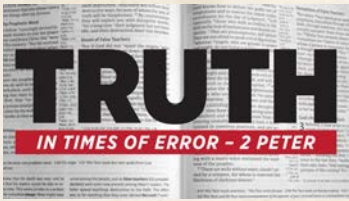


Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Remain Convinced

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

November 20, 2022

Scriptures:

2 Peter 2

Theme: In the face of falsity remain convinced that the Lord knows how to rescue the godly.

Introduction: It is possible to be firmly convinced of something untrue; and here in 2 Peter 2, the Apostle is giving us teaching that is meant to orient our hearts to what is true and to protect us from destructive errors. We must hold fast to what is true, and we must persist in faith; and part of how we do those things is by being aware of and guarding against errors.

This chapter presents us with 3 certainties we need to know:

1. The certainty of false teachers (1-3)

Peter focuses on an enemy of God's people: the false prophet. They popped up throughout Israel's history; and Peter identifies them as an enemy of the church. Peter equips us to spot false teachers so we can be spared from them and their destructive influence. We need to know that: a) they arise among us; and b) they work secretly.

We need to be careful to not dismiss Peter's concerns or to naively miss false teaching when it comes.

2. The certainty of the Lord's rescue (4-10a)

Verses 4-10 are one long sentence, with four "ifs" and 1 "then." The ifs point to the reality of man's rebellion and to God's judgment of people, cities, and nations for their rebellion against him.

The "then" points to his power to save: "then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials..." (v. 9). We should be confident that the Lord will deliver us.

3. The certainty of destruction for false teachers (10b-22)

Peter closes with an extended condemnation of the false teachers, in the process giving us two categories.

First, the character of the false teacher is exposed as pride and willfulness. They may pose as humble or inquisitive; but they are actually operating in pride; and the outcome will be that they suffer wrong.

Second, they will deceive God's people, and thus incur greater condemnation from God. They prey on the weak, the novice, and the needy.

Questions:

1. What do you make of the biblical category of *false teacher*? Does your idea match Peter's?
2. Have you ever been taken in by a false teaching/false teacher?
3. What is the state of your confidence in God rescuing and sustaining you in trials?