

## 2 PETER 2:1-3

## BE PREPARED

<sup>1</sup> *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.* <sup>2</sup> *Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.* <sup>3</sup> *In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*

The battle line between Truth and Lie has been drawn, and it runs through the middle of the church. While our denominations are division based on interpretations of God's Word, understanding as to how his Word is to be applied to our common life and in some cases the style of worship, the line between Truth and Lie runs through every denomination and every congregation. That line is based on who Jesus is and the Good News of what he did. On the one side is the Jesus revealed in Scripture (as proclaimed by the true apostles and prophets). In opposition are the culturally shaped icons of Jesus, salvation and sin.

What was true in the first century Church is also true today. Peter not only stated that false prophets were among the people, but also that false teachers will be among us (v.1). We have all encountered them in our denominations, in the media, and in some cases in our churches. They are alluring because their message is couched in biblical terms and offers a more attractive way to be the church in the world. We resonate with the message because it is consistent with what the culture around us is saying. Our instinct to be part of the crowd and popular with the crowd is their entrée into our souls. Their message is secret, not so much because it is hidden, but more so because it is subtle and sneaky.

But God is not to be mocked and cannot be fooled. Do not follow these blind guides because they will ultimately lead you into the ditch of perdition. The only antidote for the cancer of heterodoxy is heavy doses of Scripture administered at least daily (as well as when needed throughout the day), in combination with at least one group worship session weekly that is led by a biblically trained orthodox leader.

**Save me from the agents of the Lie, O God. Keep me in your Word, and through your Holy Spirit enlighten me to the Truth so that I might successfully navigate the sea of false teaching in which I live. Train me so that I can know your voice and follow it only. Amen.**