NEWSLETTER



OPERATION 2020

in the world." Philippians 2:15

, among whom ye shine as lights

BIBLE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER



JUNIOR 1 DUSTIN DUKE JUNE 22-26, 2020



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Watch out for friendly enemies of Christ.

Sometimes real enemies of the kingdom appear as loyal subjects. History records the story of Sir John Oldcastle, a knight in the kingdom of Henry IV. An early friend of King Henry IV, Oldcastle received the king's mercy shortly after Henry became king. Seeking to do his "friend" a favor, Henry IV sought a way to free Oldcastle from his imprisonment in the tower of London. Oldcastle eventually escaped, to repay the king's kindness by leading a rebellion against Henry's throne. While he appeared to be a friend of the king, Oldcastle was really a hostile enemy.

Peter warns believers to watch out for "friendly" enemies of Christ. These friendly enemies are false teachers who bring deceptive teachings into the church (**2 PETER 2:1**). Sadly, many people will follow these false teachers, getting wrapped up in the error, and spreading great confusion (**2 PETER 2:2**). In fact, these wicked teachers, motivated by their own greediness, make up false teaching from their own imaginations (**2 PETER 2:3a**). God promises these false teachers will get their swift judgment (**2 PETER 2:3b**).

While these teachers may sound like good Christians, they are really enemies of Christ. God deals with His enemies in terrible judgment. He punished the sinning angels in hell (**2 PETER 2:4**), the ungodly people of Noah's day with a flood (**2 PETER 2:5**), and the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with destruction (**2 PETER 2:6**). God's enemies get their just rewards. Godly people, on the other hand, find God delivers them from their trying temptations (**2 PETER 2:9**).

So how can we identify these false teachers who try to lead us astray from the Bible? Peter tells us to look at how these teachers live their lives, full of wickedness and sin (2 PETER 2:10-15). These teachers love wickedness, just as Balaam did (2 PETER 2:15; cf. NUMBERS 22). Swift and terrible punishment awaits those who teach error in the church (**2 PETER 2:17**).

Peter not only tells us how these deceptive teachers live but also what they teach. Weak Christians are drawn into the snare of error, lured by a message that promotes sinful behavior, not godly living (2 PETER **2:18-19**). By accepting this wrong teaching, weak Christians chose to become slaves again to sin, even though Christ has already given true freedom from sin (2 PETER 2:20). This is truly sad that someone could be rescued from sin, know real freedom, then chose to fall back into slavery to sin. Peter says these people who fall into this error would be better off to never have even received salvation, than to experience true freedom Christ then turn back to living for their own selfish desires (2 PETER 2:21). In fact, Peter relates these people to sick dogs and dirty pigs! Peter's point is that strong Christians live godly lives as students of the Bible, not in sin and wickedness from following the fables of false teachers.

Sadly, today many fine Christians and churches fall into this very error. People would rather hear a message that is popular and entertaining but contains no solid Christian doctrine. These people are drawn to "churches" that seek to fill seats by other means than steadfastly preaching the message that true happiness and hope is found only in Jesus Christ. These Churches suspiciously look and sound more like the world.

The best defense for avoiding this error is to become a serious student of the Bible. You have to know truth before you can identify error. When you come into contact with these false teachers who seek to lead you astray, be ready to resist by following Peter's formula for a strong Christian: be sure to in you faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. (Peter said he couldn't say this enough! 2 PETER 1:12). Ask your Pastor to disciple you in Christian teaching. Get involved in your church. Now is the best time to start learning about to be a strong, growing Christian. Remember, a true friend will help you grow, and a false friend who leads you astray is really your enemy! -BR

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PHILIPPIANS 2:15



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ABOUT Deer Lake

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