Introduction
Be careful who you follow.
In every generation, false teachers and false teaching have been a threat to the church.
We need to hear what the Scripture says on this very important subject.

I. Don’t be surprised when false teachers appear. Verses 1-3
They were present in the Old Testament. They will be present in the church age too.
How do we recognize them?
Look at their teaching.
“They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord, who bought them.”
Good Questions to ask are:

- Does their teaching fit with the Scripture?
- What do they say about Christ?
- What do they say about salvation?

Look at their character and lifestyle.

- Greed.
- Sexual immorality.

The message the Apostles brought was counter-cultural. We are to be holy because God is holy.
Sex outside of the bounds of marriage is sin.
Marriage is the union of one man and one woman.
Saying what the Bible says about sex and marriage is not very popular today.
Hold to the Scriptures!

II. Don’t be discouraged though their judgment waits. Verses 4-10
Peter gives three examples in Scripture where God punished the wicked and rescued the righteous.

The Fallen Angels

“The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and they married any of them they chose.” Genesis 6:2

The main point is clear. If God did not spare the angels from judgment, he will not spare the false teachers.

The Ancient World

“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, ‘I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth’...But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:5-8

God brought judgment on the world with a great flood, but rescued Noah and his family.

Sodom and Gomorrah

Sodom and Gomorrah were guilty of sexual sin but they were also guilty of other sins. “They were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.” Ezekiel 16:49

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of their sin, but God rescued Lot.

“If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”

Christians aren’t perfect – Christians will stumble in sin also, but there is a difference between sinning and admitting it is wrong versus sinning and calling it good.

Conclusion

Be careful who you follow.

Follow those who follow Christ.