

## II Peter 2:2-4

2. And **MANY will FOLLOW their DESTRUCTIVE ways**, because of whom **the Way of Truth will be blasphemed**.

- **Acts 20:28-31** "Therefore take \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and to all the \_\_\_\_\_, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the \_\_\_\_\_ of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage \_\_\_\_\_ will come in \_\_\_\_\_ you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, \_\_\_\_\_ perverse (twisted) things, to \_\_\_\_\_ away the \_\_\_\_\_ after themselves. Therefore \_\_\_\_\_, and remember that for three years I did not cease to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone night and day with tears."
- **Romans 2:24** "For 'The name of God is \_\_\_\_\_ among the Gentiles because of \_\_\_\_\_,' as it is written."

**Definition: "BLASPHEME"** - Blaspheme means to speak evil of; to speak irreverently or profanely, especially of God or sacred things; to curse or revile.

- **I Timothy 6:1** "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and His doctrine may \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "MANY will FOLLOW their DESTRUCTIVE ways"** - Who are we talking about here? Remember, chapter 2 verse one says, "**there will be FALSE TEACHERS among you, who will secretly bring in DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES.**" Peter is warning against these false teachers who will creep into Christian congregations and secretly teach things that are against the Bible. He says that **MANY will follow them, and that is why we have so many false cults in the world today**. Peter is not even talking about false religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and the like, but he is talking about **false groups that LOOK LIKE CHRISTIANS at first glance**, anyway, but they are not! Many gullible people are fooled by these false teachers, including many church members and even true Christians, but if they don't know the word of God well enough to discover the false teachings and "destructive ways" of these counterfeit religions, they will get sucked into a cult.

- **II Timothy 3:1-7** "But know this, that in the \_\_\_\_\_ days perilous (dangerous) times will come: for men will be \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, lovers of money, boasters, proud, \_\_\_\_\_, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers (haters) of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than lovers of God, having a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ but denying the its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ and make \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ women loaded down with sins led away by various lusts, always learning and \_\_\_\_\_ able to come to the knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Romans 16:17-18** "Now I urge you brethren, \_\_\_\_\_ those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary (against) to the \_\_\_\_\_ which you \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ them. For those who are such do \_\_\_\_\_ serve our Lord Christ, but their own belly (appetites), and by

\_\_\_\_\_ words and \_\_\_\_\_ speech \_\_\_\_\_  
the hearts of the \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "GULLIBLE"** - The dictionary defines gullible as "**easily CHEATED or TRICKED**; credulous". Credulous means "someone who **tends to believe too readily, especially with LITTLE or NO PROOF.**" We need to study and know God's word, so that we won't fall for the tricks of the false teachers! If we know what God's word says, we will not fall for their lies or be easily tricked.

- **Hebrews 5:13-14** "For everyone who partakes only of milk is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature), that is, those who by reason of \_\_\_\_\_ (practice, studying God's word) have their senses exercised to \_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "And from such people TURN AWAY!"** - God's word gives us instructions on how to GUARD ourselves from being deceived by false teachers. Jesus said, "**You will know them by their FRUITS**" (**Matt. 7:15-16**), so we have the right to judge someone's ministry or teaching to see if it is truly from God or not. **The Lord EXPECTS us to be DISCERNING**, and He certainly expects us to check everything out with His word (Hebrews 5:11-14, Acts 17:11). God expects us **to NOT be IGNORANT** of Satan's schemes and tricks! As for false prophets, false teaching, and false believers, we are told to "note and AVOID them" in Romans 16:17-18, and "**to TURN AWAY from such people!**" We are told to take HEED, BEWARE and WATCH in Acts 20:28-31 and Matthew 16:6 & 12, and **to CHECK everything out by the WORD** in Acts 17:11. "**Take heed**" means to **pay attention** or take notice. We must be AWARE of what others are teaching, but how can you know if it is right or wrong, if you don't know the word of God? You must **STUDY the word** and **SEARCH the word** to check out whether a certain teaching is from God or not.

- **II Timothy 2:15** "Be \_\_\_\_\_ to present yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to God, a worker who does \_\_\_\_\_ need to be ashamed, \_\_\_\_\_ dividing the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth."

**Definition: "The Way of Truth will be blasphemed"** - Because these false cults look enough like Christianity to fool some people, and because they use the Bible in their teachings (although they use it wrongly), true Christianity gets a bad rap. That's what it means by "**The Way of Truth will be blasphemed.**" These false teachers and their followers **CLAIM to be Christians, yet do not ACT like Christians, and so others judge the church by them, and say, "The church is full of hypocrites!"**

- **Matthew 7:15-17 & 22-23** "\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous \_\_\_\_\_. You will know them by their \_\_\_\_\_. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." (Verses 22-23) "\_\_\_\_\_ will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and \_\_\_\_\_ many \_\_\_\_\_ in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I \_\_\_\_\_ knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

**3. By COVETOUSNESS they will EXPLOIT you with deceptive words; for a long time their JUDGMENT has NOT been IDLE, and their DESTRUCTION does not slumber.**

- **Jude 4** "For certain men have \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, who long ago were marked out for this \_\_\_\_\_, ungodly men, who turn the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Ephesians 5:3** "But \_\_\_\_\_ and all uncleanness or \_\_\_\_\_, let it not even be \_\_\_\_\_ among you, as is fitting for \_\_\_\_\_; "
- **II Timothy 4:2-4** "Preach the \_\_\_\_\_! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and \_\_\_\_\_. For the time will come when they will \_\_\_\_\_ endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves \_\_\_\_\_; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Jude 16** "These are murmurers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling \_\_\_\_\_, flattering \_\_\_\_\_ to gain \_\_\_\_\_."
- **I Timothy 4:1-2** "Now the \_\_\_\_\_ expressly says that in the \_\_\_\_\_ some will \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, giving heed to \_\_\_\_\_ and DOCTRINES (teachings) of \_\_\_\_\_; speaking \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."

**Definition: "By COVETOUSNESS they will EXPLOIT you" - Covetousness means GREED or avarice; the wanting of something very badly.** To EXPLOIT means "to make unethical use of for ones own advantage or profit." The false teachers covet and want desperately to have control of other people, power, prestige, and money that comes from devoted followers. In many cults, some of the followers even sell their houses and give up their bank accounts to the cult's leader.

- **I Timothy 6:3-5** "If anyone \_\_\_\_\_ otherwise and does \_\_\_\_\_ consent to \_\_\_\_\_ words, even the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is \_\_\_\_\_, knowing nothing, but is \_\_\_\_\_ with disputes and \_\_\_\_\_ over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, \_\_\_\_\_ suspicions, useless wranglings of men of \_\_\_\_\_ minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose the godliness is a means of gain (profit). From such \_\_\_\_\_ yourself."

**Definition: "Their JUDGMENT has NOT been IDLE" -** God has promised that **He will judge and punish these false prophets, and He has not been idle in His judgment.** Our method of keeping track of time is not the same as God's, and **He will judge the evil in the world at the End of the Age,** after Jesus returns to this earth to set up His kingdom. These false teachers, if they do not repent, will spend all of eternity in hell. We must just be patient and wait for God to judge them, and in the meantime, be alert and aware, and avoid them. We can also try to witness to some of their followers to get them out of the cults they are trapped in.

- **Jude 12-13** "These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, \_\_\_\_\_ only \_\_\_\_\_; they are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without \_\_\_\_\_, twice \_\_\_\_\_, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own \_\_\_\_\_; wandering stars for \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ forever."
- **Deuteronomy 32:35** "Vengeance (judgment) is \_\_\_\_\_, and recompense; their foot shall slip in due \_\_\_\_\_; for the day of their calamity (trouble) is at hand, and the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ hasten upon them."

4. For if **God did not SPARE the ANGELS who SINNED**, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into **CHAINS of DARKNESS, to be RESERVED for JUDGMENT.**

- **Jude 6** "And \_\_\_\_\_ who did \_\_\_\_\_ keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has \_\_\_\_\_ in everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ under \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the great day."
- **Job 2:1** "Again there was a day when the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ came to present themselves before the Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_ came also among them to present himself before the Lord."
- **Job 38:4-7** "Where were you \_\_\_\_\_ I laid the foundation of the \_\_\_\_\_? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning \_\_\_\_\_ sang together, and all the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ shouted for joy?"

**Definition: "God did not SPARE the ANGELS who SINNED"** - Angels are called "sons of God" in Job 2:1, Job 38:7, and other Scriptures. If we believe the "sons of God" mentioned in Genesis 6:1-4 were angels, then they would be **disobedient angels**, who later are referred to as demons (those who rebelled with the archangel Lucifer, who became Satan). **Jude 6 speaks about "ANGELS who did NOT keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode,"** so this may refer to the unnatural act of angels mating with humans. We must assume that angels were able to take a physical form and procreate with humans (something which the Bible does not state), but **if that were possible, it would have produced a mixed, corrupted race**, which God then had to destroy. Perhaps Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives were the only people left on the earth who did not have corrupted DNA, and therefore **God chose them to repopulate the earth**. Again, if that were possible, God must have punished those angels, and made it so this could not happen again, and **these "ANGELS who SINNED" are kept in chains for future judgment by God.** Many hold this theory, saying also that the Greek myths (the gods having children with humans, etc.) may have gotten their basis from these events, as the descendants of Noah would still have that memory to be passed down as folklore. The "men of old, men of renown" could mean **the heroes of mythology.**

- **Genesis 6:1-4** "Now it came about, when **men began to multiply** on the face of the land, and **daughters were born to them**, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. **The Nephilim (GIANTS) were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men**, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown."
- **I Peter 3:19-20** "By whom also He went and preached to the \_\_\_\_\_ in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of \_\_\_\_\_ waited in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, while the \_\_\_\_\_ was being \_\_\_\_\_, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "He went and preached to the SPIRITS in prison"** - Don't be confused and think that there is a chance to be saved after death. These "spirits in prison" who have been around since the time of Noah, are demon spirits, and not the spirits of human beings. Jesus went into the "Abyss" where these demons are **bound in CHAINS, awaiting the final JUDGMENT**, to show that He was triumphant over them and all of Satan's hordes. What did these demons do that was so bad that God has them chained up in the Abyss? According to Genesis 6:1-4, they were probably

fallen angels (demons) that had sexual relations with human women, creating a half-breed race of men who were exceedingly evil.