



TOPIC Remain in the Truth

SPEAKER Ps Jeffrey Aw

THEME Lessons from 2 Peter

DATE 19 & 20 June 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The focus of the sermon is on Apostle Peter's warnings to the early Church about false teachers and their teachings. The heretical teachings were corrupting the Truth of God as well as the morals of the early Christians. Peter warned the early Church of the danger of being deceived which would result in obstacles that affected their growth in Christ. The exhortation for present day Christians is to be familiar with God's Word and His voice, so that we can accurately discern false teaching from Biblical teaching.

HOW TO REMAIN IN THE TRUTH

The distinctives of false teachers as well as the judgements of God are listed in 2 Peter 2:1-22. It is from this passage that two principles can be drawn out to guide us to remain in God's Truth.

1. KNOW THE TRUTH OF GOD

Our familiarity with the Truth of God will enable us to differentiate it from falsehood. Peter was able to detect heresies because he was familiar with God's Word, having spent time with Jesus. The 23 distinctives highlighted are the fruits of false teachers, and they can also guide us to identify falsehood that can prevent us from growing in the Truth.

From 2 Peter	Brief Explanation of the Distinctives (Fruits) of False Teachers
vs 1, 2, 10, 12	Introduction to destructive heresies resulting in eternal ruin (physically and spiritually).
vs 2, 10, 14, 18, 19	Leading many astray into sexual sins resulting in the abuse of God's grace.
vs 13, 18	Unashamedly sinning in broad daylight even during Communion in church.
vs 3, 14, 15	Personal financial gains through misleading teachings. (Peddling the gospel for a fee)
v 10	Speaking presumptuously against angelic or demonic beings.
v 17	Pretending to be somebody when they are not. Signs of instability.
v 20	They were once Christians or appeared to be Christians but had fallen away from the Truth back into sin. So, they taught a different gospel.

	They also rejected Jesus as their Redeemer and Master and blasphemed against Him.
--	---

We are encouraged to be alert, so that we do not allow the subtle influences of societal norms to desensitize us from living in obedience to God’s Word. We are also reminded to build our foundation in the Word of God, so that we will not run the risk of falling away from the Truth.

2. KNOW THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD

Knowing the Judgement of God will keep us in His Truth as we will develop a reverential fear of God which will keep us focused on knowing Him. God is love and we can find comfort in experiencing His unconditional love and care for us. Yet, God is also righteous so He will not let false teachers and unrepentant sinners go unpunished.

From 2 Peter	Brief Explanation of the Judgement of God
vs 9, 12, 13, 14, 15	Their punishment is impending and unstoppable.
vs 12, 13, 15	God’s judgement against false teachers is certain.
vs 5, 7, 9	Assurance of God’s deliverance for His righteous ones and punishment for those who teach falsely.

In the face of a depraved world where evil continues to abound, we are encouraged to press on in preaching the truth in the face of persecution. We are to draw strength from the fact that He knows, and He will rescue us accordingly, just as He rescued Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah because of His grace and mercy. Yet, we are also to be warned that He is just and righteous. Deliberate teaching of falsehood will therefore not go unpunished. This is not to incite fear, but for us to grasp the reality of the character of God.

CONCLUSION

Knowledge of the Truth of God and the Judgement of God comes through a commitment to know God intimately by being diligent in reading His Word daily. We are encouraged to use the Word of God to examine our lives, so that we might, through the Holy Spirit, be brought to awareness of false beliefs which we have unconsciously accepted as truth in our lives. We need to repent of any false or ungodly beliefs and to ask God to renew our understanding with the Holy Spirit’s help as we read His Word.

QUESTIONS

1. We are encouraged to know and be familiar with God's Truth by reading the Bible daily. How have you been growing in God's Word? What are some specific changes you would like to make in your life to grow in God's Word?

2. During our interaction with pre-believing friends or colleagues, they might sometimes share misinformation about Christianity. Are you able to identify the falsehoods? How will you go about explaining the Truth to pre-believers? Share some of your experiences.

3. How much do you know of the Truth? How confident are you in communicating God's Truth? Use the reflection questions provided during the sermon as a springboard for discussion to determine your confidence in answering these questions. You may also take the time to raise some questions you may personally have.

Appendix: Reflection Questions

<p>1. Should every Christian speak in tongues to be saved? OR Does every Christian who speaks in tongues belong to the devil?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>2. Do Christians need to be baptised to be saved?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>3. Can we always speak, claim, and decree all things into existence - things like healing, material needs and success?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>4. Will becoming a Christian will make you rich?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>5. Is it true that all sicknesses and bad situations are due to our own sins? OR Is it all due to the devil's working?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>6. Is it true that there is no need for medicine or medical intervention as we only need Jesus' healing?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>7. Is it true that the Bible is just a guide and we only need to hear the Holy Spirit?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					
<p>Confidence in answering the question:</p>					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
<p>8. Is it true that apart from the New Testament scriptures, we must also obey all the Old Testament laws?</p>					
<p>My answer:</p>					

Confidence in answering the question:					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
9. Is it true that as long as we profess to be a Christian we can always sin and God will always forgive us?					
My answer:					
Confidence in answering the question:					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
10. Is it true that there is no need for active evangelism because God has already chosen those that belong to Him? Or the salvation of my loved ones is purely by my effort?					
My answer:					
Confidence in answering the question:					
Very Confident	1	2	3	4	Not Confident
Questions I would like to ask:					