

1. **Introduction:** Peter continues to emphasize the light provided by the prophetic word, the message from Scripture (the OT) so vividly confirmed by events witnessed by John, James, and Peter at the transfiguration. They saw Jesus' transformed, Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus, and heard God's voice proclaiming Jesus as His Son with whom He is well pleased.
2. **2 Peter 1:19-21:** *And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
 - Peter, James, and John personally witnessed the unveiled glory of Christ, heard the voice of God commending Jesus as His Son with whom He is well pleased, and witnessed Elijah and Moses (the OT representatives of the Law and Prophets) appear and talk to Jesus.
 - This eyewitness experience taught Peter that the words of the OT are fulfilled in Jesus.
 - To complete the picture for those who will not have the privilege of eyewitness verification, Peter moves in 1:19-21 from the reliability of the apostles to the vital reliability of the enduring witness of God given to everyone through the Holy Scripture.
 - Scripture is reliable and accurate. There is no need for a series of new eye-witness accounts is not needed to reveal the truth. God has provided His truth through Scripture.
 - Scripture is not from anyone's personal thoughts. The words of Scripture were not produced by the will of man, but men wrote by the will of God while carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - Peter's point is that OT teachings about Christ the Messiah are true including both the first and second advents. In the next chapter, Peter moves from the truth of Scripture to the issue of bad information from false teachers.
 - There are "con-artists" in every area of human endeavor. Of all the cons we might be exposed to, the danger of religious phonies who teach counterfeit truths tops the list.
 - Peter's intent is to remind believers of sound teaching, encourage diligence in living the faith, and strengthen the understanding of the biblical foundation of doctrines and the practices of living.
3. **2 Peter 2:1-3:** *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And*

in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4. **2 Corinthians 11:3**: *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
 - Paul says deception about Scripture is nothing new. It began with Adam and Eves being deceived in the Garden of Eden the most holy place imaginable. God was present there.
 - Yet, Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning offer and argument. What the serpent said sounded so sensible, but accepting it required disobeying God.
 - Eve expected that following the serpent's plan would lead to being more like God. To her surprise doing as the serpent suggested led to disaster and separation from God.
 - Paul describes Satan's disciples.
5. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**: *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.*
 - Satan uses deception to lead people astray. He disguises himself as good and glorious. False teachers are Satan's disciples. They may appear as good people, doctrinally sound, sincere, and logically compelling, but they are deceivers and truth-twisters.
 - Peter says false teachers will be present within Christian organizations deceitfully teaching heretical concepts, denying truth, openly living lives of sensual pleasures and greed. They routinely distort the truth and can be recognized for denying key aspects about Jesus' person and His salvation work.
 - They deliberately deceive by assigning new meanings to well-known terms used by believers and thus bringing confusion to believers who listen to them.
 - False teachers know the truth about Christ and His salvation but have rejected the truth and replaced it with their own deceptive ideas.
 - False teachers usually attack one or more core truths held by believers – (1.) the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture, (2.) one eternal, triune God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, (3.) the Messiah, Jesus Christ (two natures – divine and human, of which neither is diminished or interferes with the other), (4.) Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death to pay the penalty due for sins, was bodily resurrected, and will come again at the appointed time. (5.) salvation is by grace through faith, (6.) believers have eternal life, (7.) unbelievers will be condemned and suffer God's wrath.
6. **2 Peter 2:4-9**: *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ 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; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment.

- Peter declared that the judgment due false teachers was certain to happen. As proof, he cited the casting of angels into hell when they sinned. He continued by citing the destruction of Noah's generation, and the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Lot was declared to be just or righteous though his life was plagued by the immorality of his neighbors. As God delivered Lot, Peter was convinced that God would both deliver the godly members of Peter's flock and judge and punish moral reprobates and false teachers.

7. **2 Peter 2:10-18**: *especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, ¹¹ whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. ¹² 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, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. ¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.*

- Peter shows that false teachers are usually of bad moral character that demands God's judgement.
- They tend to be unjust (2:9), unclean, presumptuous, self-willed (2:10), beastly, ignorant, corrupt (2:12), riotous, spotted, blemished, deceived (2:13), adulterous, cursed (2:14), wells without water, and clouds (2:17). They destroy truth. They will, in turn, be destroyed by that which they destroy (2:12). They tend to habitually practice sin (2:14), forsake the righteous way, and go astray (2:15).

- They will experience the eternal darkness of God’s absence (2:17). They speak with loud boasts, enticing by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error (2:18).
8. **2 Peter 2:19-22**: *They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”*
- False teachers entice people barely escaping from the traps of those living in error.
 - They promise freedom for those who follow them allow they themselves are slaves to corruption as can be seen from the fact they are overcome by corruption.
 - These people know the way of righteousness but have deliberately turned from it.
 - These false teachers were not redeemed men who had gone astray and lost their salvation.
 - They did practice a life-style that outwardly resembled a redeemed life-style, but that response to God and His salvation was merely pretense.
 - Their spiritual condition remained unredeemed. Their old unredeemed nature, though hidden by the practice of daily routines, would eventually be revealed. Their daily lives were counterfeit actions structured to look like genuine Christian behavior.
9. **Next** : 2 Peter chapter 3.