

“A LONG, HARD LOOK AT OPPONENTS OF FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST”

Bible Message, David E. Strobe, February 21, 2010, 2 Peter 2:10-22

“So What? What must be the Christian’s response to false teacher and their teaching? What are Peter’s implications after explaining the character of the False Teachers and the content of their message?”

- 1. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST EXPERIENCE CONTINUOUS, ACCELERATED SPIRITUAL GROWTH, OR BE RIPE PICKING FOR FALSE TEACHERS! 2 Peter 2:14**
- 2. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST REJECT BOTH THE TEACHING AND THE LIFESTYLE OF FALSE TEACHERS!**
 - a. Immorality is not worthwhile. In the end it does not pay but robs! (2:13)
 - b. False teaching is partly determined not by content but intent ... to entice believers to cease following, cease trusting Christ. (2:18)
 - c. Adoption of the beliefs and practices of false teachers does not happen in one gigantic leap. The steps to departure are small, steady and incremental.
 - d. The “full knowledge” of Jesus Christ of false teachers makes it difficult for us to discern false teachers who gain “full knowledge” of Christ, who sit deceptively at feasts with believers. They may be known, however, by examination of their personal (private) lifestyle and their profession of faith over the long span of time. (2:20; cf. 2:13 – they “feast” with you)
 - e. The departure of false teachers occurs largely in their lifestyle first, not their formal professions. Many alter their formal professions due to their personal practice (i.e. their departure from biblical lifestyle). (2:13-14)
 - f. We must possess an intimate, growing knowledge of Christ and the gospel of Christ to combat departure from the gospel, especially early departure.
 - g. God’s purpose in sending Christ is to bring permanent escape from the pollution of the world (2: 20).
 - h. The gospel is a “holy commandment” from which we must not turn away (2:21).
 - i. What overcomes a person defines personal slavery. Evaluate your “freedom” not by your proclamations but rather by that which enslaves you. Everyone is someone’s slave! (2:19; cf. Romans 6:22)
 - j. Arbitrary divisions between public and private life are soon breached, the private soon moving into the life of public morality (2:13).
- 3. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST NEVER TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF AN INSOLENT SPIRIT IN THEIR LIVES (2:10-11).**
- 4. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST CAREFULLY GUARD THEIR SPEECH ABOUT GOD, HIS LEADERS, HIS CHILDREN, HIS TRUTH AND HIS WORK (2:10).**
- 5. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST LIVE CAREFULLY, WITH CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF OUR LIFE MESSAGE UPON OTHER PEOPLE (2:13; CF. 1 CORINTHIANS 8:13).**
- 6. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST BE SUBMISSIVE TO GOD (2:12-14).**
- 7. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MUST HAVE HEARTS TRAINED TO FIND DELIGHT IN GOD (AS OPPOSED TO THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE TRAINED IN COVETOUSNESS) (2:14).**

How shall I train my heart to delight in God?

 - a. Express daily, constant faith in Jesus Christ your Savior from sin.
 - b. Glue yourself to those who are experiencing the discipline of delighting in God.
 - c. Grieve and repent over personal sin.
 - d. Serve Christ and know that the “joy of the Lord will be your strength.”
 - e. Set yourself apart for a brief time from normal pursuits in order to pursue God alone.
 - f. Saturate your heart and mind with the Word of God.
- 8. GROWING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WILL LIVE FREELY, EXPRESSING FAITH IN CHRIST AND KNOWING THE JOY OF LIVING IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS TRUTH (2:19).**