

“Don’t Drink The Kool-Aid!”
2 Peter 2:1-3

Introduction:

1. Let’s Head Back To 2 Peter 2 This Morning!
 - This Entire Chapter Teaches Us That We Need To Guard The Truth Against The False Teachers & False Teachings That Will Arise!
 - Jude Puts It This Way - “Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints!”
 - Last Week, We Learned:
 - We Need To Take Seriously The Threat Of False Teachers In The Church!
 - Not Just A Warning By Peter! Traced It Back:
 - A Warning By Jesus Christ!
 - A Warning By Paul!
 - A Warning By John!
 - A Warning By Jude!
 - This Week, We Will Learn:
 - We Need To Take Action Against The Threat Of False Teachers In The Church!
 - Read 2:1-3!
2. Have You Ever Heard The Phrase: “Don’t Drink The Kool-Aid!”
 - Most Of You Probably Have!
 - Do You Remember Where This Phrase Came From?
 - It Came When A Native Hoosier, Jim Jones:
 - Born In Crete / Raised In Richmond / College At IU & Butler / Even Given An Appointment In City Govt In Indy!
 - Led Over 900 People To Commit Mass Suicide, Including Nearly 300 Children, By Drinking Flavor-Aid Mixed With Cyanide, In A Place Called Jonestown, Guyana, S. America!
 - What Would Cause Nearly 1,000 People “Drink The Kool-Aid”?
 - The False Teachings This False Teacher!
 - Among Some Of His Claims:
 - That He Was The Reincarnation Of Jesus Of Nazareth & Other Religious Leaders!
 - And Even Said: “If you see me as your friend, I’ll be your friend. As you see me as your father, I’ll be your father. If you see me as your savior, I’ll be your savior. If you see me as your God, I’ll be your God!”
 - And Nearly 1,000 People Were Drawn Away By His Personality, His Politics & His Precepts!
 - And Drank All Of His Kool-Aid!
3. Unfortunately, There Are Many More Of His Kind Out There!
 - False Teachers Who Are Peddling Their Spiritual Kool-Aid, In Order To Get As Many As Possible To Drink It!
 - We Need To Take This Threat Seriously!
 - We Need To Take Action Against This Threat As Well!
 - So That You Will Never Drink The Kool-Aid Of False Teachers!
 - What Can We Do?
 - To Keep From Drinking The Kool-Aid Of False Teachers?
 - 3 Things To Pay Attention To:

* You Need To Pay Attention To:

1. ***The Warning About The False Teachers!***
 - 2:1 - “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction!”
 - Spent Some Time Last Week Focused On The First Part Of This Verse!
 - We Need To ***Take Seriously*** Some Things About The Warning In This Verse!
 - The Potential For False Teachers!
 - “But There Were False Prophets Also Among The People, Even As There Shall Be False

- Teachers Among You!”
- We Are “Not Ignorant” Of The Devil’s Devices!
 - As Paul Said In 2 Corinthians 2:11!
- We Know That What He Has Done In The Past:
 - He Does In The Present & Will Do In The Future!
- False Teachers Are A Very Effective Device Of The Devil To Lead People Away & Astray From The Truth!
 - Need To Take Their Potential Seriously! Also:
- The Position Of False Teachers!
 - “Among The People” / “Among You!”
 - Even More Of A Problem!
 - Not “Apart” & Outside The Congregation!
 - But “Among” & Inside The Congregation!
 - **IE:** Like A Cancer That Destroys The Body From Within!
 - Need To Take Their Position Seriously! Also:
- The Perversion Of False Teachers!
 - “Who Privily Shall Bring In Damnable Heresies!”
 - As We Looked At Last Week:
 - Jesus Said That We Will Know These False Teachers By Their Fruit! This Phrase Shows Us What Some Of Their Fruit Will Be!
 - Describes The Character Of The False Teachers:
 - “Who Privily Shall Bring In!”
 - They Bring Their False Teachings Into The Church “Sneakingly & Covertly” (Lenski) - With Subtlety & Deception! **IE:** Like An Undercover Spiritual Spy!
 - Subverting The Truth Of God’s Word!
 - Sabotaging The Truth Of The Gospel!
 - Describes The Content Of The False Teaching:
 - “Damnable Heresies!”
 - What Is Heresy?
 - Used 9 Times In NT - Usually Translated “Sect” - Or A Group That Held Their Own Interpretation Or Opinion Of The Truth!
 - The Pharisees / Sadducees / Nazarenes Called & Considered To Be Sects / Heresies!
 - Instead Of Letting God Speak Through His Word / These False Teachers Will Twist God’s Word To Suit Their Own Opinions / Philosophies / Interpretations!
 - These “Heresies” Are Destructive!
 - At Least 3-4 Times Is The Word “Destruction” Used In These 3 Verses!
 - Here Is The 1st - “Damnable!”
 - Destructive!
 - These Teachings Are Destructive!
 - To The Teacher / To The Followers!
 - Need To Take Their Perversion Seriously! Also:
- The Profession Of False Teachers!
 - “Even Denying The Lord That Bought Them!”
 - The Reason Why These False Teachers Are So Dangerous:
 - They Talk The Talk! They Walk The Walk!
 - To Everyone, They Seem To Be Christians & Even Become An Active Member / Part Of The Church!
 - They Talk & Walk Like Those Who Are True Believers – Those Who Have Been Redeemed With The Precious Blood Of Christ!
 - But In Reality, They Are Not Redeemed!
 - They Have Not Been Bought!
 - Because They Deny The Lord Whom They At One Time Professed To Be Their Lord!
 - Proving 1 John 2:19 - “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us,

they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us!”

- Need To Take A Serious Look At Their Profession! Also:
- The Perdition Of False Teachers!
 - This Is The End Of The False Teachers:
 - “And Bring Upon Themselves Swift Destruction!”
 - 2nd Time “Destruction” Is Used!
 - False Teachers Are Playing With Fire!
 - “When You Play With Fire, You Are Going To Get Burned!”
- If We Don’t Want To Drink The Kool-Aid Of False Teaching:
 - We Need Pay Attention To This Warning About The False Teachers!

* You Need To Pay Attention To:

2. The Ways Of The False Teachers!

- 2:2 - “And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of!”
 - Sometimes, When We Hear Of People Who Follow After These False Teachers & Even Cult Leaders - We Wonder Why / How This Could Happen?
 - Jim Jones In 1978 / David Koresh In 1993 / In October 2009 - Sweat Lodge Ceremony Led By James Ray - 3 Killed - Paying \$9k To Participate!
 - Don’t Need To Be Surprised - Scripture Teaches:
- Their Ways Are Alluring!
 - “And Many Shall Follow!”
 - “Many!”
 - A Large Amount Of People!
 - Not Just A Couple / Not Just A Few / Not Just A Dozen Or A Score / But Many!
 - But Why?
 - Matthew 7:13 - Jesus - “For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat!”
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-4 - “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; / And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables!”
 - It Is Because The Character Of The False Teachers:
 - Attract The Character Of The Followers!
 - They Follow – Not From Deception / But From Their Own Desires / Attraction!
 - Like What They See / Hear / Feel!
 - Both Are Ultimately Responsible For Their Own Rejection Of The Truth!
 - Guard Your Own Desires!
 - “Endure Sound Doctrine!” Desire It! Let God’s Word Mold Your Opinions / Not The Other Way Around!
- Their Ways Are Adverse! (Harmful)
 - “Their Pernicious Ways!”
 - This Phrase Could Be The 3rd Place Where We Find The Word “Destruction” In Our Text!
 - The AV / KJV Translates From The Greek Word For: “Destruction”
 - Most Of The Modern Versions Translate From The Greek Word For: “Immoral” - Sensual / Shameful!
 - Either Way - This Describes The Adverse / Harmful Character Of Not Just The False Teachers But The Teachings Themselves!
 - Their “Ways” ARE Destructive!
 - And Will Lead The Followers To The Same End As The Leaders / Teachers!
 - Guard Your Own Discernment!
 - Instead Of Just Taking / “Drinking In” The Teaching Of Someone As The Truth!
 - Either Their Book / Message / Movie!
 - Be Like The Berean Jews In Acts 17:11 - Who

- “Were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so!”
- Their Ways Are Attacked!
 - “By Reason Of Whom The Way Of Truth Shall Be Evil Spoken Of!”
 - “Whom” Refers To The “Many” In This Verse Who Will Follow The Ways Of The False Teachers!
 - Anyone Who Follows A False Teacher Will Be Responsible For What Happens Next:
 - “The Way Of Truth Shall Be Evil Spoken Of!” – “Blasphemed!” – Bad-Mouthed!
 - See This Happen Often!
 - Who Makes The “Big News”?
 - The Christian Who Is Faithful To The Way Of Truth? Or The Christian Who Is Unfaithful To The Way Of Truth?
 - And This Leads To A Bad Reputation For Christ / His Church / Christians As A Whole!
 - Guard Your Own Direction!
 - Stay In The “Way Of The Truth!” - And The Reputation Of Christ / Church / Christian Will Remain!
 - Psalm 86:11 - “Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name!”
 - Psalm 119:30 - “I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me!”
- If We Don’t Want To Drink The Kool-Aid Of False Teaching:
 - We Need Pay Attention To The Ways Of The False Teachers!

* You Need To Pay Attention To:

3. ***The Words Of The False Teachers!***

- 2:3 - “And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not!”
 - Words Matter! Words Spoken / Words Written!
 - Need To Pay Careful Attention To The Words Of Preachers & Teachers In Order To Determine If They Are Rooted In The Truth / Or Have Strayed From The Truth!
 - What Can The Words Of False Teachers Show?
- Words Can Reveal Their Motives!
 - “And Through Covetousness!”
 - “Covetousness” - This Is The Primary Motive Of A False Teacher! What Is Covetousness?
 - Not Something Heard Much About!
 - Important - “Thou Shalt Not Covet!” (Exodus 20:17)
 - Definition - A Greedy Desire To Have More Of Something That Does Not Belong To You!
 - Opposite - Contentment With What God Has Provided For You!
 - This Sinful Passion Is What Really Is Driving These False Teachers!
 - Not A Passion For The Truth!
 - But A Passion For Other’s Loot!
 - Covetousness Is A Big Deal! A Big Problem!
 - Colossians 3:5 - “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry!”
 - Watch Out For This Motive! (Of Covetousness / Greed)
- Words Can Reveal Their Mastery!
 - “Shall They With Feigned Words!
 - False Teachers Often Have A Command Over Language!
 - They Are Masters At Using Speech & Rhetoric To Accomplish What They Want!
 - “Feigned Words” - Carefully Crafted Words!
 - **IE:** “Feign” - Something Molded / Formed / Crafted From Clay, Wax Or Stone!
 - These False Teachers Will Use: “Words Carefully Fabricated & Molded To Achieve Their

- Purpose!” (Hiebert)
 - All In An Attempt To Draw People Like Us Away From The Truth & To Their Teaching!
 - Trying To Make It Sound Like / Look Like The Truth – But It Is Not!
- Watch Out For This Mastery! (Of Carefully Crafted Communication!)
- Words Can Reveal Their Mission!
 - “Make Merchandise Of You!”
 - This Is What Their Real Desire Is!
 - To Use You For Their Own Gain!
 - To Exploit You! So That They Will Be Satisfied In Their Own Greed / Lusts / Covetousness!
 - Love The Phrase In AV / KJV!
 - “Make Merchandise Of You!”
 - To Get You To Buy & Sell For Their Benefit!
 - Recent To The Church – Christian Industry!
 - Christianity Has Become A Big Business!
 - Marketing The Church Has Taken The Place Of Witnessing For Christ!
 - There Are Christian Books / Products / Shows!
 - Some Marketing Is Legitimate!
 - But So Much Is Not!
 - ***The Truth Is Not To Be Peddled, But Proclaimed!***
 - How Many Of Us Have Bought Into The “Merchandise” Of These False Teachers?
 - Watch Out For This Mission! (To Make Merchandise Of You!”)
- Words Can Reveal Their Misery!
 - Find The 4th Time “Destruction” Is Used - Referring To What Will Ultimately Happen To False Teachers!
 - “Whose Judgment Now Of A Long Time Lingereth Not, And Their Damnation Slumbereth Not!”
 - Judgement & Destruction Awaits Those Who Would Mistreat & Misuse God’s Word & God’s People!
 - Watch Out For This Misery!
 - Those Who Follow Them Will Receive The Same!
- If We Don’t Want To Drink The Kool-Aid Of False Teaching:
 - We Need Pay Attention To The Words Of The False Teachers!

Conclusion:

1. How Seriously Do We Take False Teachers & Teaching?
 - Now, How Active Will We Be In Opposing Them?
 - How? Pay Attention To:
 - The Warnings About False Teachers!
 - The Ways Of False Teachers!
 - The Words Of False Teachers!
2. And Pay Attention To & Hold On To The Truth!
 - As Found In God’s Word!

***Grace Baptist Church
 Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***