

# The Severity of God's Judgement

## 2:1-3

### The strictness of judgement of teachers

- Peter is talking about false teachers who will come in, and here is he talking about how God will punish them for their false teachings
- God takes this very seriously. Teaching destructive heresies isn't some small thing to Him
  - Even godly teachers will be judged more strictly for having been teachers. How much worse will it be for false teachers who don't even teach out of love for God nor others. (James 3:1)

### We should have compassion and concern for false teachers

- We do have to be careful to test the things we hear and verify they're biblical. That's what Peter is warning about here. He's warning about false teachers and being careful to not get trapped by them.
- That's absolutely true, and at the same time, we should have some amount of compassion and concern for false teachers, and we should pray that God would save them and grant them genuine repentance (2 Tim. 2:24-25)
- Moreover, we should realize that "there, but for the grace of God, go I"
  - We should realize that apart from God's choosing to save us and apart from how common grace plays out in our lives, we wouldn't be doing any better

## 2:4-11

### For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment

- I used to think that Hell was a literal lake of fire, but someone pointed out to me a few years ago how this passage is talking about Hell, it describes it using the terms gloomy darkness. So this brings up the question, well if Hell is a lake of fire, and it's also a place of utter darkness, what is Hell actually like?
- How the Bible describes Hell
  - A lake of fire that never stops burning (Revelation 20:10)
  - Gloomy darkness or utter darkness (2 Peter 2:4, 17)
  - Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:49-50)
  - No rest day and night (Revelation 14:11)
  - Torment that lasts forever and ever (Revelation 20:10)
- I want us to do a short thought exercise just to help us understand how dreadful it really is
  - Think about the greatest physical pain you've ever felt
  - Think about the greatest emotional pain you've ever felt
  - Think about the greatest amount of fear you've ever felt
  - Think about the greatest amount of shame you've ever felt
  - Think about the greatest of hatred you've ever felt
  - Now, roll all those memories into one thought, and imagine your life being only that all day, every single day, for the rest of your life
  - Now imagine it's not only that way for the rest of your life, but for rest of ever. 1 year, then 10 years, then 100, years then 1,000 years, then 10,000 years, then a million, then a billion, and it never ever stops
- Even though it's dreadful, it's going for us to think about (Ecclesiastes 7:2)
  - It should make us thankful that God saved us
  - It should make us long for others to come to know Christ
  - It should make us motivated to share the gospel

## Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials

- Sometimes it feels like the trial we're in we're never get out of, but that is not the case
- God is able to rescue us
  - David probably felt like the trials he was going through might never end
  - Joseph probably had no idea whether or not his trials would come to an end when he was in prison
- God works them together for our good
  - Not only does God know how and when to end our trials, but He is working them for our good (Rom 8:28)
  - No matter what you're going through or how painful it is, God already knows all the different ways He's going to use it for His glory and to bless you and to bless others
    - He knew that before He even allowed it to happen to you

## 2:12-16

### While they feast with you

- Peter is saying these false teachers are there with them. There will be false teachers in the Church, and we have to watch out. This doesn't mean there will be false teachers in every local church, but we still have to watch out for them.

### They have hearts trained in greed

- This is the second time it mentions greed. Earlier in the chapter he said "in their greed they will exploit you with false words." I think he's talking about false teachers who teach in order get people to give them money
- I just want to point out how their real issue is that they value money more than they value God
- We all need to get to the place where we value God more than anything (Luke 14:25-26; Matthew 13:44)

## 2:17-22

### For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them

- Their judgement will be more strict because they've known, and to some degree experienced, the gospel than it would be if they had never known or experienced the gospel (Romans 2:3-5; Matthew 10:14-15)
- To him who has been given, it will be required (Luke 12:48)

## Communion Meditation: Jesus is Eager and Able to Save Us from Hell

1. We deserve Hell (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-30)
2. Christ is determined to save sinners, glad to save sinners, and able to save sinners
3. It is Jesus alone that saves
  - Our being saved from Hell is based completely on Jesus life and death and resurrection and our faith in Him. And because it's not based at all on our obedience, none of our failures can mess it up