



# The Truth Matters

March 5, 2017

## 2 Peter 2:10b-16

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a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and  
restrained the prophet's madness.





Peter continues his warning against false teachers by giving us a detailed description of how they live so that we will not be led astray.

# Peter Had Been Taught...

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”



# The Fruit of False Teachers



- How they talk
- How they act
- Who they are like

# How They Talk



# How They Talk

<sup>10b</sup> **Bold and willful**, they **do not tremble** as **they blaspheme** the glorious ones, <sup>11</sup> whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.



# How They Talk



- **Bold and willful** – self-satisfied and arrogant

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- **Do not tremble** – without fear of God

# How They Talk



- **Bold and willful** – self-satisfied and arrogant
- **Do not tremble** – without fear of God
- **Blaspheme** – speak evil against, slander, dishonor, or scoff at Godly things

# False View of God -> Arrogance



# False View of God -> Arrogance

- Self-satisfied



# False View of God -> Arrogance

- Self-satisfied
  - God is not the authority



# False View of God -> Arrogance

- Self-satisfied
  - God is not the authority
- Without fear



# False View of God -> Arrogance

- Self-satisfied
  - God is not the authority
- Without fear
  - God doesn't care about His glory
  - He doesn't care about human behavior, or
  - He is powerless



# How They Talk

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## 2 Peter 2:6-10

<sup>6</sup> if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly...<sup>10</sup> especially those who indulge in defiling passion and despise authority.



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**Genesis 19:4-5** – the pinnacle of Sodom’s sin:  
seeking to abuse angels

# How They Talk

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False teachers – speaking evil against – Angels  
(without cause)  
(without fear)  
(without knowledge)



Angels – not speaking evil against – False teachers  
(with cause)  
(with the authority)  
(with knowledge)

# Be like the Angels...



# Be like the Angels...

- Do not speak evil against anyone



# Be like the Angels...

- Do not speak evil against anyone
- Speak knowing God is judge; not us



# Be like the Angels...

- Do not speak evil against anyone
- Speak knowing God is judge; not us
- Always assess



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  - What is true; we can affirm



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  - What is true; we can affirm
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# ...Not like the False Teachers



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# How They Talk



- **Like irrational animals** – not assessing truth, not considering God's authority
- **Blaspheming Ignorantly** – speaking against God and His glory without knowledge, without foundation

# What Is Ahead For Them



<sup>12</sup> But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, **born to be caught and destroyed**, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also **be destroyed in their destruction**,  
<sup>13</sup> **suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.**

# How They Act



## 2 Peter 2:10b-16

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# How They Act

- **Revel in the daytime** – sinning without shame, without fear



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- **Reveling in their deceptions** – happy that you are not noticing/objecting



# How They Act

- **Revel in the daytime** – sinning without shame, without fear
- **Reveling in their deceptions** – happy that you are not noticing/objecting
- **While they feast with you** – they are happy to assimilate and associate with you – to hide among you (in sheep's clothing)



# Rob Bell



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# How They Act

- **Eyes Full of Adultery** – focused on sin
- **Insatiable for Sin** – never enough
- **Entice Unsteady Souls** -
- **Hearts Trained in Greed** -



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# Who They Are Like



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  - Numbers 22-25; 31:16



# Who They Are Like

- Balaam
  - Numbers 22-25; 31:16
  - Reconsidered God's authority for a price



# Who They Are Like

- Balaam
  - Numbers 22-25; 31:16
  - Reconsidered God's authority for a price
  - Led God's people to pursue inappropriate physical relationships with the women of Moab & to worship with them



# Why Does Peter Give This Warning



- False teachers were around them
- These teachers were dangerous
- His readers were not recognizing them

# Why Do We Need To Hear This Warning



- False teachers are around us
- These teachers are dangerous
- We were not recognizing them

# The Subtlety



# The Subtlety

- The arrogance (moving away from God's authority) often goes undetected



# The Subtlety

- The arrogance (moving away from God's authority) often goes undetected
- To steer clear of judging, we stop assessing



# What do we do?



# What do we do?

- Keep reading 2 Peter 1:3-11



# What do we do?

- Keep reading 2 Peter 1:3-11
- Keep investing ourselves in the truth



# What do we do?

- Keep reading 2 Peter 1:3-11
- Keep investing ourselves in the truth
  - Statement of Faith



# What do we do?

- Keep reading 2 Peter 1:3-11
- Keep investing ourselves in the truth
  - Statement of Faith
- Never stop assessing

