 1 “destructive heresies”

They have lives set on futility. 1b “bringing self-destruction”

They have a destiny that will not fail. 3b “destruction does not drift away”

Deceptive words are all around us. 2:1-4

Liars have always been. 1a “there were false prophets”

Liars will always be. 1a “there will be false teachers”

Liars have us in their sights. 3 “exploit you with deceptive words”

Deliverance through trials is always before us. 2:5-11

The Lord delivered Noah. 5 “spared Noah”

The Lord delivered Lot. 7 “He rescued Lot”

The Lord delivers me. 9 “rescue the godly”

Other possible titles

Forewarned is forearmed

Nothing new

Trouble brewing

How not to do church

The truth about falsehood

Tackling toxic people

When life is not good

Liar, liar, shirt's on fire

Watch for Red Flags

Can you hear the alarm bells ringing?

The flip side of negative

Quotes and illustrations

Verses about God delaying judgement

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some misunderstand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you. It is not His will for anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Say to them: 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked should turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' (Ezekiel 33:11)

For the vision awaits an appointed time; it testifies of the end and does not lie. Though it lingers, wait for it, since it will surely come, and will not delay. (Habakkuk 2:3)

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:4)

Key Greek words

They will **secretly introduce** destructive heresies. 2:1b

παρεισάξουσιν is a verb, in the future indicative active, third person plural, of παρεισάγω [Strong's 3919], which is a verb occurring only here in Scripture. This is a compound word consisting of the preposition παρά [Strong's 3844] meaning, 'beside, close by, or alongside'; plus the verb εἰσάγω [Strong's 1521] meaning, 'bring in, or introduce'.

Hence, παρεισάγω means, 'to bring in secretly, introduce by stealth, infect secretly, with cunning, by subtlety, with secrecy'.

They will secretly introduce **destructive** heresies. 2:1b

ἀπωλείας [Strong's 684], a genitive, feminine, singular noun. The root of this word is the verb ἀπόλλυμι [Strong's 622]. This root word is a compound word, consisting of the preposition ἀπό [Strong's 575] meaning, 'from, away from'; plus ὄλεθος [Strong's 3639], a noun occurring only 4 times in the New Testament, and meaning, 'ruin, doom, destruction, complete undoing or death' (but does not include, 'extinction, nor annihilation').

Hence, ἀπωλείας [Strong's 684], means, 'destruction, ruination, cut off from, severed, waste'.

This word, ἀπωλείας [Strong's 684], occurs 18 times in the New Testament, including 5 times (almost 28% of the total occurrences) in 2 Peter. 2 Peter 2:1, 2:1, 2:3, 3:7, and 3:16.

They will secretly introduce destructive **heresies**. 2:1b

αἱρέσεις an accusative feminine plural noun [Strong's 139] usually translated as, 'sect, cult, faction, or heresy'. For example, "the **sect** of the Sadducees" in Acts 5:17, "the **sect** of the Pharisees" in Acts 15:5, "a ringleader of the **cult** of the Nazarenes" Acts 24:5, "what they call **heresy**, I serve" in Acts 24:14.

This word occurs 9 times in the Greek New Testament, including 6 times in Acts, but only once by Peter, in 2 Peter 2:1.

even **denying** the Master who purchased them. 2:1b

ἀρνούμενοι [Strong's 720] a verb meaning, 'to deny, say no, contradict, refuse, repudiate, disown, or disavow'. This word occurs 33 times in the Greek New Testament, including only here by Peter, in 2 Peter 2:1. Examples include, "whoever **denies** Me before men" in Matthew 10:33, and Peter's betrayal in Matthew 26:70, 72 where he denied the Lord.

2 Timothy 3:5

1 John 2:22

Note the process used by Satan in the Garden of Eden.

Many will **follow** in their depravity, 2:2a

ἐξακολουθήσουσιν, a future indicative active, third person plural verb, of ἐξακολουθέω [Strong's 1811]. In the New Testament, this word occurs only 3 times, and is used only by Peter, in 2 Peter 1:16, here in 2:2, and 2:15.

This is a compound word, from the proposition ἐκ [Strong's 1537] meaning, 'out from within' but is outcome oriented, emphasising consequences or results; plus the verb ἀκολουθέω [Strong's 190] meaning, 'accompany, attend, follow'.

Hence, this word, means, 'closely imitate, model one's self on, emulate a role-model, or express the likeness of'.

Many will follow in their **rejection of restraint**, 2:2a

ἀσελγείαις a dative feminine plural noun of ἀσέλγεια [Strong's 766] meaning, 'sensuality, shamelessness, insolence, outrageous conduct, conduct shocking to public decency, licentiousness, wantonness, unchaste conduct, depravity, or rejection of restraint'.

This word occurs 10 times in the Greek New Testament, including 4 times (40% of all occurrences) by Peter, in 1 Peter 4:3, 2 Peter 2:2, 2:7, and 2:18.

because of them the way of Truth will be **defamed**. 2:2b

βλασφημηθήσεται a future indicative passive third person singular verb of βλασφημέω [Strongs 987] meaning, 'blaspheme, slander, to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things, speak evil against, use abusive or scurrilous language about God, refusing to acknowledge good, reject that which is worthy of respect, failure to venerate'.

This is a word with 35 occurrences in the Greek New Testament, including 5 uses by Peter, in 1 Peter 4:4, 4:14, 2 Peter 2:2, 2:10, and 2:12.

In their **greed**, these false teachers will exploit you with deceptive words. 2:3a

πλεονεξία [Strongs 4124] is a dative feminine singular noun. It is a compound word derived from πλείων [Strongs 4119] meaning, 'more, many, greater, of higher value, greater in quantity, or more numerous'; plus the verb ἔχω [Strongs 2192] meaning, 'have, hold, or possess'.

Hence, this word means, 'covetousness, avarice, longing for more, greed, aggression, desire for advantage, or lusting for a greater number of things'.

In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you with **deceptive** words. 2:3a

πλαστοῖς [Strongs 4112] a dative masculine plural adjective, meaning, 'formed, molded, feigned, made up, counterfeit, pretended, or fabricated'. πλαστός is the root of the English term, 'plastic'.

This word occurs only here in Scripture.

In their greed, these false teachers will **exploit** you with deceptive words. 2:3a

ἐμπορεύονται is a future indicative middle third person plural of ἐμπορεύομαι [Strongs 1710] meaning, 'to engage in, to trade, doing business by trading, or to make a gain by exchanging, bartering, or investing'. This Greek word ἐμπορεύομαι is the root of the English word 'emporium' meaning a place for trading.

This word occurs only twice in Scripture, in James 4:13, and here in 2 Peter 2:3.

The longstanding verdict against them is not yet **enacted**, 2:3b

ἀργεῖ a verb in the present indicative active third person singular, of ἀργέω [Strong's 691] meaning, 'linger, delay, be idle, unactivated'.

This word occurs only here in Scripture, in 2 Peter 2:3.

and their destruction does not **sleep**. 2:3b

νυστάζει present indicative active third person singular of νυστάζω [Strong's 3573] meaning, 'sleep, drowsy, slumber, nod off, or drift off'.

This word occurs only in Matthew 25:5, and here in 2 Peter 2:3.

Music and songs

Songs about being faithful or true

Be the one
Go forth in His name
I have decided to follow Jesus.
I walk by faith
I will trust in You
I'll trust in Him, though darkness hide His face
I'm gonna follow You
Let Your Kingdom come
Live for the Kingdom
Live with abandon
May all who come behind us find us faithful
My heart is filled with thankfulness
Purify my heart... Refiner's fire
Revive us O Lord
Salt and light
Sometimes by step
Speak O Lord
The feast is ready
The light (Shine like the stars)
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal
We, we are His people
When we walk with the Lord... Trust and obey. H
Worker's prayer

Songs honouring Jesus

Light of the world
Meekness and majesty
Where else have we to go

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Everyone has told lies. What were you trying to accomplish by lying?
 2. Suggest three main reasons why lying is so serious.
 3. Why do you think lying is so common (in politics, business, etc)?
 4. Now think of the church. What do you think is a motivation for false prophets, false teachers, bad priests, and televangists?
 5. Read 2 Peter 2:2, noting those who follow false teachers. How do you account for their popularity? How do we make truth popular?
 6. Look at 2 Peter 2:3b. Why do you think God delays judgement against falsehood? (Then see 2 Peter 3:8-9)
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