



Counterfeit Christianity

2 Peter 2:1-3

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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1117.
 In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
 Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. - Matthew 24:24, NIV84

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. - Acts 20:28-30, NIV84

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

Why can we Trust in the Bible?

Because, (based on 2 Peter 1:16-21) it is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses that report to us supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies; they claimed that their writings were divine, rather than human in origin!

TODAY'S STUDY SECTION

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 2 Peter 2:1-3, NASB95 - ¹ But [in contrast to what was said in vv. 16-21] false prophets [Gk: ψευδοπροφήτης (*psudo-pro-PHA-tas*) is a deliberately deceptive person pretending to be a prophet (used here in the plural form)] also [slowly] arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers [Gk: ψευδοδιδάσκαλος (*psudo-do-DASK-ka-las*) is a deliberately deceptive person deliberately teaching a false doctrine (used here in the plural form)] among you, who will secretly introduce [a word meaning "gently" or "calmly" bringing in a teaching] destructive [lit. to cause so much damage that it cannot be repaired] heresies [gives us our word "schism"], even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift

destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality [lit. one who engages in sensual pleasure unrestrained by morality], and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned [lit. stinks of an odor]; ³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false [Gk: πλαστός (*plas-tos*)] words; their judgment [lit. a pronouncement of judgment] from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Three Thoughts about these Counterfeit Christians

1. Their Message

2 Peter 2:1, NLT - ¹ But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.

- Today, there are false prophets among us.
- Today, they are trying get us to "deny the Master".

Polycarp told me that the apostle John told him that if any person comes and tells you that Jesus Christ is less than the one-and-only Almighty God, that person is an agent of Satan. - Irenaeus (an early church father)

2. Their Morality

2 Peter 2:2, NLT - ² Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered.

- They promote a deceptive theology and reckless immorality.

3. Their Method

2 Peter 2:3, NLT - ³ In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

"What Does a Pigen Smell Like?" (Dr. Paul Apple)

1. False teachers don't tell until they come out of their shell. v. 1
2. False teachers excel at accumulating a larger clientele. v. 2a
3. False teachers repel with a terrible smell. v. 2b
4. False teachers compel to make their pockets swell. v. 3a
5. False teachers rebel and will land in hell. v. 3b

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

Pastor Joe's "Mathematical Test" for Identifying Counterfeit Teaching/Cult:

1. Does it **ADD** to Word of God?
2. Does it **SUBTRACT** from Person of Christ?
3. Does it **MULTIPLY** the salvation requirements?
4. Does it **DIVIDE** the follower's loyalty?

