

2 Peter

ETS: Peter exposed the destructiveness of unrighteousness and the implications of it.

ESS: Expose and understand the destruction of unrighteousness so you won't be destroyed by it.

OSS: I want people to be wise regarding what they hear and believe

PQ: Can you identify false teaching?

UW: Deception

ME

I read a book this week “How do you Kill 11 million People?”¹

- Written by a New York Times best-selling author, Andy Andrews

Of course the book could have been called

- *“How do you kill 3 million people”* if it were about the **Cambodians** put to death by their **own government** between the years 1975 and 1979.

¹ Andrews, Andy. How Do You Kill 11 Million People? (p. 14). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

- *How do you kill 61 million people*” if it were about the number of people who were murdered by the **government of the Soviet Union**, shown by their own records, between the years 1917 and 1987.
 - **54,767,000** of the men, women, and children put to death by the Communist Party were **officially Soviet citizens**.

Unfortunately, there many more examples of **governments killing** their people such as....

- During **World War I**, the highest leadership council of **Turkey’s Young Turk government** decided to exterminate every **Armenian** in the country, whether a soldier already on the front lines fighting for the government or a pregnant woman.
 - This government **institutionally killed** their own **famous scholars**, their own **religious leaders**, their own **children**, and **ardent patriots** of their own country.
 - All **two million** of them.

Why “11 Million”?

- That’s the number *institutionalized killing* of human beings by the **Nazi’s** in WW2

Andy Andrews wrote: “What we need to understand is HOW eleven million people **ALLOW** themselves to be killed.”

- He asks “...Why, for month after month and year after year, did millions of intelligent human beings—guarded by a *relatively few* Nazi soldiers—*willingly load their families into tens of thousands of cattle cars* to be transported by rail to one of the many death camps scattered across Europe? How can a condemned group of people headed for a gas chamber be *compelled* to act in a *docile* manner?”

Do YOU know how you kill 11 million people?

Do YOU know WHY the Jews did not put up a fight?

Do YOU know WHY the German people did not stop what was going on?

WE

In the Washington Post article, “[THE TRUTH ABOUT DECEPTION](#)”, Chris Wetzel, professor of psychology at Rhodes College, in Memphis, said “We are predisposed to believe . . . ,” *except for the most cynical or paranoid people, we live by what is called “the truth bias.”*

- He notes “...to scrutinize the veracity of everything would take an extraordinary cognitive effort that's

beyond most people -- in effect, substantiating the aphorism *"ask no questions, hear no lies."*

- He notes that most people: "don't have the energy or time to go to the next level of comprehension and question something's validity," says Wetzel.
- *"The busier we are, the less likely we'll do it. So we just continue on the assumption that it's true."*

We give people the “**Benefit of doubt**” if they are a

- “**expert**” or
- “**authority figure**”
- “**professional**”
- Spouse
- Friend
- Parent
- Pastor

We give people the “**Benefit of doubt**” if they claim to

- **Understand** our **situation** and **vow** to fix it—*if you elect them!*

If there is **one class** of people, many people are **prone** to give the “**Benefit of doubt**” are those recognized as **RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

Deception is a reality—it always has been!

HOW do we keep from being **deceived**?

HOW do you know you are **NOT** being deceived **now**?

HOW do you know I am not deceiving you?

GOD

Matthew 7:15-16a “Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.”

- **Deceivers** appear to have your best interest at heart “in sheep’s clothing” —like the Nazi’s
- Deceivers tell you that you can “**TRUST**” them—like the Nazi’s
- Deceivers **appear confident** they are the solution! —like the Nazi leader did to the Jew
 - Jesus called them “False Prophets”?
 - They boldly proclaim **falsehood** as if it were true!
 - They hold **positions “Prophets”** in the eyes of people!

The week of Jesus’ death: **Matthew 24:3-5** “While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things

happen? *And what is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*

- *This "Age" ends with the return of Christ; the next "age" is the millennium*

I believe we are at the **END** for several reasons

- The **rebirth** of the **nation** of Israel (Ezekiel 37:6-10; Jeremiah 16:15)
- The **vast, unprecedented increase** in **knowledge** (Daniel 12:4)
- The **vast, unprecedented mobility** of **culture** (Daniel 12:4)
- We are living in the **deadliest era** of Christian persecution (Matthew 24)
- The **apostacy** of the **church**
- The **Gospel** being preached to all **nations** via technology
- The **ability** of **technology** to create and enforce a "mark of the beast"; to enable the whole world to see events
- The **Jews** having **created** all the **articles** for the next temple
- The **rise** of **globalism**
- ...and more

Here is what Jesus said is *“The sign of His coming and the end of the age”*...

- **Vs. 4b-5:** “Jesus replied to them, “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many.”
 - The claim “I am the Messiah” is the claim of “anointing”
 - IN other words, there will “many” who will arise claiming to have the “anointing” of God
 - RESULT: “They will deceive many!”

When Jesus **repeats** something, it is worth noting *“Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”* **(Matthew 24:11)**

- False Prophets preach/teach falsehood claiming divine inspiration

Jesus **repeats** His warning again: *“For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”* **(Matthew 24:24)**

- Two categories of false people:
 - **False Messiahs** = People who claim a special anointing from God

- **False Prophets** = People who deliberately proclaim falsehoods claiming they are from God.
- **False Prophets** can possibly deceive even believers!

Jesus gave us a sad reality: The **false prophets** and **false messiahs** will “**deceive many**” NOT “**some**” but “**many**”

We are **certainly closer** to the end than 2,000 years ago when Jesus said these words!

One person who was there when Jesus said these words was **Peter**!

- During the **20-30 years** after Christ said these words, Peter has seen the **effects** of false teaching.

REMINDER: There is a **spiritual war** going on

- Satan’s goal/desire is to **kill, steal** and **destroy**
- Satan is the master **liar**—he is a **master** of **deception**.
 - Jesus called Satan “**The father of lies**”

As Peter is soon to be martyred for his faith, some of his final words to believers echo Jesus’ final words to His disciples before the cross!

Turn to 2 Peter 2

1 Peter 2:1a “There *were* indeed **false** prophets among the people (i.e., among the Israelites), *just as there will be* **false** teachers among you. (i.e., in the church!)

NOTE: There is a **distinction** between a **true teacher** who sometimes **misspeaks**.

- A true minister will **make corrections** when shown his error against God’s Word
- **CONTRAST:** A *false teacher preaches/teaches things contrary to God’s Word and does not make corrections or repent when confronted.*

HOW do WE avoid being deceived by False Teachers?

How do WE avoid becoming like the 11 million Jews who docilly loaded into the railcars?

REALITY: There are **false teachers** in the church!

- These false teachers come in the form of **pastors, elders, seminary professors, religions department heads, cardinals, bishops, and popes.**

HOW does Satan use “False Teachers”?

- **2:1b** “They will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them...”

- WHERE are they bringing in “destructive heresies”? The Church!

What is “heresy”?

- Based on Peter’s statement, heresy is “Any belief or practice that goes against the teachings of Jesus.”
 - False teachers go against “the Master who bought them.”

HOW does Satan use “False Teachers”?

- He uses them to bring “destruction” to the church through teachings that are **contrary** to what Jesus taught!
 - IMPACT of teaching things contrary to Jesus: “destructive”

HOW does Satan use “False Teachers”?

2 Peter 1:2 “Many will follow their depraved ways, and the way of truth will be maligned because of them.”

- False teachers destroy the **unity** of the church
 - “Many will follow their depraved ways” while “some” (the **minority**?) will not!
- False teachers destroy the **testimony** of the church
“the way of truth will be maligned”

HOW does Satan use “False Teachers”?

- **2 Peter 1:3** “They will exploit you in their greed with made-up stories.”
 - False teachers *hurt members* of the church by *exploiting* them!
 - How do they “**Exploit**” believers?
 - Appeal to your **emotions** “**Made up stories**”

REALITY: The best way to “**exploit**” people is through **appealing to emotion!**

In the book, “*How do You Kill 11 Million People*”? Andy Andrews wrote: “The answer is breathtakingly simple. And it is a method still being used by some elected leaders to achieve various goals today. How do you kill eleven million people? Lie to them.”

He explains “An intricate web of lies, to be delivered in stages, was designed to ensure the cooperation of the condemned (but unknowing) Jews.

- **First**, as barbed- wire fences were erected, encircling entire neighborhoods, Eichmann or his representatives met with Jewish leaders to assure them that the physical restrictions being placed upon their community (in what later became known as ghettos) were only *temporary necessities of war*. As

long as they cooperated, he told them, no harm would come to those inside the fence.

- **Second**, bribes were taken from the Jews in the promise of better living conditions.
- **Finally**, Eichmann would appear before a gathering of the entire ghetto. Accompanied by an entourage of no more than thirty *local men* and *officers* of his own—*many unarmed*—he addressed the crowd in a strong, clear voice.

According to sworn statements, these were very likely his exact words: *Jews: At last, it can be reported to you that the Russians are advancing on our eastern front. I apologize for the hasty way we brought you into our protection. Unfortunately, there was little time to explain. You have nothing to worry about. We want only the best for you. You will leave here shortly and be sent to very fine places indeed. You will work there, your wives will stay at home, and your children will go to school. You will have wonderful lives. We will all be terribly crowded on the trains, but the journey is short. Men? Please keep your families together and board the railcars in an orderly manner. Quickly now, my friends, we must hurry!*

Andy Andrews wrote *The Jewish husbands and fathers were relieved by the explanation and comforted by the fact that there weren't more armed soldiers. They helped*

their families into the railcars. The containers, designed to transport eight cows, were each packed with a minimum of one hundred human beings and quickly padlocked.

How did the **government leaders** “**Exploit**” the Jews? They appealed to their emotions!

How do **Politicians** exploit people? They appeal to their emotions!

How do **False Teachers** work? They appeal to your emotions “**Made up stories**”

WHY do “**false teachers**” do this?

- They are “**greedy**” for **power, fame, and wealth!**

At the heart of “**Greed**” is **SELF!**

- False Teachers are focused NOT on God but on SELF
 - GOAL: SELF-PLEASURE; SELF-PROMOTION

HOW do you **IDENTIFY** a False Teacher?

Deny the Deity of Christ

Vs. 1: False teachers go against “**the Master who bought them.**”

- Deny some aspect of **Jesus’ deity:**
 - God in the flesh

- Virgin birth
- Bodily resurrection
- Trinity

HOW do you IDENTIFY a False Teacher?

Dispute the Teachings of Christ

Deny the truth of Jesus' teaching regarding

- The **Fallenness** of **Human nature**
- The **Need** for **Salvation** through Christ alone
- The **reality** of **Hell**
- The **reality** of **Heaven**

A false teacher may not deny ALL these things, but they will deny some of these things.

HOW do you IDENTIFY a False Teacher?

Boldly Despise Biblical Authority

2 Peter 2:10c identifies False teachers as those who “**despise authority**” and then Peter states in **vs. 11-12**: **Bold, arrogant people! They are *not afraid* to **slander** the glorious ones; however, angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring a **slandorous** charge against them [*unrighteous*] before the Lord. But these people, like irrational animals—creatures of instinct born to be caught**

and destroyed—**slander** what they do not understand, and in their destruction they too will be destroyed.

- What is “slander”?
 - *Slander is making a false statement with the intent to deceive or destroy a person.*
 - False Teachers are masters of **disinformation**
 - Disinformation is misinformation intentionally spread to deceive

False Teachers are “**Bold and Arrogant**” in the **spiritual claims** they make – even though they know those claims are **contrary** to God’s Word!

- Just like **Satan** in the **Garden of Eden**, false teachers ask “*Did God really say....?*”
- Just like **Satan** in the **Garden of Eden**, false teachers slander God by presenting Him as a **mean, hateful God**, who is **denying** us the **joy of living** out the **desires** of our flesh.

HOW do you IDENTIFY a False Teacher?

Rejection of Biblical Morality

2 Peter 2:10c “**follow the polluting desires of the flesh**”

- False Teachers **justify** following **fleshly desires**!

- False Teachers teach that we should **AFFIRM** those who follow **fleshly** desires

Skip to **Vss. 13b** “They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight.”

- “Carouse” translation of the Greek word “tryphe” = refers to effeminacy, debauchery, riotous living
 - False teachers promote a **non-biblical view** of morality!

WHAT drives False Teachers?

- They are spots and blemishes, delighting in their deceptions while they feast with you.
 - False Teachers **twist Scripture** by proclaiming that **Biblical morality IS cultural-not transcendent of culture**
 - OR that the Bible *does not actually condemn immorality* because that is how God created us.
 - False Teachers “**delight in their deceptions**”, by trying to convince you that their **Ph.D’s** and the “**Rev**” somehow **enables** them to **better understand** what the Bible is REALLY saying!

WHAT drives False Teachers?

2 Peter 2:14a They have eyes full of adultery that never stop looking for sin. They seduce unstable people and have hearts trained in greed.”

- False Teachers are driven NOT by the Holy Spirit, but by their own lusts!
 - By convincing the church that we need become enlightened and conform to culture, they can then feel free to live out their own lifestyles!

HOW does Satan use “False Teachers”?

- He uses them to “seduce unstable people”

What is an “unstable person”?

- He/she is a person **who is afraid** to FIRMLY PLANT his/her faith on Christ!
- He/she is a person **who is afraid** to FIRMLY FOLLOW the Word of God
- He/she is a person **who waffles** between God’s Word and culture!
 - If the **peer pressure of culture** is strongly against Scripture, he/she sides with culture!
 - After all, NO ONE wants to be views as a **non-conformist!**

False Teachers appeal to our “Fleshly Desires”

- **2 Peter 2:18** “For by uttering boastful, empty words, they seduce, with fleshly desires and debauchery, people who have barely escaped from those who live in error.”
 - They “seduce with fleshly desires and debauchery” i.e., they AFFIRM and PROMOTE **unbiblical** morals
 - PLUS, they “**boast**” about it!
 - Like the **church** at **Corinth** that was “Boasting” about the fact that they had a member of the church who was sleeping with his step mother.
 - They “**Boast**” that they have “**evolved**”; they are “**enlightened**”; they have a **deeper understand** of God and their “god” is all right with alternative lifestyles.

False Teachers are QUICK to jump on the **cultural bandwagon!**

- Remember, **Satan** is the ‘**god of this world**’.
 - Our **media, academia, religious institutions** and **politics** are under the sway and power of Satan.
- False teachers see an **opportunity** to “*make a name for themselves*” by **twisting Scripture** and **make it**

appear that the **One True God** is approving of our “fleshly desires.”

- Since False Teachers are a **big key** of Satan’s system, they are promoted in our media, apostate churches, religion departments, seminaries and denominations!

WHY do People Follow False Teachers?

Freedom to Sin

2 Peter 2:19 “They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption, since people are enslaved to whatever defeats them.”

- Freedom from what?
 - **Guilt over sin** – False Teacher “You don’t need to feel guilty about living contrary to God’s Word because you were taught what God says is NOT really what God means.”
 - **Judgement on Sin**– False Teacher “You don’t need to fear judgement about living contrary to God’s Word! After all, *since everyone’s doing it*, then it can’t be wrong”

You may feel like you are in a losing battle, but I want you to remember this....

WHAT to REMEMBER:

False Teachers are Condemned

2 Peter 2:3 “Their condemnation, pronounced long ago, is not idle, and their destruction does not sleep.”

Peter describes False Teachers as

- **2 Peter 2:14**[They are] Children under a curse!
- **2 Peter 2:17** “These people are springs without water, mists driven by a storm. The gloom of darkness has been reserved for them.

Peter then gives **evidence** of God’s judgement in the past:

Evidence #1: 2 Peter 2:4 “For if God *didn’t spare* the angels who sinned but cast them into hell and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment;

- **Angels** who **rebelled** against God are currently **being punished** and will be **completely judged** at the end.

Evidence #2: 2 Peter 2:5 “and if he *didn’t spare* the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, when he brought the flood on the world of the ungodly;

- God **judged the world** who **refused** to believe the Word of God preached by **Noah**—“a preacher of righteousness”

Evidence #3: **2 Peter 2:6** and if he *reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to extinction*, making them an example of what is coming to the ungodly;

- There is **Sodom and Gomorrah** again tied in with False Teaching!
- Peter says they are “an example of what is coming to the ungodly”

WHAT to REMEMBER:

Produce Empty Promises

False Teachers are in the **church** and **many true believers** are **seduced and exploited** by them!

- **True believers** still have **fleshly desires** and when a False Teacher begins to teach that God is **affirming** of their **sin** or **desires**, many are **seduced** into believing it is true!
 - Remember, we tend to give the “**Benefit of the doubt**” to those in **authority**
 - Many believers—like most people—*just want to be told what to do.*

- Unfortunately, many true believers are **NOT GROUNDED** in the **Scriptures**—*which is another reason I preach/teach primarily verse by verse!*
 - *You need to dig into God’s Word—even the unpleasant and unpopular topics like this one!*

PROBLEM: When a TRUE BELIEVER is “Seduced” by a False Teacher there is an **unsettling** in the spirit of the believer!

- **2 Peter 2:7-8** and if *he rescued righteous Lot, distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral (for as that righteous man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—*

Lot knew the One True God—He had been with **Abraham**.

- Peter describes Lot as “**righteous**” **3x’s!**
 - “**Righteous Lot**” ... “**righteous soul**” and “**righteous man**”

Look how **Lot** is **described** as he lived among a culture permeated by False Teaching:

- “**Distressed**” and a “**tormented soul**”

A **True Believer** is going to be **unsettled, distressed** and **tormented** in his/her soul under the teaching of a False Teacher.

- A **true believer** has the **permanent indwelling** of the God's Spirit in his heart!
 - There is **no affirmation** by the Holy Spirit of sin!
 - Paul says there is a “**war**” between God's Spirit and our fleshly desires.

Peter gave us a **specific example** of a “**righteous**” person caught up in a world that is under the sway of false teaching (Lot).

As he ends this section, Peter gives a **general state** of being for **believer** who get “**Seduced**” and follow after False Teachers: **2 Peter 2:20-22** “For if, having escaped the world's impurity through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, (i.e., believers) they are *again entangled* in these things *and defeated*, the last state is worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy command delivered to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to its own vomit, and, “A washed sow returns to wallowing in the mud.”

- Say you went from **rags to riches**. You **went from worrying** about **paying** the next **bill** to **no worries** about money. You **went from sleeping** on the **floor** to

sleeping on a nice, soft bed. You went from rags to riches,

- One day a **person** tells you about an **investment opportunity** that you cannot pass up. So, you **take your wealth** and you “all in”. Unfortunately, the person was a **scam artist** and you lost everything.
 - **You have gone from rags to riches back to rags!**

Peter says it would have been better to **have never known** what it was like to have **riches** THAN to have had riches and go back to living on rags.

- WHY? Because you are going to be constantly “**kicking yourself**” for your **stupidity** in believing the salesman!
- You will constantly mad that you willfully **choose not** to look at the **facts** but acted on **emotion**.
- You will **constantly yearn** to go back to the **times of riches**, *but now all you have is rags.*

When we go to **heaven**, we will face **judgement** by Christ

- **Judged not** about **salvation**, but **judged** about how we used our time and talents for the Lord.
- What a shame it will be to see our life’s works, words and deed destroyed by God’s **purifying fire** because

we spent our years following False Teachers because they affirmed our lusts and desires.

WHAT to REMEMBER:

God Provides Escape

2 Peter 2:7-9 and if *he rescued righteous Lot*, distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 **then** the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials...”

God always provides a “**way of escape**” from the seduction of False Teachers!

How does God provide a “**way of escape**”

- In **Vs. 5**, God brought **Noah**, a preacher of righteousness, to warn the people
- In **Vs. 7**, God rescued **Lot** by angels who led him out of the city
- God is providing His Word to expose False Teachers—**Jesus, Peter, Jude, John** and **Paul** all write about the **reality, tactics** and **dangers** of false teachers!

YOU

What do we do with this information?

- **Be wise!**
 - Test teachings—including mine!
 - If the teaching is NOT aligned with the whole counsel of God, then REJECT it.
 - Filter what you hear through God’s Truth.
Remember this:
 - “Truth does not fear questions, but propaganda does!”
 - “Truth never fears investigation”
 - “If you can’t question it, it’s not truth, it is propaganda”
- **Stand for Truth**
 - If the teaching is NOT aligned with the whole counsel of God, then bring it to the teacher’s attention.
 - If he/she rejects the whole counsel of Scripture and wants to “cut and paste” then you need to stop listening to that teacher—no matter how popular he/she is.
- **Don’t Reject the Truth**
 - Staying under the influence of a false teacher is detrimental.

- You are opening yourself up for “seduction” and “exploitation”
- Your soul is not going to be at rest.
 - If you ignore the Holy Spirit’s warnings, you will end up with a hardened heart and your communion with God will be shallow to non-existent.
- It will result in “instability” which may result in the rags to riches to rags scenario!

Are You On Alert?