

If God Did, God Can

2 Peter 2:1-10a

The _____ of Truth

There once was a middle-aged man who one Monday morning came down with a fever. He couldn't get out of bed although he tried repeatedly...

The question for us to consider this morning was the doctor unkind?

We increasingly live in a day where the truth I don't want to hear is unloving. Even when told with compassion, if the truth demands I am wrong, if the truth requires that I change, even for my well-being, we strong-willed humans have a hard time surrendering.

The rest of this short letter has some of the strongest language used in the whole New Testament. And in our day, our time, we might think, man Peter that's a little harsh. We might question, where's the love, the compassion? Peter wants to make it very clear to his readers and us today, that this is serious.

1. The _____ (1:20-2:3)

But even in those days of God speaking through His prophets, there were false prophets who rose up among them. Not outside the nation of Israel, but within it. Peter is saying, "Friends don't be surprised when false teachers rise up among you within the church. They will come."

We can look around us in our day and say, yep, we see them, they are here.

Peter gives 7 descriptions of who these false teachers are and what they are doing. If you want to know a false teacher, look for these 7 characteristics.

1. **Secretly _____ destructive heresies**
2. **Deny Jesus**
3. **Results in destruction**
4. **Will have followers of their sensuality**
5. _____ **the way of truth**
6. **Are motivated by greed exploiting the church with lies**
7. **Will find destruction awaiting them in the end**

This is the truth, the hard reality of these false teachers. Peter is saying, “church you need to be aware. Out of my great love and concern for you, you need to know the truth of this problem, these false teachers who are coming your way.”

2. The _____ (4-8)

Peter calls the church to remember how God has worked in the past. Did God bring judgment upon the wickedness of Noah’s day yet preserve him and his family? Did God condemn the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Yet rescued Lot from their wickedness. In just these few examples, Peter is calling the church to remember God. Remember His character. Remember His faithfulness. Remember His justice. Do you remember the great acts of God in your life? In your family?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – A.W. Tozer

Peter calls the church to think rightly about God, to remember God’s actions, His character. They can know this from the past. They can look backward and see and remember God. And when they do, they will discover they have this promise.

3. The _____ (9-10)

There are two parts to this promise. To the righteous there is rescue. God will rescue you from the trials. He has not forgotten. His character has not changed. He can deliver and save, and He will yet do it. But to the unrighteous, to the ungodly, to those who indulge in their sin and never surrender to the authority of Christ and his Word in their lives, there is God’s just judgment.

Heed encouragement and _____.

If you are living for God, you’re not perfect, but you’re growing, cooperating with the Spirit in your process of sanctification, recognizing your sin, and in humility confessing and repenting before the Lord. Perhaps daily or many times a day. By the grace of God, you are running away from temptation, selfish lusts of the flesh, and seeking to grow in the grace that has been given to you. Then heed Peter’s comforting encouragement this morning.

But also heed Peter’s warning this morning. We all need to hear the warning this morning. Be careful church who you listen to. Do the books we read, the teachings we listen to, do they promote self or Christ? There’s a lot out there in our world right now, claiming to be “Christian” but promoting teaching that opposes Christ.

Hold close to Jesus, grow in his grace, know him, surrender in humility, live for his truth, resist the false teachers that oppose Christ. Turn to God’s Word.

Hold close to Christ!