



Stand Firm
Studies in 2 Peter

Stand in Truth
2 Peter 2
Lesson 15

Introduction

False teachers were infiltrating the body. Traveling diviners, false prophets and moral teachers typically charged fees or begged funds. False teachers did not hesitate to take advantage of their followers in order to enrich themselves. They were especially dangerous because they arose from within the church, undermining the faith of the more immature.

In contrast to the inspired prophets who penned the inspired Word of God (1:20-21), false prophets were those who spoke visions from their own mind instead of from God's heart. Peter issues a strong warning that it is not enough to reject their false teachings, but we must also beware of adapting their way of life and the hypocrisy behind it.

Standing in the truth they had been taught and growing in their knowledge of the Lord, would help them to discern the truth from the error.

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me".* John 14:6

Treasures of the Heart

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them . . .

2 Peter 2:1

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 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.

Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?



2 Peter 2:4-11

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; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.



2 Peter 2:12-17

12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.



2 Peter 2:18-22

18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."



Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Peter 2:1-3 _____

2 Peter 2:4-11 _____

2 Peter 2:12-17 _____

2 Peter 2:18-22 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Peter 2:1-3 _____

2 Peter 2:4-11 _____

2 Peter 2:12-17 _____

2 Peter 2:18-22 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Standing firm in the midst of persecution is accomplished through the power and knowledge of God. See if you can state what the knowledge of the Lord teaches us and how it will help you stand firm. There is not just one answer. **State these truths in your own words.**

What does the knowledge of the Lord teach us? (Be specific)

How will knowing God more help you stand firm?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Peter 2:1-3 _____

2 Peter 2:4-11 _____

2 Peter 2:12-17 _____

2 Peter 2:18-22 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

The tool of the false teacher is deception, so you must know God's Word and exercise discernment when you hear their impressive language.

Warren Wiersbe

