

## 2 Peter 2:2-11

### Verse 2

- Some of the characteristics listed in these verses of false prophets/teachers are: carnality, sensuality, and greed.
- These false teachers are not true Christians, and they are following the evil desires and lusts of their flesh. In contrast, true Christians are being led by the Spirit of God (**Romans 8:14**).
- They live a lifestyle of sensuality and worldliness that does not demand repentance, sanctification, godliness, and holiness, but allows a continued embrace of their sinful carnal ways and desires in the name of Christianity.
- True Christians are called to flee from sensuality and living like the world and to be holy as He is holy.
  - **1 Peter 1:14-16** As <sup>[a]</sup>obedient children, do not <sup>[b]</sup>be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but <sup>[c]</sup>like the Holy One who called you, <sup>[d]</sup>be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
  - **1 Peter 4:1-4** Therefore, since Christ has <sup>[a]</sup>suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has <sup>[b]</sup>suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup>so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. <sup>3</sup>For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, <sup>[c]</sup>having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and <sup>[d]</sup>abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup>In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*;
  - **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor <sup>[a]</sup>effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
  - **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from <sup>[a]</sup>sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you know how to <sup>[b]</sup>possess his own <sup>[c]</sup>vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in <sup>[d]</sup>lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
- They hold an antinomianism view. Antinomianism means “anti-law” and downplays or even denies the importance of the law of God in a Christian’s life in regards to pleasing God and growing in sanctification. The opposite of this view is equally as dangerous, and it is called legalism. Antinomianism states that a person who is a Christian can live however they want without a call to repentance, obedience, and holiness since we are covered by graves and have been set free from the law in all aspects. This idea is absolutely false and heretical. There is a rhyme that is the theme for antinomianism: “free from the Law, O blessed condition; I can sin all I want and still have remission.”
  - **John 14:15** “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
  - **Luke 6:46-49** “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup>Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and <sup>[a]</sup>acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup>he is like a man building a house, who <sup>[a]</sup>dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the <sup>[a]</sup>torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup>But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the <sup>[a]</sup>torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”
- Many will see the lifestyle these false teachers live and hear the message they preach and as a result follow their false teaching as it is compatible with their carnal desires.
- These false teachers proclaim the promise of Christianity, the benefits of God, a better life, happiness, temporal blessings, and the guarantee of eternal life without a call for regeneration, holiness, godliness, obedience, and sanctification. This is a popular message from the pagan unbeliever who is professing Christianity as it allows them to continue in their worldly lustful actions, but still feel good enough about themselves to think they are right with God.

- Many will follow their teaching as sensual and carnal living “tickles” the ears of many people.
  - **2 Timothy 4:1-4** I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with <sup>[a]</sup>great patience and instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- If you use carnal means to attract people, you will attract carnal people. If you use carnal means to get the people in the seats, then carnal means must be continued and even elevated from week to week to keep the carnal people entertained.
- If there is no conviction or teaching/preaching of conviction of sins and repentance, then the Holy Spirit is not present and at work in their lives or “ministries” as one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring about conviction (**John 16:8**).
- As a result of the false teacher’s carnal lifestyle and carnal teaching, the way of truth will be maligned(blasphemed). These teachers and their teaching will lead many astray and the world will see the lifestyle of the professing “Christian” that is no different than their lifestyle and the truth of the Gospel and His word will be maligned and blasphemed among the people.
  - o **Romans 2:17-24**

### **Verse 3**

- The next characteristic of the false teachers is a continuation of their carnal lusts and desires, this time in the form of greed.
- We see this prevalent in the prosperity gospel which is also known as the “name it and claim” gospel. This teaching focuses on the greed, covetousness, and desires of the worldly things. These false teachers don’t love God, but rather love the world and the things of the world. They are driven by temporal worldly treasures which is why their message is centered around temporal worldly things (money, promotions, etc).
- Their messages and teachings center around man, and not God. They do not teach repentance, conviction, sanctification, godliness, and holiness, but rather wealth, health, and worldly prosperity.
- Their hearts are not regenerated, and as a result, their treasures are the carnal things of this earth. Therefore, the people that listen to them and follow them are carnal as well, not wanting to hear the true words of God, but rather wanting to hear the words and thoughts that allow them to seek and focus after the carnal desires that they really love.
- They believe that Jesus is the key to unlocking and blessing them, not with spiritual gifts, but rather the temporary, material things.
  - **Matthew 6:19-21** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
  - **1 Timothy 6:3-10** If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not <sup>[a]</sup>agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, <sup>4</sup>he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he <sup>[b]</sup>has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup>and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that <sup>[c]</sup>godliness is a means of gain. <sup>6</sup>But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup>For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and covering, with these we shall be

content. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all <sup>[d]</sup> sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- **1 Peter 5:1-2** Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness.
- **Luke 12:12-31**—Covetousness denounced.

- Their words are false because they are not teaching and holding to the infallible word of God, but to their own carnal and lustful desires. These false teachers will speak lies and false words with no restraint, limit, or shame to deceive people to increase their wealth and fame.
- False teachers and prophets have been around for a long time and so has their final judgment. When these people die, they are experiencing some form of torment (see the story of Lazarus and the rich man), but this is not their final judgment and wrath which will come on the Last Day and last for all eternity.

#### Verses 4-6

In these verses Peter looks back and lists 3 examples of God's punishment and judgment on disobedience and ungodliness to show that if God showed judgment to the angels, the whole world (except Noah and his family), and upon Sodom and Gomorrah with their disobedience, then judgment and wrath will most surely be poured out on these false prophets and teachers who blaspheme the holy and true words of God.

#### Verses 7-11

God rescued Lot (who was considered righteous as are all who are saved) was surrounded by immorality, perversion, and sensuality in Sodom and Gomorrah. God knows how to and will rescue the godly from temptation. However, the unrighteous are kept under punishment for the day of judgment (the Last Day when Christ returns) especially those who indulge in the corrupt desires of the flesh (sexual immorality) and despise authority (including the authority of the Sovereign God, much like the angels who rebelled in Heaven). The ungodly and unrighteous are storing up wrath for themselves with each day they live. The more sins they commit, the worse their punishment in eternity.

- **Romans 2:5-6** But <sup>[a]</sup> because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who will render to each person according to his deeds:

These false teachers are daring, self-willed, arrogant, brazen, and defiant. These false teachers show respect to no one. They even insult angelic beings who are greater in might and power than them. By contrast, the holy angels do not bring a reviling charge against fallen angels (see **Jude 8-9**) as they do not claim authority they do not have, but rather give judgment to God saying, “the Lord rebuke you.” This speaks to the arrogance and brashness of these false teachers. They dare to do something that even the holy angels do not dare to do. These false teachers claim their own authority and have unbridled speech with arrogance, no remorse, or fear of the Lord.

- **Mark 7:20-23** And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, <sup>[a]</sup> fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, <sup>22</sup> deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, <sup>[b]</sup> envy, slander, <sup>[c]</sup> pride *and* foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

These false teachers are not Christians but are rather following the sinful desires of their unregenerate hearts. They do not love God, but rather serve another “god”....themselves.