

Stand Fast

2 Peter 2:10b-16 / Forsaking the Way
July 31, 2016

Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray.

—2 Peter 2:15

I. NO FEAR OF GOD

- The false teachers of Peter's day were ignorantly bold. Their ignorance caused them to have no fear of God (Deut 6:13; Ps. 55:19; Prov. 1:7; Eccl. 12:13).
- There are spiritual realities with which only foolish people tamper. Even holy angels do not dare to dabble in these things (vs. 11; Jude 9).
- All humans are created in the image of God. Some, it appears, reject that in order to act like mere animals (Dan. 4:28-33; Jude 10).
- False teachers feign great intelligence, but lack biblical insight. Some blaspheme about things of which they are completely ignorant (vs. 12; Matt. 12:24; 23:24).
- It appears that sin is the punishment in this world for sin (vs. 13; Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

II. SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

- The false teachers in Peter's day were within the church, not without. So it is so often today (Acts 20:28-31; Phil. 3:2; 1 Tim. 1:18-20, 4:1-3; Jude 12-13).
- These teachers joined in church fellowship, but always had roving eyes, seeking out sin wherever they could find it (vss. 13-14).
- False teachers are like wolves - they seek easy prey, going after new converts or "unsteady souls."
*We must establish ourselves in the truth of God's word.
*We must teach and train our children and new converts.

KNOW: Not every false teacher is innocently ignorant - some are willful. It isn't only demons that want to destroy our faith.

DO: Refuse to follow in the footsteps of the ignorant and ungodly.

Suggested Reading:

What Christians Ought to Believe, by Michael Bird
Christianity and Its Competitors: The New Faces of Old Heresies, by James McGoldrick

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 2 Peter 2:10b-16

1. Talk a bit about what thoughts/emotions these last few messages have elicited in you and your thoughts on Peter's strong sentiments concerning the false teachers of his day in chapter 2.
2. Peter likens the false teachers to animals. In what ways does that analogy fit as it concerns those who try to destroy the church for their own gain?
3. The people Peter describes seem to have lost all shame concerning their behavior. Do we see that in our own culture today?
4. These teachers go after new converts. How can we best help others to grow up in their faith, so as to spare them these types of attacks? What role does the larger church play in this training?
5. How might we prepare ourselves to be able to discern true teaching from false teaching? What are the most important steps for us to take?