

***The Epistles - Part 2***

*2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*

1. Review

- a. Epistles are **letters** written by the Apostles to their converts or churches they founded in order to further instruct them when they could not be with them.
- b. The letters contain **compelling** truths applicable to churches and Christians today: Doctrine, warnings against false teachers, encouragement through tough circumstances, & the moral character and conduct expected of Christians.
- c. Fundamental doctrines are found all throughout the Epistles, including, the way of **salvation**, the deity of Christ, the inerrancy of **Scripture**, the rapture, and separation from the world.

2. Warnings of false teachers and their teachings:

- a. A False Gospel (Galatians 1:6-12; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4)
  - i. Galatians 1:6-8 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another** gospel: (7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
- b. False Doctrines
  - i. Hebrews 13:9 Be not carried about with **divers** and **strange** doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein
- c. Fake Christians convincing real Christians to keep the Jewish law
  - i. Galatians 2:3-4 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: (4) And that because of **false brethren** unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:
- d. False Teachers
  - i. 2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable **heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- e. Salesmen of Religion & Commandments of Men
  - i. Titus 1:10-14 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and **deceivers**, specially they of the circumcision: (11) Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy **lucre's** sake. (12) One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. (13) This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; (14) Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that **turn** from the truth.

3. Memory Verses: Last Week **Acts 2:42**; This Week **2 Peter 3:17**

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