

# *Know God's Word, Beware False Teachers*

## 2 Peter 2:1-10

**Big Idea:** False teachers threaten the church with destructive heresies. Know God's Word to discern truth from lies. True believers bear fruit of changed lives. God judges evil but preserves the righteous. Contend earnestly for the faith, showing mercy to doubters while snatching others from the fire.

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### Key Takeaways:

- 1.False teachers often arise from within the church and can be difficult to identify.
- 2.Sound doctrine and knowledge of Scripture are crucial for discerning truth from falsehood.
- 3.God will judge false teachers but also preserves and rescues the faithful.
- 4.We are called to contend earnestly for the faith and respond appropriately to those who doubt or teach falsely.

### Scriptures:

- ☐ Jeremiah 7:4; Titus 1:9
- ☐ Titus 2:1; 1 John 4:1
- ☐ Matthew 13 (parable of wheat and tares)
- ☐ 1 John 2:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ☐ Revelation 6:10; Jude 1:7
- ☐ 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Isaiah 41:10
- ☐ Jude 1:3; Jude 1:20-23

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### Discussion Questions:

What are some characteristics of false teachers mentioned in the sermon? How can we be more discerning in recognizing them?

The sermon emphasized the importance of knowing Scripture and sound doctrine. How can we improve our understanding of God's Word individually and as a group?

Discuss the difference between primary doctrines and secondary issues. Why is it important to distinguish between the two when evaluating teachings?

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How does the concept of being a "new creation" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) challenge the idea of "easy believism" or moral relativism?

The sermon mentioned three examples of God's judgment and preservation (fallen angels, Noah's flood, Sodom and Gomorrah). What lessons can we draw from these examples about God's character and our response to Him?

How can we balance showing mercy to those who doubt or struggle with sin while still maintaining a strong stance against false teaching?

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#### Practical Applications:

1. Scripture Study: Commit to regularly studying a passage or book of the Bible, focusing on understanding its doctrinal implications.
2. Doctrinal Review: Choose an important doctrine (e.g., the Trinity, salvation by grace, the deity of Christ) and research its biblical basis and importance.
3. Discernment Exercise: Analyze a popular Christian book, sermon, or teaching using biblical criteria. Discuss findings with the group.
4. Prayer Focus: Spend time praying for discernment, for protection against false teaching, and for those who may be led astray.
5. Outreach Plan: Develop a compassionate approach to engage with someone you know who may hold to false teachings or struggle with doubts.
6. Memorization Challenge: Commit to memorizing key verses that affirm essential doctrines or warn against false teaching (e.g., 2 Peter 2:1, Jude 1:3, 1 John 4:1).

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#### Closing Reflection:

Reflect on Jude 1:20-23. How can we apply these verses in our daily lives and in our interactions with others, both inside and outside the church?

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