



Series: Standing Firm

Sermon: Part 4: Warnings

Date: Sunday, June 15th, 2025

Heresies: False doctrines and beliefs that contradict or deny the Truth of Jesus

Who we choose to listen to or what we choose to believe will _____ us, either towards the ways of God and His Truth or away from Him.

Peter's List of Characteristics of False Teachers

1. Extreme arrogance

He God] is especially hard on those who follow their own twisted sexual desire, and who despise authority. These people [false teachers] are proud and arrogant, daring even to scoff at supernatural beings without so much as trembling. (2 Peter 2:10 NLT)

There is a _____ that also exists that influences the physical for good and evil.

But the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, do not dare to bring from the Lord a charge of blasphemy against those supernatural beings. These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed. They scoff at things they do not understand, and like animals, they will be destroyed. (2 Peter 2:11-12 NLT)

But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 1:9 NLT)

2. Limitless lust

Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in broad daylight. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They delight in deception even as they eat with you in your fellowship meals. They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. They live under God's curse. (2 Peter 2:13-14 NLT)

This fellowship meal that Peter is referring to is the Lord's Supper also known as _____.

Scripture referenced in sermon message: 1 Corinthians 11:27 NLT

3. Greediness at the expense of others

They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to earn money by doing wrong. But Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice. These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are doomed to blackest darkness. They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those



who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. (2 Peter 2:15-19 NLT)

Peter is saying that if people don't know better, then such false doctrines that promise freedom actually end up _____ people.

And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life. (2 Peter 2:20-21 NLT)

People can have opinions and debates about this, but ultimately it is God who really knows someone's heart to begin with and where they are actually at with Him.

Scripture referenced in sermon message: Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT, 1 Peter 1:5 ESV, 2 Peter 1:3 NLT, 1 John 2:19 NLT

God is the One who calls us to Him and so He also is the One who will guard our salvation as we participate in His divine nature.

Peter makes it clear that believers can be _____ in their faith because faith is the work of God.

They [false teachers] prove the truth of this proverb: "A dog returns to its vomit." And another says, "A washed pig returns to the mud." (2 Peter 2:22 NLT)

Bottom Line: *Who we choose to listen to or what we choose to believe will influence us either towards the ways of God and His Truth or away from Him.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *In what ways do the people and things around you influence you towards Jesus? In what ways do they influence you away from Jesus?*
2. *How have you seen false doctrine or teachings that promise freedom actually end up enslaving people? How have you seen it enslave you?*
3. *When have you been tempted to return to your own vomit or mud when Christ has actually set you free from your sin?*

Songs used in service: Good Good Father (Chris Tomlin), Yes He Can (Cain), How Deep The Father's Love For Us (Stuart Townend), This Is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickham), Same God (Elevation Worship)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?