

## *Their Destruction Has Not Been Sleeping*

### *2 Peter 2:1-4*

*Peter wants us to be so firmly established in our relationship with Jesus Christ that we cannot be shaken by false teaching. He wants us to be firm, stable and unshaken in our faith. We are taught that our foundation is based on two unchanging truths: his divine power working in us that gives us everything we need for life and godliness and his very great and precious promises that enable us to participate in his divine nature. It is why we are commanded to add to our faith qualities that keep us fruitful for him. He has given us divine knowledge to know how to live, and it is his knowledge that we must know and embrace to keep ourselves from being led astray by the evil one.*

**Hosea 4:6** *my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*

- I. Satan's goal is to lead as many people as he can into **hell** by convincing them that believing in the gospel is not necessary. For those who have believed the gospel, he'll do everything in his power to keep them from gaining true knowledge through the Scriptures. He'll disguise himself as an angel of light by bringing into the church false apostles, prophets and teachers to lead God's people astray. He'll attempt to get us to fight over doctrine, to deemphasize our need for Scriptural knowledge, to keep us from gaining a biblical worldview, to secularize the church and to persuade us to embrace syncretism.

Deut. 13:1-8

Deut. 18:20

2 Cor. 11:2-4

2 Cor. 11:13-15

**Mark 13:22** *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.*

**γέεννα géenna** *Hell is the place of the future punishment called "Gehenna" or "Gehenna of fire". This was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned; a fit symbol of the wicked and their future destruction.*

*"...sin never approaches us as sin, Satan never comes to us as Satan, sin always comes to us as pleasure and Satan always comes to us in the name of Christ, in the name of God. Error never comes to us as error, error always comes to us as truth...but it isn't. the servants of Satan who propagate sin and propagate error never come as the servants of Satan, they always come as the servants of God. They're always disguised as righteous and truthful servants of God. They are the most dangerous, religious teachers who name the name of the true God and name the name of the true Christ who pervert the truth, who are satanic emissaries espousing demon doctrine."*  
(MacArthur).

- II. False prophets and teachers are very knowledgeable, persuasive, emotive speakers whose sole purpose is to undermine the spiritual wellbeing of the church by polluting God's word with false inspiration and doctrine. False prophets claim that God has given them special insight, whereas false teachers distort the word of God by manipulating Scripture to support their heretical views. They appeal to the emotion and reason of those who are weak in the Scriptures through sensationalism, and through persuasive, enticing, words that seem right, but are far from the truth. Ultimately, when they do that, they are denying the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ by putting little if any emphasis on hell, sin, repentance and Lordship.

2 Peter 2:1-2

Isaiah 30:10

Matt 7:15

2 Tim 4:2

Jude vs. 4

Matt. 24:10

2 Cor. 4:1-6

**2 Tim. 4:3-4** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

- III. Joshua said, *as for me and my household we will serve the Lord* (Joshua 24:15). Those who choose to follow false prophets and teacher are choosing to follow and be exploited by Satan. It's inconceivable that those who profess Christ as their Lord and Savior would do such a thing. The reason we are warned about them, is so that we stay hypervigilant toward standing firm in our faith. Our destiny is not condemnation and swift destruction. Instead, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). Therefore, we must live lives worthy of the Lord, who calls us into his kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:12).

2 Peter 2:2-3

Jude vs. 4

**Matt 24:23-24** *Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*