

Study Notes for 2 Peter 2 • A warning about false teachers

- Polls indicate that 96 percent of Americans believe in a supreme being or higher power, but only half of those people attend church even once a month. Most people have little confidence that they can know anything beyond their own feelings. This idea has infiltrated into the Body of Christ. How does that reality make this chapter all the more necessary for believers today?
- What is heresy?
- Can you think of a modern-day example of *destructive heresies*?
- In **verse 3** Peter mentions *greed* as one of the motives of false teachers. What other motives might they have?
- Peter tells the stories of the angels, the Flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah. What is the point of each story?
- Compare **2 Peter 2:4–9** with **Jude 5–7**. How do Peter and Jude tell these three stories differently?
- From **2 Peter 2:1–16**; what evidence do you find that distinguishes a false prophet from a true one?
- What should be done about false teachers today?
- How are false teachers like “waterless springs” and “mists driven by a storm”?
- Re-read **verses 20–22**. What statements does Peter give that sound like he’s talking about genuine believers? What statements make it sound like he’s referring to people who have never been truly saved?
- How is it possible to reconcile these apparent differences?
- Peter quotes an Old Testament proverb (see Proverbs 26:11) and cites another one popular in the culture of his day. What point is Peter making through these proverbs?
- Many of us may know people who are very immature believers or who are seeking to know more about what it means to be a Christian. These people are looking for answers to their questions but do not know their way around the Bible and could be easily led astray by false teachers. How does this chapter motivate you regarding such people?