

2 Peter 1:6-2:3 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

- **Introduction**
- Dismiss middle school
- Walk through service order change
- Story about preaching Titus 1.10-16 at TVC- "False Teaching Guy"
 - Why are the New Testament authors so concerned with false teachers?
- Table of contents
 - Our testimony is credible (v.16-18)
 - We are submitted to the faithful history of God's prophets (v.19-21)
 - False teaching leads to destruction (v.1-3)
- **Recapping Last Week**
- Peter is at the end of his life and feels the urgency to ensure that his readers can continue to live out their faith in his absence.
- **2 Peter 1.12-15**
- **Seneca Quote**
 - *People say: "What good does it do to point out the obvious?" A great deal of good; for we sometimes know facts without paying attention to them. Advice is not teaching; it merely engages the attention and rouses us, and concentrates the memory, and keeps it from losing grip. We miss much that is set before our very eyes . . . Hence, you must be continually brought to remember these facts; for they should not be in storage, but ready for use. And whatever is wholesome should be often discussed and often brought before the mind, so that it may be not only familiar to us, but also ready to hand. And remember, too, that in this way what is clear often becomes clearer.*
- **If 1 Peter is attempting to encourage believers to live for Christ in the midst of suffering, 2 Peter is an urgent appeal for believers not to trade eternal promises for current comforts.**
- **Our testimony is credible (v.16-18)**
- **Summary point- Peter finds it necessary to prove the validity of his message because of the opposition of false teachers.**
- Myth is typically negative language in the NT, worse than just a moralistic fairy tale
- Power and coming of the Lord, majesty, glory and honor is all language that points to the second coming of the Lord
- v. 17 points to the account of the Transfiguration which is found in all three of the Synoptic Gospels- but why the Transfiguration?
 - **Transfiguration means a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.**
 - Matthew, Mark and Luke place the story of the Transfiguration directly after Jesus's revelation that following him is a call to come and die.
 - Mark 8.27-30 | Revelation that Jesus is the Christ
 - Mark 8.31-33 | Jesus reveals the fullness of God's plan as the suffering servant and rebukes Peter
 - Mark 8.34-38 | The cost of discipleship

- Mark 9.2-9
- ***Peter, James, and John were able to see a glimpse of the long awaited power and glory of the Messiah, who would rule and reign as we have been unable to do.***
- **We are submitted to the faithful history of God's prophets (v.19-21)**
- *More fully confirmed-* Our eyewitness account and the Transfiguration itself confirm the prophetic word of the OT
- The prophetic word/Scriptures serve as a light in darkness until there is no need for a lamp because the day of the Lord has fully dawned
- True faithful prophecy is not an independent act of human will or creativity, it is received from the Spirit of God.
- ***Application Point- How do you see the Word of God?***
- **False teaching leads to destruction (v.1-3)**
- Marks of false teachers
 - Teaching destructive heresy
 - Denying the Master
 - Following sensuality
 - Causing the way of Truth to be blasphemed
 - Exploitative greed
- ***Application Point- How do we deal with false teachers?***
- **Implications**
- The remedy for suffering is not comfort, it is hope.

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture, learn how to better read the Bible for themselves, and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read 2 Peter 1:6-2:3

1. In order to help them to be able to identify and reject false teaching, Peter highlights two important facts that his audience can ground their gospel confidence in: (1) that the apostles were actually eyewitnesses of the life of Jesus and their consistency with the rest of Scripture; and (2) the trustworthiness of Scripture rooted in the fact that it is from God and not an invention of human imagination.

a. As you reflect upon your beliefs, what is your personal foundation for what you believe? In other words, what criteria do you use to evaluate whether some belief or doctrine is true or false?

b. How has this changed over time for you?

2. How does Peter characterize the false teaching/teachers that he is dealing with in v. 1-3?

a. Two of these characteristics pertain to the content of their teaching: sensuality and exploitative greed. In other words, they give people permission to indulge in a sinful lifestyle, especially sexual sin. They also attempt to exploit their followers in order to become wealthy.

1) Where have you seen the same thing happening today in the church? How has this affected you personally?

b. He also notes that these false teachers deny Christ. Pastor Mike argued that this most likely refers to their lifestyle.

1) If the point of Christianity is to follow Jesus, then why would people follow someone whose lifestyle is actually inconsistent with Jesus' teaching? How and why does this happen?

c. Finally, Peter highlights that the final result of the False Teachers' ministry is their self-destruction and dishonor being brought upon the name of Jesus (e.g. blasphemy).

1) Where have you seen this in the church today?

3. All of us probably know someone that has been under the influence of a false teacher at some point. What did you do or what would you do to help your brother or sister recognize whom they are following? What is the best way to approach the situation?

4. The scariest part of this is that in all reality there is a part of us that likes false teaching because it tells us what we want to hear. As Pastor Mike said, it often offers us temporary flesh-satisfying comfort, but what we really need is Christ-exalting hope. There is a false teacher within us that we listen to far too often.

a. What flesh-satisfying comfort are you most tempted to resort instead of relying upon your Christ-exalting hope?

b. In those moments of temptation, practically speaking, what have you learned to do that helps you to embrace the truth of the gospel and rest on your hope in Christ, as opposed to settling for lies and temporary comfort?