
EVERGREEN CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS

2 Peter 2:10b–16

SERMON/TEXT SUMMARY

2 PETER 2:10B–16

Peter lays out two evergreen characteristics of false teachers to help every generation of Christians and churches identify, expose, and be on guard against them.

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2 PETER 2:10B–16

- I. False Teachers Despise All Categories of Authority (2:10–13a)
 - A. The Crucified and Risen Christ (10a)
 - B. The Angelic Beings (10b–13a)

“Angels are stronger than humans but not omnipotent like God. Angels are greater than humans in knowledge but not omniscient like God. Angels are swifter and more mobile than humans but not omnipresent like God.”

JOHN MACARTHUR, BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

“The comparison of the false teachers and prophets with brute beasts is dramatic. Brute beasts do not have spiritual understanding. They do not understand the will of the Lord for his people, or the place of angels, or the need for behavior that is godly. They do not understand about judgment and salvation or about sexual immorality and arrogance. Rather they simply live according to their natural instincts.”

PAUL GARDNER, COMMENTARY ON 2 PETER

HOW MODERN-DAY FALSE TEACHERS DESPISE AUTHORITY

1. Personality becomes the focus of corporate worship, not the Bible.
2. Man's wisdom determines how to run the church, not the Bible.
3. Cultural Pragmatism prescribes how to worship God, not the Bible.
4. Self-autonomy and self-rule replace biblical leadership and accountability.
5. Narcissism eclipses the biblical command to preach the holiness of God and the sanctification of God's people.

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- I. False Teachers Despise All Categories of Authority (2:10–13a)
- II. False Teachers Delight in the Lusts of the Flesh (2:13b–16)
 - A. They live self-indulgent lifestyles (13b)
 - B. They live sexually-charged lifestyles (14)

“Peter’s language is vivid and arresting. These people looked at every woman, considering them as a potential candidate for adultery. How different from Job, who covenanted not to look lustfully at virgins.”

TOM SCHREINER, COMMENTARY ON 2 PETER

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 - A. They live self-indulgent lifestyles (13b)
 - B. They live sexually-charged lifestyles (14)
 - C. They live financially-driven lifestyles (15–16)

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Major Takeaways:

1. Watch your life by rebuking the “false teacher” within you.
2. Guard your church by pursuing unity of the faith.
3. Defend the faith by boldly proclaiming the truth.

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