

Attack by False Messengers (pt. 2)

Series: While You Wait – 2 Peter Series

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August 22, 2021

We continue to walk through 2 Peter and are discovering the tactics of the Devil to slow and hurt us, the Body of Christ. The Devil attacks Scripture's validity and as we saw last week, he seeks to stealthily twist and pervert the true message of God.

Today, we will look at the other type of False Messenger we should be on the lookout. Before we examine it, let's first be reminded of what normal, effective maturing in Christ looks like:

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸**For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Peter 1:3-8

Keep this picture firmly in your mind as we vividly discover what could be seen as the exact opposite!

- **Peter identifies the 2nd type of False messengers as**

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“This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; ¹¹yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord. ¹²But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.

¹³They 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. ¹⁴With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! ¹⁵They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.” 2 Peter 2:10-16

- **Peter describes how “Freedom” is perverted into**

“These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹**They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”** ²⁰If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. ²¹It 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. ²²Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.” 2 Peter 2:17-22

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org