

A Practical Study of 2 PETER:

A Winner's Game Plan

“What It Takes to Break the Tape”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all Grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Study Number Four – “Here’s What You Are Going to Face” – 2 Peter 2:1-9

Chapter 2 and verse 1—“Here’s What You’re Going to Face:

v. 1 But there arose also false prophets among the people, just as there will be also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions, even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

How Do You Win in the Game of Life—Written by One Who Did.

Peter tells us, first of all, here's what you have for your resources—all that you need in Jesus Christ.

What are those things which the Lord wants to develop in our lives? How do we grow? Those 7 wonderful words that we looked at yesterday morning.

How do we face the remainder of our life from the time we come to know Christ? It's living and serving others. That was the key and the whole thought last night. That Peter, this proud sort of independent individual, now crushed and broken through the denial and the other failures in his life is a man ready to spend his final days (because the Lord has told him he's going to be coming home)—that in those final days he wanted to be reminding them of the things that are the most important.

But the big thing that comes when you open chapter 2 is Peter has a real passion for truth too. It's interesting that Peter and Paul are both the same way.

When it comes time to say goodbye to those Ephesian elders that I read to you the other morning in Acts 20, and he said “they wouldn't see us face to face anymore”—what did he say? He said “as soon as I leave, the wolves are going to come in and they are going to attack the flock. And they're come in with these heresies and seductive thoughts and ideas.” He was preparing them for that.

Now Peter's doing the same thing. This whole chapter is going

have to do with the very things that you and I are facing right today. I mean, it is not unusual to face people today who are unwilling to make a commitment to Jesus Christ because they see what's going on in the theological world. The things that seem unexplainable. The things that don't make any difference because you don't believe the Bible is really the Word of God anyway. It's those kinds of things that can get you distracted. You've got to be a person who is steadfast, unmovable, founded upon the Rock—Jesus Christ—and the truth of the inerrant, fully inspired, authoritative, rule of faith and practice the scriptures.

And that's all Peter's going to say. He's going to mention a lot of these things. He's going to use some interesting words to describe what these people are going to be facing and he is passionate and concerned about them.

I thought it would be good this morning to take just a minute and read that section from Ephesians 6 where Paul tells them it's going to be a battle. And listen to these words once again:

Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the

full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. [Ok, here] Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins around with truth, [the belt that holds everything together is the truth] and having put on the breastplate of righteousness to guard the heart, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [everywhere you go share the gospel] in addition to all, taking upon the shield of faith which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, [to cover the head] and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Make no mistake about it. You're in a war and you will be in a war. One of the first places you're going to see in this war is when you get home this next week. You're going to find that this is going to seem so distant and so unreal because you now have been poured back into the caldron. And Satan just brings so much discouragement and doubt and depression, which are his famous words, and he uses those to divert us away from the truth.

Just know "greater is He that is in than he that is in the world."

Stay focused. Be in the Word and build on the decisions that you've made here while you've been with us together. And then God is going to prosper. God is going to glorify. And then you're going to begin to recognize the little "God things" that He's doing in developing you into Christlikeness.

All I'm saying, and I think if I put it in one sentence, Peter's just saying "You know friends, you're going to be playing against some pretty tough customers. They have a great advantage. They've got home-field advantage because this world is his whole domain. And secondly, he's been studying your game films for 24 hours a day so he knows your tendencies. And he knows how to structure things in order to make life as much of a misery as possible.

Peter's realistic. And so I've prepared you now for what's coming ahead in who we're going to face and what is going to happen.

Satan's contact with the believer is only through your mind. He can sow seeds of doubt. He can sow in your mind thoughts that are not right but he makes you believe they are.

Let's go back to the first encounter for just a second. What did he do with Eve? He sowed within her heart the thought that God was not very kind in letting them not eat from that tree of life in the garden.

Vulnerable to that suggestion, she plunged the whole human race along with Adam her husband into sin.

Remember Achan? They'd just had a glorious victory in going across the Jordan over Jericho and the Lord said "Don't take anything." Achan saw some things. He saw some gold and he saw some silver. And he stole them all and buried them in the

floor of his tent.

Satan used that to destroy several hundred people when they went to fight in the battle of Ai. And what had to happen? Before they could go on to victory, Achan and his family, his tent and all of his belongings had to be destroyed. Then God is ready for victory.

When Satan nails you, acknowledge it and trust the Lord in brokenness that He's going to give you the strength so it won't happen again. And get up and get after it and get going. Don't spend a whole lot of time having a pity party over the fact that you're back where you were before. That's going to be a waste of time. Just get tough and get going and know instantaneously the blood of Christ will wipe the slate clean.

Dwight D. Pentecost is still at Dallas. He's almost a 100 years old. He was one of my professors in seminary. And he wrote a great little book called *Your Adversary the Devil*. He says:

On the authority of the Word of God, this is what Satan wants from you more than anything else in the world. When Jesus Christ stood in the Upper Room a week after His resurrection, He showed the disciples His hands, His side, and Thomas burst forth with those words, "My Lord and my God." Satan wants that more than anything else in the world, for you to make him lord and god instead of the Lord.
(source unknown)

Do you remember when Christ was tempted in the wilderness

right after He was baptized? What did Satan say to Christ? He said “Turn these stones into bread. Feed yourself.” Christ said “No. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” He quoted from the scripture.

The next thing he said: “Cast yourself down from the pentacle of the temple. The Lord will bear you up.” He even misquoted a passage of scripture to get the Lord distracted. But what was the last thing he said? He took Him and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and he said this, he said: “You can have all of these without the cross if you’ll just fall down and worship me.” That ought to tell you, that’s all he wants from you. He wants the worship that you give to Jesus Christ and to Him alone, to be given to him. And then he’ll make a mess and destroy the rest of it.

That’s the kind of battle that you’re going to face in the days that are ahead. Now don’t get scared, ok, because Christ can give the victory. You’ve just been singing about the blood of Christ. Satan can’t handle that.

v. 1: “But there arose also false prophets among the people, just as there will be also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions, even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”

Now, the reason you have the word “But” here to start the passage is, how did we end yesterday? We had the “good

prophets,” the men who are God’s men. Being born along by the Spirit of God they wrote and recorded the message.

Now Peter, as we start chapter 2 wants you to know the other side of it. Because you’ve got to know who you’re fighting against in this thing as you listen to the true message of the prophets of God giving the message, who’ve been “borne along by the Spirit”—that’s one thing. But then you’ve got this other side. And the other side is Satan’s whole plan and purpose. And there are three verses in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 that describe, from this perspective, what you can expect. And it fits right here.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ; [disguising themselves] and no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their deeds.

The deception goes beyond just him having an agenda that you try to figure out. He’s playing the religious card. And he plays it in such a way for deception. In the same way he did it to Eve. And the same way he does with us. If you have been living your life as a Christian in the power of the flesh, playing a hypocritical game, having all your entrances and exits right, and have memorized scripture verses so you can

always have the right answer on Sunday morning with the brothers and sisters in Christ but you have no reality of the passion of Christ living within you, then you are the result of his deception.

You see, the other thing you've already learned is that so many people—and he's got them convinced: "Ok, so you've come to Christ. Ok, no big deal. But don't mess with those seven things about spiritual growth and becoming like Christ."

That is the way he works and the way he orchestrates by all kinds of distraction.

Remember in Matthew 13? All of those parables about the sowing of the seed. Remember the parable of the sowing the tares among the wheat? What did the Lord say when they came and told him that the enemy had come in the night and sowed tares among the wheat? He said "Leave it alone because in the last days there will be a separation of the wheat and the tares."

Oh I pray God today, there's not some tares sitting here who have gone through religious performance all of your life but you've never personally committed yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. You've accepted the power of the blood that cleansed you from sin and you have perfect confidence and rest and peace this morning that the blood of Christ has done its work in your life personally.

That's the kind of deception that we're dealing with here. Don't, don't, don't let the tares deceive you. The time is coming when the Lord will take care of it.

There's an interesting verse—it always makes me tremble in my shoes, especially before I get up to teach the Word of God—and it is in James 3:1.

James 3:1

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.

You see, when you've got the deceptive teachers you've got to separate them. And so James said "If you're going to be a teacher, buddy I want to tell you, you better know what you're talking about and you better have experienced it personally and you better be ready to exhort and encourage and to put faith and confidence in the truth because the day's coming when your marks are going to be tougher than the marks of others."

Is that why Ezra 7:10 says:

Ezra 7:10

Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it and then to teach it in Israel.

There's no way that God will bless the human heart that's

trying to be deceptive or hypocritical but rather the person who is walking with Him. And Peter is warning them of this.

What's the difference? I went back to 1 Peter 1:18, 19:

1 Peter 1:18, 19

Knowing that you were not purchased with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with the precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

You'll notice the statement "they deny the Master who purchased them." Is He your Master today?

Those evil ones deny "the Master who purchased them."

And it's so interesting that Peter would say that. Because he's had a problem with master and servants through the whole deal. But now he knows who is the real Master. Jesus Christ my Savior is my Master. And they're the ones who are denying it.

Maybe you can't say that this morning. Were you able to say this morning when you woke up "Lord, You're the master of my day. I'm showing up for work. Whatever you want to do, Lord. I'm available. I'm completely ready to do what you want because You're my Master."

Maybe you haven't done that. Maybe at the retreat more than receiving Christ as Savior, you've done that but you've been in the driving seat. And it's no wonder it's so stressful and so hard.

How about saying: "Ok, I'm moving over. Take over. You are the Master."

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine [You sang it]
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

You know, I'm convinced that the terrain that we're facing religiously in the world today is it is a conflict between blood and bloodless religion. You see every one of these cults. You see Islam. Sure they shed human blood and sure they shed animal blood, but you don't hear them thinking of a Savior who shed His blood for their redemption and their salvation. And Satan is clapping his hands with glee.

You've got to recognize we are living in those days. When the conflict between good and evil, between right and wrong, between biblical truth and that which is a lie, is more blatant than you could ever expect.

The other thing you'll understand, and maybe some of you this morning—I was sitting there trying to think from a standpoint of a person who's not a Christian—that was awful gory wasn't it? You just can't go to this blood religion. You

can't think of somebody dying for you. And normally a person who does not have a relationship with Christ would have been repulsed by all of those powerful hymns that we sang about what the blood of Christ has done for us.

Those are ways you can tell the difference. They talk about human good works. They talk about what special people they are and how they're going to deserve it. But don't mention blood. "That makes me sick. I don't even want to think about it."

And they're the ones that would be repulsed by the Cross of Christ, even denying the One who purchased them.

Do you think that word "denying" brought back some things? Oh man, I do.

The more I see Peter the more I know he's just like me. So human. But when he uses certain words it triggers emotions beyond believe. I can see him writing these words and tears starting to blot the page: "even denying the One who bought them."

The thought of knowing that he was the one who did this very act and he's had to experience the forgiveness of the Lord.

William Barclay—I've mentioned him several times to you—he has four characteristics of the false prophets that he kind of summarizes here:

1. Our first characteristic of the false prophet is that he tells men what they want to hear and will not tell them the truth they need to hear. Tell them truth that they want to hear. He'll tell them what they want to hear but he will not tell them the truth they need to hear.

2. The false prophets were interested in personal gain. Oh man, that sweeps everything off television that's going on right now. Almost because it's the focus on personal gain.

3. The false prophets are dissolute in their personal lives. They're sinful. They're hypocritical, in other words. They're living two lives. They've got their religious career over here. But they've got their personal lives over here. And the twain will never meet in the false prophet.

And then finally Barclay says:

4. The false prophet is, above all, a man who leads other men further away from God instead of closer to God.
(source unknown)

Woo! What an awesome responsibility. You see, and that's why the doctrine, I mean the teaching in the verse is that judgment is going to be so swift.

You know what I did? One of the greatest things you can do to understand a false prophet is to take the seven things yesterday and see the difference between a false prophet and a true prophet:

1. Moral excellence

2 Peter 3:3

...following after their own desires.

2. Knowledge

2 Peter 2:12

...reviling where they have no knowledge...

3. Self-Control

2 Peter 2:2

They follow after their own sensuality

4. Perseverance

2 Peter 2:14

...they never cease from sin...

5. Godliness

2 Peter 2:6

...they live ungodly lives...

6. Brotherly Kindness

2 Peter 2:1

...they introduce destructive heresies...

7. Christian Love

2 Peter 2:3 (you'll see in just a minute)

...in their greed they will exploit you with false words...

It's the whole business of the nature of the beast.

I had the privilege the other night marrying a captain who had just gotten home from Iraq to marry his sweetheart. And he was in the Intelligence over there. And he said "You would be shocked at the corruption, the personal corruption, that we're facing every day in trying to defend our troops because of what we're finding out."

The prevailing corruption will ultimately destroy, not only a nation, but a world. We're going back to the days of the flood.

This is the difference between truth and falsehood. It's the difference between righteousness and evil. And the two are in great conflict.

v. 2 And many will follow their inclination to sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

What're they saying? If it feels good do it man! But what are the statistics?

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7 Jesus said:

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter in by the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction; and many are those who enter by it; for the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life; and few are those who find it.

It's not going to be in the masses! It's going to be in little groups like this of people who have fallen in love with Jesus and who are committed not only to the Lord, but to each other. But do you see what the text says?

“many will follow their false teaching” of eat, drink and be merry! Party time in the USA! Stay after it man!

2 Peter 1:4

Through which (things) he has generously given to us His precious and exceeding great promises, in order that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the destruction in the world

caused by desire.

Would you notice a little word? There are sometimes in the text when you're studying, and you're asking the Spirit of God to open your mind, that you see a word that answers so much of the questions in your life.

Have you picked it out yet? It's the word "WAY"—SINGULAR. You see, the biggest thing you're going to get and it's worse now than it's ever been before, is who are you to think that you have the only way to eternal life?

Where do you start with that? John 14:6, don't you? When Christ said to Thomas:

John 14:6

...I am the way, [SINGULAR] the truth [SINGULAR] and the life [SINGULAR]...

And on top of that:

...No man will be coming to the Father but by me.

Peter sees that! And yet the false teachers are giving different ways and different instructions and different directions.

The fact that it is "way"—you're either in it or you're out of it. There's no middle ground.

And you've got to answer that question before the Lord. And perhaps He has you on this mountain to have that affirmed. To have that encouraged in your heart, that it is singular and you have everything you need in Jesus Christ. Praise His name for that.

But, what will happen? You “will be maligned.”

What does it mean to be “maligned”? It means to be slandered, to be spoken evil of, to be injured. Its suppressed dealing with Sarah Palin—I mean, if you want a living, dynamic illustration. It's the press, the culture, the nature dealing with anybody that would say that Jesus Christ is the answer.

We're hated. We're the scum of the earth. And that's the kind of culture we're dealing with.

The few stay with the truth. Many follow the false teachers.

Boy that's hard for him to say because he's getting ready to flick it in and go to the house, isn't it?

Paul said the same thing to these Ephesian saints—the heart of his whole ministry—when he told them goodbye. There are going to be a lot of them who are going to come in.

What are they going to do? Verse 3.

v. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping.

“And”—it’s a continuation of verse 2—“in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping.”

Back in chapter 2:14, or up in 2:14 in a minute, they have “a heart trained in greed...”

In other words, religion is a career. Religion is a profession. And you want to get all you can and can all you get and poison all the rest of it! That’s a false teacher! That’s what he’s trying to do! He wants to get his own security! Get his own place! Do his own thing! And don’t care how many people he has to destroy in order to accomplish that.

Woo! If I were a politician there sure are a lot of things I could be saying right now!

I know you’re as sick as I am over some of those things.

You know, it’s hard for people to believe that men in ministry are more concerned about money than they are ministry.

It’s really tough.

Can I give you a verse? Second Corinthians 2:17—oh I love this! Paul says:

2 Corinthians 2:17

We are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

We aren't going around peddling the word God and taking offerings and hoping to get some more money. That's not our game.

He told Timothy in:

1 Timothy 6:5

And constant friction between men of depraved mind and depraved of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain [personal gain].

1 Timothy 6:9, 10

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. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some, by longing for it, have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many a pang.

Their greed causes them to exploit others “with false words” in order to get what they personally want.

You say, I just can't believe that. You know when Paul got ready to die, he had his grand jury hearing and nobody stood with him. Can you believe that? After all those years of ministry, after all those places he traveled, after all those people whose lives he touched, there was nobody there except one guy who was an enemy.

Hatred drove that guy to travel those miles to make sure that Paul was going to be beheaded in the spring.

Now Paul isn't having a pity party. I told you he didn't. He said "nobody stood with me but the Lord stood with me. And He will always be there to deliver me to that ultimate day of the kingdom." But listen to what he says about Alexander the coppersmith:

2 Timothy 4:14

Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. The Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

Evidently he witnessed against the apostle before the Roman authorities and that helped throw the jury into certainty. And Paul walked out of that meeting knowing that even though he was there alone, Christ was there. And Christ was going to be glorified and honored because he was soon be home with Him.

Now notice this, oh boy. Here's some illustrations. He tells you all of this truth about the many and the few, and the true and

the false. But now he's going to give you some illustrations of the certainty of the consequences.

You see from verse 3, the judgment's going to be swift. It's going to be taken care of because He's the God of justice. They're now prepared. But look at the illustration he uses here. There's three of them.

v. 4 for if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them down into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, being reserved for judgment;

“for if God [that little phrase] did not spare, [you're going to see it once more here again in just a second] angels when they sinned, but cast them down into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, being reserved for judgment;”

In Isaiah 14 we have the record of Satan being cast out of heaven: “I will be like the most high God. I will, I will, I will. I'll set my throne above the stars of God.”

There were other angelic beings that were cast out of heaven at the same time. And they were put in this prison house waiting for the day of divine judgment.

He “did not spare the angels.”

Do you know what I did there? He did not spare the United States of America.

I think I'm being pretty realistic. The stuff they did is being done double-time by us.

Billy Graham said it a long time ago: "If God doesn't judge the United States of America, He owes an apology to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah." (source unknown)

The picture is certain. He "did not spare the angels." These created beings that were designed to praise and glorify and honor Him, and they have great power (as you heard Russell sing last night). Christ could have called 72,000 angels but He was on a mission and He knew He was right in giving His life and shedding His blood for the redemption of mankind. He didn't call on the armies of angelic beings available to hear the word *sic'em* and it would all been over and Christ would have been delivered from the cross.

They're powerful beings. They have great privilege. They have great honor.

I've always told Russell I love when he sings:

*Holy, Holy, Holy
is what the Angels Sing!
And I expect to help them
make the courts of heaven ring.
But when they hear redemption story,
they will fold their wings.
For angels never felt the joy,
that our salvation brings.*

There were angels that fell and they weren't spared, in the first illustration. He wants us to know that hell is a place, it's not a condition. They're in prison. They're waiting the ultimate day when judgment will take place.

Do you want a verse on that?

Jude 6

And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, he has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Jude is saying exactly what Peter is describing for you here.

You ready for the next verse? Now what is the difference between verse 4 and verse 5? There isn't one. You see, you've got the same phrase again in illustration number two.

v. 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

“and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;”

Reserve the judgment for the angels in the prison house of hell

itself, but when it comes to dealing with the whole world because of his sin.

Genesis 6:5

God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

So he said “I will destroy mankind. Noah get busy and build a boat. You and your family are the only ones who are going to survive this mess.”

And after those years of preaching and building the boat—some 120 years—God brought the flood.

And so Peter uses this, but the “preacher of righteousness”—doesn’t that make you feel a little bit more comfortable? That when God lets the holocaust take place, it’s going to wrap this all up, you’re going to be alright because you have been declared righteous in Christ. Not your righteousness that will get you through, it’s His righteousness and His alone. Because our righteousness is like filthy rags!

Noah was righteous before God.

So it was the FLOOD that was the **SECOND ILLUSTRATION** of the certainty of God’s judgment.

There are 8 people on the passenger list—4 men and 4 women:

Noah and his wife,
Shem and his wife,
Ham and his wife, and
Japheth and his wife.

And that's it!

Well you talk about the fruit of a 120 year ministry of preaching and all you've touched is your own family, you could really get depressed over that. Don't be. Because you're building a boat for your family. And that's all that God wanted from Noah. The preacher of righteousness.

v. 6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to the ungodly of things about to come;

“and if”—verse 6.

“and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to the ungodly of things about to come;”

Do you remember that prayer, that long prayer of Abraham as they're standing up there on the mountain after the Lord and

the two angels have come to tell Abraham and Sarah that next year, even though they're going to be 190, they're going to have a baby? It's going to be covered by Medicare. The parents and the kid are both going to be wearing Pampers. And eating baby food. Because neither one of them have a tooth between them or whatever it is.

But isn't that amazing? You look at those experiences and Abraham follows him out of there. And Abraham says "Lord, if there's 50 people over there, you wouldn't destroy that would you?"

"Will not the judge of all the earth do what is right?" that's what Abraham said. And the Lord says "No. If there are 50 people there, we won't do it. We will not destroy the righteous with the wicked."

"How about 45?"

It's almost like an auction the rest of the way, isn't it? You give me 45, no judgment.

Forty? No.

Thirty? None.

Twenty? None.

Ten? None.

Abraham stops at 10 because he figures that Lot at least should have his own family and a few folks in a Bible study if he's living in that raunchy area, at least experiencing the righteousness that's talked about here in just a few minutes.

He got up the next morning and there were the smokes of judgment. City's destroyed with fire and brimstone.

And so the picture described there in the **THIRD ILLUSTRATION** is the fact that God is moved in judgment.

Now you have read it and I've read it, because of what happened when those angels got down to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. You remember on that night, it was a homosexual holocaust. And Lot was even willing to put his daughters in harms way to protect the angels over homosexuality. And a lot of preachers and a lot of teachers think it was homosexuality that destroyed those two cities. You need to go back and read what the scripture says about those two cities. And I'm going to do that for you right now.

Ezekiel 16:49, 50

Sodom's sins were pride, laziness and gluttony, while the poor and needed suffered outside her door. She was proud and did loathsome things, and God wiped her out as you have seen.

There are **THREE THINGS** that put them in the grave:

1. PRIDE is number one,
2. PLEASURE is number two, and
3. PERVERSION is number three.

In their pursuit of arrogant pride, over caring nothing about the truth of God, they're living only for the moment—the pleasure of the moment—and it's become perverted. And that's where you have homosexuality come into the picture.

v. 7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, being completely worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men,

“and if He rescued righteous Lot, being completely worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men,”

That was the hardest verse in the whole study for me. God knew something about lot and his heart that is not recorded in the scripture. You have to accept that fact. This is his analysis.

Peter is being borne along, writing by the Spirit of God. And God declares him as a righteous man living in a raunchy culture.

Sound familiar?

Notice the phrase though: “being completely worn down by the

sensual conduct of unprincipled men.”

There are very few victories. And you can almost put it down as a miracle of people who expose themselves to continual sinful behavior who ever survive and become godly and have any significant impact on the world for God.

The world, the culture, the sin, the television—everything else wears us down. We get botched up. Our priorities get out of whack. Something happens in the family and it all blows apart.

That’s the way Satan does it. He wears you down.

Remember when Joseph had that opportunity to have an affair with Potiphar’s wife? It said “Day after day after day she kept coming to him.” Try to wear him down. That’s the way Satan does it by continual exposure.

But let’s look at Lot’s conduct in view of the fact that he’s lived in that culture even as a righteous individual. He was going to sacrifice his own daughters for the sexual whims of those who were going to take the angels when they visited the city.

He’s the guy who chose the best land and left to Abraham, his uncle, what was left over and thank God he came along and said “Don’t worry, you’re going to get so much more that you won’t believe it.”

But this is the same guy that was willing to drink himself into

oblivion and impregnate his two daughters so that they had a seed. And out of it came the Ammonites and Moabites.

You put that all together and tell me you're having a problem with calling yourself righteous. If God knows your heart, your record doesn't actually match up to what you declare righteous. Maybe God's got a different look because of the fact that you made a decision to be declared righteous in Jesus Christ.

For some, the way Satan works is he triggers on the spur of the moment a weakness that he knows and a tendency. And he uses that to destroy us. But on others it's a wearing process. It's sleazy, lazy, sitting down to the computer and going to the pornographic websites—and doing it week after week and month after month.

It's seeing the same woman in the office every day, getting a little more intimate about what you say in your conversation that leads to this and to that, and then finally to the bed.

Satan knows how to do that! And to orchestrate opportunities and times to wear down those who are determined to be declared righteous! He loves that!

For David he can just give him a flick of a woman taking a bath and that's going to be enough to plunge him.

You can take Achan, when he gets into the city of Jericho, he forgets that he's not supposed to take it but he likes it so much

he takes it!

That's the way he works sometimes. And other times, like we've got in the picture here.

It's a struggle! It's a process! There's:

the conversations,

the calls,

the communications,

the commitment to change.

And exhausted by the fight, to give up and to turn tail and there's no armor for the back. All you saw this morning was armor for the front. When you turn tail and you make the decision to go your way, the arrows that are being shot that were meant to hit the shield of faith are now going to be mortal wounds to each of us that make those kind of choices.

Alcohol—Drugs—Pornography—the list goes on and on.

Isn't it amazing how little biblical truth actually filters down to help us win? I mean, a culture just:

casts aside the Bible,

casts aside Biblical truth,

casts aside the Ten Commandments,
the Sermon on the Mount,
Calvary's Cross.

And they're just so cynical about the way they think about it!

That's the problem with America.

In our early foundation godly men made a Constitution, didn't they? And they found it upon Biblical truth. And everything we're doing today seems to go against both of those. We are deliberately denying the rights of the Constitution of the United States of the America.

We've already done the greater sin. We have denied Biblical truth. And we've got men across this country who are preaching from their own ideas and their own philosophies and their own thoughts. And people are literally in a famine for Biblical truth. And that's what makes it so sad.

But it helps us when we read this scripture like this from a dying man who would tell us it's worth it to stay focused on the truth.

v. 8 for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, they were tormenting his

righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds,

“for by what he saw and heard”—now he’s explaining why he used the word “righteous” and this helped me a little bit—verse 8.

The REASON why he’s “righteous Lot”:

“for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, they were tormenting his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds,”

You put yourself in that arena. You made that choice to go and take the well-watered plains of Jordan. Your choices are going to determine the outcome of what you’re going to be exposed to.

And those choices are going to do the same for you and me by what we spend all of our time doing! What we look at! What we desire! What we purchase! Where we go! How we plan! All of those things will ultimately come out because Galatians 6:9 is still in the Bible.

Galatians 6:9

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

The MIND thinks,

the EYE sees,
the EAR hears,
the DESIRE is triggered and
the COURSE is altered,
the WILL takes the action.

Best illustration of that is fishing, isn't it?

You see the shiny little lure and fish alters its course, loves what it sees, takes a bite, the struggle is going to go on for quite a while but he is hooked and fried. And that's the way Satan does it.

We've seen it with the angels.

We've seen it with the world.

We've seen it with the cities.

But have you seen it with an individual?

Hebrews 10:31

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The big illustration that comes to me of an individual is

actually two people in Acts chapter 5:

Ananias and

Sapphira

Lied about a real estate deal and both of them dropped dead before the service was over.

v. 9 the Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (temptation), and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished,

“the Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (temptation),”—isn’t that comfortable? After seeing these three illustrations of instant judgment, now he says:

“the Lord knows how to be delivering [PRESENT TENSE] the godly out of the testing and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished,”

1 Corinthians 10:13

There had no temptation taken you but such as is common to man. God is faithful. He’s not going to allow you to be tested beyond His capacity to deliver you from it. He will be there to do that.

God is so good and so kind and so gracious in the midst of our

weakness and our failure. There He is! Ready to deliver us if we'll simply be willing to trust Him.

Lord, it's so intense and so exciting when we read about Jesus and everything we have in Him. But Lord, You have allowed in Your Book also the justice side. If we'd only respond to everything we have in Jesus and let Him take care of it, then there wouldn't be this other side except describing for what's in the world. But Lord we know there are many believers that are deceived today and have been distracted by false teaching. And we're going to run into them. I pray that we can be good witnesses for You. We can love them into the kingdom by sharing the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For it's in the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

LESSON #1: False teachers will deny the shedding of blood for the remission of sins.

LESSON #2: The false teachers are inclined toward living by desires.

LESSON #3: The false teachers are greedy.

LESSON #4: God's judgment is swift and certain.

LESSON #5: The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing or temptation.

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – “HERE’S WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO FACE” – 2 PETER 2:1-9

NOTES

v. 1 But there arose also false prophets among the people, just as there will be also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions, even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

v. 2 And many will follow their inclination to sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

v. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping.

v. 4 for if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them down into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, being reserved for judgment;

v. 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

v. 6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to the ungodly of things about to come;

v. 7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, being completely worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men,

v. 8 for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, they were tormenting his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds,

v. 9 the Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (temptation), and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished,

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Peter 2:1-9 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Characterize the “false prophets,” according to verse 1.

3. What will happen to “the way of truth,” according to verse 2?

4. How will they “exploit you,” according to verse 3?

5. What illustration does he use of the certainty of judgment, according to verse 4?

6. What illustration does he use of judgment in verse 5?

7. What illustration does he use in verses 6-8 concerning judgment?

8. What two things is the Lord knowing how to do, according to verse 9?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: False teachers will deny the shedding of blood for the remission of sins.

LESSON #2: The false teachers are inclined toward living by desires.

LESSON #3: The false teachers are greedy.

LESSON #4: God's judgment is swift and certain.

LESSON #5: The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing or temptation.