



SERMON QUESTIONS

2 Peter 1:12-20 – *The Word You Should Trust* | February 26, 2017

GATHERING

1. Have you ever been hurt by people in the leadership of a local church? Is that something you feel you can share about?
 2. Have you ever felt so uneasy about a church or pastor that you wonder if they are actually Christian?
-

LOOKING AT THE TEXT

Peter warns us about false teachers, assuring us that they will show up in the church throughout history. The topic is clearly one that concerns him and he holds nothing back in his condemnation.

Read 2:1-3

- How many characteristics of false teachers can you find in these verses?
- How are these characteristics different from incompetence?

In verses **2:4-12** Peter gives several examples of God judging at different times. He mentions the fallen angels, the days of Noah and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It can be hard to understand everything he alludes to (like blaspheming celestial beings). But his central thought is in verse 9.

- **What does this say about how God will respond to false teachers?**

In verses **2:13 -16** Peter talks again of the character of the false teachers. What are some of the things he says?

- Peter says the false teachers are “blots and blemishes.” **Compare this with Paul’s words in *Philippians 2:15* and Peter’s words in *2 Peter 3:14*.**
- **Consider again verse 2:14.** This word greed can point to more than just a desire for money. It means greedy for any appetite revealing that these

teachers are looking to benefit from misleading others and their chief motive is self-gratification. **How does this differ from the example of Jesus?**

- In verses **2:17-22**, Peter talks about the effect of the false teachers' teachings. Look at some of the images he uses in 17-19. **How do the false teacher entice people to follow them? What is the substance of their teaching and the effect on followers?**
-

FURTHER APPLICATION

1. Bad, manipulative, selfish church leaders do great damage. Greedy, false teachers who are out to make a name for themselves send shrapnel into the body of Christ for generations. Has the failure of people in the church kept you from engaging with the body of Christ?
2. The main difference between false teachers and reliable leaders beyond heretical teaching is their motive. The false teachers are in it for themselves. Jesus by contrast gave himself for us. How do we apply this to ourselves as individuals even if we are not in leadership? How does this principle apply to evangelism? How does it apply to service?