

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

2 Peter 2:4-22

Destructive Falsehoods Pt.2

Welcome to our study of 2 Peter! Before we get into the study it's good to understand the theme and audience of the book.

2 Peter was written by the Apostle Peter likely around 64-67 A.D, to the churches of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). There are strong similarities with the book of Jude could mean that Peter and Jude discussed the issues facing the church prior to writing their letters, or that one used the other's letter as inspiration. Either way, it shows that the issues facing the church were serious enough for two Biblical authors to write about. While these issues were serious, Peter writes to encourage them that God will be with them to overcome these trials.

"Second Peter teaches that the grace of God in Christ truly transforms and empowers Christians to live righteously, even in the face of opposition." (ESV Study Bible Introduction to 2 Peter)

Therefore this book should encourage us in the same way: even though we may face trials and opposition for our faith in Christ, God will equip and empower us to persevere to the end.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and end with prayer.

exploring

we will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, 13 suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! 15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. 18 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

1. Read through the passage together and discuss what jumps out to you. It is a lengthy passage, so split up the reading between different people in the group.



digging

2. This passage is essentially a longer, more detailed commentary on 2:1-3. Which parts of v.1-3 are more fully developed in v.4-22?
3. Read Genesis 18:22-33. Was God just in destroying Sodom and Gomorrah? Was he also gracious? Discuss.

growing

4. Peter writes that false teachers “entice unsteady souls” and “have hearts trained in greed.” Has your family ever been affected by one of these false teachers? What was the outcome? Discuss with the group.
5. How much should we worry about false teachers arising from within? What should we do to prepare for this possibility? Read Philippians 4:4-7 and 2 Tim 3:16-17 for a clue.

going

6. Imagine you are speaking with a colleague or a neighbor about Jesus, and that person responds with “Churches and preachers just want your money, just look at those TV preachers.” How do you respond? How can you point them to Jesus in those moments?
7. Think about the empty promises that the false teachers make (i.e. God wants you to be wealthy, you can be free to do what makes you happy, if you have enough faith you won’t get sick, etc.). What true promises do we have in Christ, through the gospel, that far outweigh the temporary pleasures that false teachers entice us with?



Pray “Kingdom Prayers”

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory. For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying “God, please heal Betty's knee”, you would pray something like “God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand.” See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel

