

**Chi Alpha Bible Study**  
**Week 10**  
**2 Peter 2**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **SALT** Conference - XA's 2nd conference of the year.
  - Jan 10-12 (First weekend of the spring semester!)
  - Talk to your "CORE" leaders to sign up first this week to create momentum
  - Discuss *rides* early! Will leave Friday afternoon for Philly!
  - <https://nexasalt.com/> has all of the info you need to know!
- Your SG Christmas party plans! Share details and save-the-date (Suggestion: 9th - 12th, YES during finals, but a one hour break can be helpful to some and fun!)

**ICE BREAKER:** Share a time where you were *TRICKED*! Maybe you believed something to be true, but later found out that it was a lie! Maybe a time you believed something incorrectly for too long (Lyrics to a song, a famous saying that you were quoting incorrectly, etc)

**SAY:** Today we will read 2 Peter 2, which focuses almost entirely on false prophets. These are people that lead many Christian's astray and are very detrimental to living the proper Christian life. In this section Peter will give us insight on how God deals with these types of people, as well as how to identify them. This issue is just as big today as it was back when Peter was writing this.

**Read 2 Peter 2:1-11**

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce **destructive** heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their **greed** these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and

despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.

1.) In verses 1-3 there are two main points. What are they? (False prophets exist and many follow them. God is going to destroy them)

2.) What sort of things do false teachers introduce among God's people? (Verse 1)  
What is a heresy?

3.) Based on verse 3 what seems to be the motive of these false teachers?

4.) It is overly simplistic to only define greed as a desire for money. Certainly that is part of the motivation, but how else can greed motivate someone in the context of a false teacher.

5.) Lets switch over to the POV of a false teacher. Are they all pure evil? Do they know they are false teachers? Are they just misinformed and passionate? How do you think someone *becomes* a false teacher?

6.) Why do we think many people are drawn to false teachers, what makes them appealing?

**SAY:** If every false teacher wore a black cape and had an evil laugh, we wouldn't need a warning against them. The truth is that all of us have been exposed to false teachers, and we are required to discern if they are a false teacher or not. It can be helpful to ask yourself....

*"Does this person look like they themselves are a follower of Jesus?"*

*"Does this person reflect the fruit of the spirit?"*

*Does their lifestyle/attitudes reflect that of a disciple of Jesus? (Grace AND Truth)*

7.) in verses 4-8 Peter references Old Testament events that would have been familiar to the reader.

- Someone summarize the flood
- Someone summarize Sodom and Gomorrah  
(make sure to include that Lot escapes and Noah was protected)

8.) What do these two events have in common?

9.) Why would Peter mention these things after bringing up false prophets ?

(Verse 9 shows us so that we have comfort and assurance that God knows how to rescue the righteous while bringing judgment on the wicked)

10.) What does it mean to follow the corrupt desires of the flesh in verse 10?  
Why does Peter add in the importance of authority?

**SAY:** In these next few verses Peter begins to describe how to identify the ungodly people among the believers. It's important we read how *seriously* Peter takes the sin of leading people astray, and also how much of a sin it is to take advantage of people.

### **Read 2 Peter 2:12-22**

12 But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. 13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! 15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. 17 These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.” 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

9.) Why does Peter compare these sort of ungodly people to animals, or creatures of instinct? Is this just to insult them?

(When you haven't put off the flesh you are a slave to sin, not able to overcome temptation. It is part of your natural instinct/nature before you are born again)

10.) In 13-18 Peter lists the sins of these false teachers, what are they?

**SAY:** The reference to Balaam in verse 16 is describing a story in the book of Numbers where a false prophet led many Israelites into sexual immorality with Moabite women. Peter is basically describing how false prophets will lead people away from God and into sin!

11.) In verse 16 it tells us how it was actually a donkey who spoke to Balaam to bring the prophet away from causing more chaos. God sometimes will use *any means necessary* to bring us back to himself.

When was a situation in your own life where God got a hold of you *at the perfect time or by any means necessary*?

12.) What is verse 17 saying about false teachers?

13.) Break down / elaborate on verse 19 in your own words

(False teachers often promote a false sense of freedom that is found in the flesh or found in sin, true freedom can only be found in Christ by being born again and living a lifestyle free from the bondage of sin)

14.) Discuss verse 20-22

What does this mean for us?

Does this give us a healthy fear of the Lord?

15.) In verse 23, Peter used two common phrases or sayings, one from a proverb, and one that was a commonly quoted saying in their culture.

- The full version of Proverbs 26:11 says “As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.”.
- A “Sow” is a female pig! This talks about how a pig always returns to being dirty!

When is a time that you felt like you related with the example of a pig or a dog here, returning to the very thing you were cleaned up from?

***For the leader:***

*Go beyond obvious and “pretend deep” things that are simple to say, sound vulnerable, but do not actually promote honesty that leads to freedom. Examples include “porn”. Great. That’s good to share. Why do you return? What are you doing now to never go back? What rights do you need to give up? An EX that was unhealthy that you keep getting back with? Great. Share why you are so insecure that you return to an unhealthy relationship and hide it from your friends!? Leaders can go first to set the example. Think about something God saved you from but you went back willingly.*

**SAY:** Peter gives a very stern warning on the dangers of having the knowledge of Christ and then being entangled again in the things of the world. Peter makes it clear that many false prophets and teachers are out there, and at the core of what they do is lure people to go back into their sinful desires by *downplaying the severity of sin*. We as a small group need to hold each other accountable so none of us get led astray by such people.

**APPLICATION:** We will take a few moments to examine our own life and see where maybe you have been led astray to live in compromise. Are there any lies that we have believed or areas where we may be deceived in regards to sin?

Take this moment to share the true gospel if there are any unbelievers in your group.

Pray that God will show you any areas where you are living in compromise and need to repent. Pray God will open your eyes if there are any false teachers you are watching/following. Pray that God leads everyone to true faith in Jesus and the true Gospel!