

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

Sermon Notes for October 22-23, 2005

"The Characteristics of False Teachers"

2 Peter 2:10-22

### **1. They are proud (2:10-11): The analogy of the angels**

While angels are willing to submit to God, false teachers will scorn the godly.

False teachers build themselves up by tearing others down, particularly those in authority.

Self-will is the root of pride.

### **2. They are predatory (2:12): The analogy of animals**

As animals act instinctively, so false teachers speak without thinking and without knowledge.

Often people with the least knowledge make the most noise.

### **3. They are perverted (2:13): The analogy of stains**

As a stain mars clothing, so false teachers mar the church.

To allow false teachers to fellowship with the church stains the church. We are not unaffected by those who associate with us.

### **4. They are persuasive (2:14): The analogy of fishing**

As fishermen use bait in fishing, so false teachers try to lure the unsuspecting.

Their primary bait is greed.

### **5. They are psycho (2:15-16): the analogy of Balaam**

As Balaam was a prophet for hire, so false teachers love the wages of wickedness. Many false teachers are experts in fund-raising.

Like Balaam, false teachers appear to be responsive to God but actually are rebellious to God.

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### **6. They are pretentious (2:17-19): The analogy of water**

As these wells and clouds only give the appearance of water, so false teachers only give the appearance of wisdom.

False teachers promise what they do not have and cannot deliver.

One difference between the activity of false teachers and the ministry of the true teachers is that the latter seek to win people to Christ while the former seek to win people to themselves.

### **7. They will perish (2:20-22): The analogy of a dog and a pig**

Many non-Christians escape from their sin practices by means of religion.

The reason the last state of entanglement with sin is worse than the first is because the last state is final (cf. Heb. 6:4-6).

The reason it is better to be ignorant than to reject God's truth is because the unsaved are judged upon their sin and upon their knowledge (Luke 12:47-48).

Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).