

Bethel Bible Series

False Teaching

New Testament Week 18

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - Identify some obstacles and side paths that interfere with our walk on the narrow road.

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - 1 Peter

Peter

Brought to Jesus by brother Andrew; Named Peter, Cephas (rock)
From Bethsaida; Married; Partner in fishing business with James & John
Walked on water; With Jesus at Transfiguration; Prepared for Last Supper
Feet washed by Jesus; Used sword at Jesus' arrest; Denied Jesus 3 times
Ran to see the empty tomb; Reinstated by Jesus after resurrection
Led believers; Proposed replacing Judas; Gave Pentecost speech
Healed crippled beggar; Witnessed to onlookers; Arrested by Sanhedrin
Condemned Ananias & Sapphira for lying to the church; Witnessed to Samaria
Baptized first Gentile; Freed from prison by angel on eve of execution
Argued against circumcising Gentiles; Opposed by Paul for avoiding Gentiles

Background of Peter's First Letter

To Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia
From *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ*, a fisherman helped by Silas
Written in Babylon (code name for Rome); Mark was present

Nero's Persecution (64-67 AD)

64 AD - Nero set fire to Rome to be able to rebuild a new and grander Rome
Nero blamed Christians; had them arrested, tortured & killed
Crucified, thrown to lions or dogs, burned at the stake
Tradition says that Peter & Paul were arrested & brought to Rome as criminals
Silas took letter and word of Paul's death; Peter later crucified upside-down

1 Peter

Discarded Dark Garment = Put off the old nature
Be aliens in the world ... you have spent enough time doing as the pagans
Figure Wears Light Garment = You have been born anew
He has given us new birth into a living hope ... of imperishable seed
Narrow Road With Obstacles = The road is narrow that leads to life
Obedience to Christ implies denial of self
Dark Forest = Evil is real. It will exert its pressures on you.
The devil prowls looking for someone to devour. Resist him.
Burning Log = You are called to suffer for righteousness sake
If you suffer as a Christian, praise God; your faith is proved genuine
Paths Leading off Road & Broken Tablets = Temptations will come, resist them
Be self-controlled ... do not conform to evil desires
Shaft of Light = You do not walk alone. God walks with you
God gives gifts and strength; *God will make you strong, firm & steadfast*
Road Leads to Light = Endure & you will obtain the unfading crown of glory
An inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade
Always be prepared to give an answer...for the hope you have

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Lesson - False Teaching

Backgrounds of Remaining New Testament Letters

Philippians

- . Philippians 1:1 = Written by Paul (with Timothy) to the church in Philippi
- . Philippians 1:12-14 = Paul is in prison in Rome (First Imprisonment)
- . Philippians 4:14-18 = Philippians sent gifts with Epaphroditus to Paul
- . Philippians 2:25-30 = Paul send letter of thanks back with Epaphroditus

Colossians

- . Colossians 1:1-2 = Written by Paul (with Timothy) to the church in Colosse
- . Colossians 4:3, 10, 18 = Paul is in prison in Rome (First Imprisonment)
- . Colossians 1:7-8 = Word of the Colossian church came to Paul via Epaphras
- . Colossians 4:7-9 = Letter sent via Tychicus & Onesimus (Eph 6:21-22, Phm 10-12)

Philemon

- . Philemon 1-2 = Written by Paul (with Timothy) to Philemon & church in house
- . Philemon 9-10 = Paul is in prison in Rome (First Imprisonment)
- . Philemon 10-16 = Onesimus, Phm's slave, escaped & met up with Paul in Rome
- . Philemon 12, 17 = Paul is returning Onesimus with letter asking for welcome

James

- . James - Brother of Jesus; Overseer of Judean church
- . Written around 60 AD; Filled with words of guidance
- . James 1:1 = By James to scattered Christian Jews

2 Peter

- . 2 Peter 1:1, 3:1 = Written by Simon Peter to Christians in Asia Minor
- . 2 Peter 1:13-15 = Peter is in prison in Rome very near his execution
- . 2 Peter 2 = Letter written to warn against false prophets and teachers

1 John

- . John moved to Ephesus after destruction of Rome; Probably a tract ~ 90 AD
- . 1 John 2:26, 3:7 = By John to Christians to warn against false doctrines

2 John

- . Short enough to fit a single sheet of Papyrus
- . 2 John 1-2 = By John to a specific unnamed church warning of deceivers

3 John

- . 3 John 1, 5 = By John, commending Gaius for his work for the church

Jude

- . Jude 1 = By Jude, brother of Jesus & James, to Christians in Asia Minor
- . Jude 3-4 = Written to urge faithfulness despite false teachings

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Reversion - Lesson 10

Figures Walking Away From Light = Reversion movement to Jewish elements

Figures Stopped and Pointed Back to Light = Church leaders stop reversion

Three Scrolls = Epistles to Galatians, Hebrews & Romans speak to reversion

Scroll Over Dead Tree = Dependence on Law for salvation leads only to death

Scroll Over Man in Pit = Christ is superior to all things in the old era

Man in Pit = Christ is superior to the Patriarchs and Prophets

Green Robe = Christ's priesthood is superior to Levitical priesthood

Scroll = Christ is superior to the law and traditions

Stone Block = Christ is greater than the temple

Lamb = Christ represents a better sacrifice

Scroll Over Second Man in Pit = The believer is justified by faith

Scrolls in Arm = Law and traditions cannot and will not save

Grain Sheaf in Arm = Good works will not justify in God's eyes

Gnosticism

Dualism - Spirit and Body are two separate entities

The material universe is inherently evil

Created by an inferior being (the Old Testament Creator), not God

The spiritual (immaterial) universe is good

A spark of God exists in all living human bodies (spirit)

Since God is Spirit, he can have no contact with material mankind

Hierarchy of angel intermediaries provides God/man interface

Since flesh is evil, man's spirit is suffocated from true spiritual values

The spirit must be "awakened" by a special knowledge (*gnosis*)

Those awakened will escape to the spirit realm at death

Asceticism - Subdue the flesh by self-denial, punishment and law-keeping

Doing so will prompt the spirit-rulers to guide *gnosis* into the spirit

Sensuality - Actions of the body cannot affect the spirit within it

Salvation is only a matter of the spirit, the body is irrelevant

It is therefore okay to do whatever you want

Christ was a Phantom, a Man in Appearance Only

God cannot co-exist with evil Flesh

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Six Manuscripts = Epistles: Colossians, James, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, Jude

Lamp and Smoke = Each letter expresses a concern over false teachings

Figure's Face = False teaching can blind and deceive, so take care of doctrine

Greek Column = Colosse was warned against influences of Greek philosophical schools

Colossians 1:28; 2:2-3 = *complete understanding...all wisdom & knowledge*

Colossians 2:4, 8 = *fine-sounding arguments...deceptive philosophy*

Colossians 2:9-10 = *the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form* (dualism)

Colossians 2:16-17 = *eat, drink, religious festivals, sabbath...* (reversion)

Colossians 2:18-23 = *false humility, angel worship, regulations* (asceticism)

Colossians 1:9 = *God to fill you with...all spiritual wisdom & understanding*

Battered Trumpet = Peter & Jude sound warnings against those who distort faith

Jude 3 = *contend for the faith that was...entrusted to the saints*

Jude 4 = *godless men change God's grace into a license for immorality* (s)

Jude 5-8, 11 = Jude reminds of God's punishment to Israelites, angels, S&G

Jude 14-15 = *The Lord will judge the ungodly*

Jude 20-23 = *build yourselves up ... snatch others from the fire & save them*

2 Peter 2:1-3 = *Many will follow false prophets with destructive heresies*

2 Peter 2:4-9 = *God punished/spared demons/angels, flood/Noah, S&G/Lot*

2 Peter 2:10-12 = *slander celestial beings*; even angels don't do this

2 Peter 2:13, 21 = *They will be paid back*; Been better without gospel

2 Peter 3:17-18 = *be on your guard...not be carried away...grow in the grace*

Damaged Crib & Crown = John warns against denial of Jesus' divinity or humanity

1 John 2:21-23 = *the man who denies Jesus is the Christ is the antichrist*

2 John 9-11 = *Anyone without Jesus is without God; With Jesus has the Father*

1 John 4:1-3 = *Spirit that acknowledges Jesus came in the flesh is from God*

2 John 7 = *Deceiver who doesn't acknowledge Jesus in the flesh is antichrist*

1 John 5:13 = *you who believe in ... the Son of God may have eternal life*

2 John 8 = *Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for*

Dead Wreath = James warns against a faith which produces no good works

James 2:14-19 = *Faith without deeds is dead*

James 2:20-26 = *Living faith examples of Abraham and Rahab*

James 3:13-17 = *Wisdom from the devil versus wisdom from above*

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 18 and Assignment 19

Next Week - *Sanctification*