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2 PETER

Chapter 02  
**ARE YOU AFRAID?**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. When I say the word “FEAR” what comes to mind?

1. Let me give you the dictionary definition = *“a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; the feeling or condition of being afraid.”*
  - a) Synonyms = *apprehension, consternation, dismay, terror, fright, panic, horror, trepidation. Alarm, dread all imply a painful emotion experienced when one is confronted by threatening danger or evil.*
    - (1) Some folks are afraid of the Dentist, others are afraid of flying, and many are afraid of death.
    - (2) Some people are so afraid of so many things that they will not even go out of the house – in fear that something will go wrong!  
**Agoraphobia**
  2. But what if I told you there is another kind of fear that is extremely healthy?
    - a) What if I told you that TO NOT HAVE this kind of fear is actually foolish?
      - (1) I am afraid of rattlesnakes!
        - (a) *I am OK if they are behind glass, but I am also aware of what they do if they are NOT behind glass.*
          - (i) My nephew was bitten by a rattlesnake on his way home from school one day. He panicked and ran all the way home which was the worst thing he could have done because the racing heartbeat caused the venom to spread faster! He was in critical condition for a while and almost lost his finger.
      - (2) I am afraid of fire!
        - (a) *I am OK with it under normal conditions but I also know what it can do when it is out of control.*
      - (3) I am afraid of guns!
        - (a) *I own a couple of rifles that I have had since I use to hunt many years ago, but I also know what they can do in the hands of an idiot.*
      - (4) And I am afraid of swimming pools!
        - (a) *Oh, I am OK with pools themselves, have even owned one, but when you add a toddler to the mix – my anxiety level goes up a bit.*
          - (i) I think these are “healthy fears” if they are handled correctly.
      - b) So, it seems that the Lord has actually built the “ability” to fear into our DNA, but it can either be the crippling, paralyzing kind, or it can be the healthy kind.

B. **1Pe 2:17** Tells us to: **Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the**

king.

1. By-the-way, dictionary.com also gives a very brief definition of the good kind of fear:
  - a) *Reverential awe, especially toward God.*
    - (1) Before us this morning in **2 Peter Chapter 2** are some folks that have no fear of God: and Peter is warning the church about them.

**II. 2PE 2:1-3 BUT THERE WERE ALSO FALSE PROPHETS AMONG THE PEOPLE, EVEN AS THERE WILL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU, WHO WILL SECRETLY BRING IN DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES, EVEN DENYING THE LORD WHO BOUGHT THEM, AND BRING ON THEMSELVES SWIFT DESTRUCTION. 2 AND MANY WILL FOLLOW THEIR DESTRUCTIVE WAYS, BECAUSE OF WHOM THE WAY OF TRUTH WILL BE BLASPHEMED. 3 BY COVETOUSNESS THEY WILL EXPLOIT YOU WITH DECEPTIVE WORDS; FOR A LONG TIME THEIR JUDGMENT HAS NOT BEEN IDLE, AND THEIR DESTRUCTION DOES NOT SLUMBER.**

A. You can see Peter’s warning about the false prophets and false teachers.

1. But he assures us that their judgment and destruction **has not been idle** – it’s coming!

**III. 2PE 2:4-9 FOR IF GOD DID NOT SPARE THE ANGELS WHO SINNED, BUT CAST THEM DOWN TO HELL AND DELIVERED THEM INTO CHAINS OF DARKNESS, TO BE RESERVED FOR JUDGMENT; 5 AND DID NOT SPARE THE ANCIENT WORLD, BUT SAVED NOAH, ONE OF EIGHT PEOPLE, A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BRINGING IN THE FLOOD ON THE WORLD OF THE UNGODLY; 6 AND TURNING THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH INTO ASHES, CONDEMNED THEM TO DESTRUCTION, MAKING THEM AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE WHO AFTERWARD WOULD LIVE UNGODLY; 7 AND DELIVERED RIGHTEOUS LOT, WHO WAS OPPRESSED BY THE FILTHY CONDUCT OF THE WICKED 8 (FOR THAT RIGHTEOUS MAN, DWELLING AMONG THEM, TORMENTED HIS RIGHTEOUS SOUL FROM DAY TO DAY BY SEEING AND HEARING THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS)—9 THEN THE LORD KNOWS HOW TO DELIVER THE GODLY OUT OF TEMPTATIONS AND TO RESERVE THE UNJUST UNDER PUNISHMENT FOR THE DAY OF JUDGMENT,**

A. The Lord righteously judged:

1. The fallen angels
2. The ancient world through the flood
3. And Sodom and Gomorrah
  - a) This is Peter’s reminder to the church that things are not always going to be what they appear to be at the moment.
  - b) To that first century church and even to us, sometimes it “seems” like evil is winning and Christians are losing!
    - (1) And the subtle by-product of that mindset is that Christians can lose a healthy fear of the Lord!
    - (2) They can begin to think that if everyone else is getting by with sin and compromise – so can they!
      - (a) But Peter is reminding them (and us) – that the ungodly are NOT getting away with it – judgment WILL come!

IV. **2PE 2:10-14** AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WALK ACCORDING TO THE FLESH IN THE LUST OF UNCLEANNES AND DESPISE AUTHORITY. *THEY ARE* PRESUMPTUOUS, SELF-WILLED. *THEY ARE NOT AFRAID* TO SPEAK EVIL OF DIGNITARIES, **11** WHEREAS ANGELS, WHO ARE GREATER IN POWER AND MIGHT, DO NOT BRING A REVILING ACCUSATION AGAINST THEM BEFORE THE LORD. **12** BUT THESE, LIKE NATURAL BRUTE BEASTS MADE TO BE CAUGHT AND DESTROYED, SPEAK EVIL OF THE THINGS THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND, AND WILL UTTERLY PERISH IN THEIR OWN CORRUPTION, **13** *AND* WILL RECEIVE THE WAGES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, *AS* THOSE WHO COUNT IT PLEASURE TO CAROUSE IN THE DAYTIME. *THEY ARE* SPOTS AND BLEMISHES, CAROUSING IN THEIR OWN DECEPTIONS WHILE THEY FEAST WITH YOU, **14** HAVING EYES FULL OF ADULTERY AND THAT CANNOT CEASE FROM SIN, ENTICING UNSTABLE SOULS. *THEY HAVE* A HEART TRAINED IN COVETOUS PRACTICES, *AND ARE* ACCURSED CHILDREN.

A. Did you see that these people **walk in the flesh**, in **lust and uncleanness**, they **despise authority**, they are **presumptuous, self-willed, brute beasts, spots and blemishes**, having **eyes full of adultery** and **hearts trained in covetous practices** and they are **not afraid of speaking evil of those worthy of honor!**

1. The word “dignitaries” comes from the word “doxa” from where we get our word doxology and it means = “*a good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, honour, and glory*”(Thayers)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

- a) In other words, they have no respect and dishonor those who are worthy of honor **and** respect!

B. BUT – the angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord!

1. These folks know – **no fear of God!** They have no respect for the Lord or any of His children, whereas the angels do!

V. **2PE 2:15-19** THEY HAVE FORSAKEN THE RIGHT WAY AND GONE ASTRAY, FOLLOWING THE WAY OF BALAAM THE *SON* OF BEOR, WHO LOVED THE WAGES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS; **16** BUT HE WAS REBUKED FOR HIS INIQUITY: A DUMB DONKEY SPEAKING WITH A MAN'S VOICE RESTRAINED THE MADNESS OF THE PROPHET. **17** THESE ARE WELLS WITHOUT WATER, CLOUDS CARRIED BY A TEMPEST, FOR WHOM IS RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER. **18** FOR WHEN THEY SPEAK GREAT SWELLING *WORDS* OF EMPTINESS, THEY ALLURE THROUGH THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH, THROUGH LEWDNESS, THE ONES WHO HAVE ACTUALLY ESCAPED FROM THOSE WHO LIVE IN ERROR. **19** WHILE THEY PROMISE THEM LIBERTY, THEY THEMSELVES ARE SLAVES OF CORRUPTION; FOR BY WHOM A PERSON IS OVERCOME, BY HIM ALSO HE IS BROUGHT INTO BONDAGE.

A. You guys remember Balaam right? The prophet for hire!

1. Who had to have a donkey speak to him in order for him to keep from speaking evil against the Children of Israel!
  - a) These **verses 15-19** sound a lot like the first few verses regarding the false prophets and teachers – don't they?
    - (1) **19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption.**
      - (a) *These false prophets and teachers were promising people liberty and all the while they themselves were caught up in sin and corruption and compromise!*
      - (b) *Liberty is the luxury of the disciplined – is it not?*
        - (i) In other words: true liberty is having a healthy enough fear of the Lord that I don't want to get off-track!
        - (ii) Not using liberty as an excuse to do whatever I want.

**Hebrews 12:7–11 (NKJV) — 7** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. **11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- (2) **...for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.**
  - (a) *This is a reference to overcoming someone in a war.*
    - (i) Those who were overcome became slaves of the overcomer!
    - (ii) Jesus said in **Joh 8:34** ... "**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**"
      - (a) I am convinced most of us can't handle too much liberty.

## VI. CONCLUSION

- A. **2Pe 2:20-22** For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. **21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A DOG RETURNS TO HIS OWN VOMIT," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."
  1. Some fears are unhealthy and unfounded, but a genuine fear of the Lord is a wonderful thing!
  2. Returning to the vomit and wallowing in the mire are the actions of a man or woman who has no fear of the Lord.