

# Bethel Bible Series

## False Teaching

### NT Study 18

*Not Faith and Works. Not Faith or Works. But Faith that Works.* - PK

Welcome

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 and 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 and 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 and 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 and killed  
Crucified, thrown to lions or dogs, burned at the stake  
Tradition says that Peter and Paul were arrested and 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 and 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 and steadfast*  
*Road Leads to Light* = Endure and 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 was in prison in Rome (First Imprisonment)  
. Philippians 4:14-18 = Philippians sent gifts with Epaphroditus to Paul  
. Philippians 2:25-30 = Paul sent letter of thanks back with Epaphroditus  
. Philippians 3:2, 18-19 = Paul warned against Judaizers and sensualists

##### Colossians

. Colossians 1:1-2 = Written by Paul (with Timothy) to the church in Colosse  
. Colossians 4:3, 10, 18 = Paul was 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 and Onesimus (Eph 6:21-22, Phm 10-12)

##### Philemon

. Philemon 1-2 = Written by Paul (with Timothy) to Philemon and church in house  
. Philemon 9-10 = Paul is in prison in Rome (First Imprisonment)  
. Philemon 10-16 = Onesimus, Philemon's slave, escaped and met up with Paul in Rome  
. Philemon 12, 17 = Paul returned 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 was in prison in Rome very near his execution  
. 2 Peter 2:1-3 (1-22) = 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 and 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 and 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 = Started in 1<sup>st</sup> Century, Strong in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century, Still influential in 4<sup>th</sup> Century

Dualism - Spirit and Body are two separate entities  
The material universe is inherently evil, including our earthly bodies  
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)

Dualism started when a lesser god (Sophia) lusted for the Ultimate Depth  
Sophia (Greek for Wisdom) represented Greeks' quest for human wisdom  
The Ultimate god exiled Wisdom to a lower heaven to prevent distortion in the godhead  
Wisdom created the world, considering herself and her subordinate gods (fates) to be ultimate  
The Ultimate god deviously led Wisdom to create humans containing the breath of life (spirit)  
This enabled the Ultimate god to send a savior (Jesus) with the true knowledge  
Those who die with this true knowledge free their spirit to climb through the fates to heaven

Since God is Spirit, he can have no contact with material mankind  
Hierarchy of angel intermediaries provides God/man interface  
Christ was a Phantom, a Man in Appearance Only  
God cannot co-exist with evil Flesh

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

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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 and 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 3:5 = *Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature* (sensuality)  
Colossians 1:9 = *God to fill you with...all spiritual wisdom and understanding*

*Battered Trumpet* = Peter and 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* (sensuality)  
Jude 5-8, 11 = Jude reminded 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 and 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 and 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*