

As we “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18), we need to carefully listen to some clear warnings sounded by both Peter and Jude. After emphasizing that he was an eyewitness of the majesty of Jesus (2 Pet 1:16-18) and reminding us that true “prophets” had God himself as their source (1:19-21), listen to what Peter says next:

But _____ prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false _____ among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will _____ their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (2 Pet 2:1-3)

Peter goes on to describe these false messengers in a wide variety of ways. What are they doing? What do they want? Here’s the sort of “fruit” (Matt 7:15-20) we ought to recognize and avoid. They...

- 2:10: indulge in the lust of defiling passion
- 2:10: despise _____
- 2:10: bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme
- 2:13: count it pleasure to _____ (in their deceptions) in the daytime
- 2:14: entice unsteady souls
- 2:15: forsaking the right way, they have gone _____
- 2:19: they promise freedom, but they are slaves of corruption

This is a terrible position to be, especially for those who ought to know better (2:20-22)!

Jude uses very similar language. Be careful who you listen to, because far too many are...

- 4: ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord
- 8: relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, _____ authority, and blaspheme
- 16: grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires, loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage

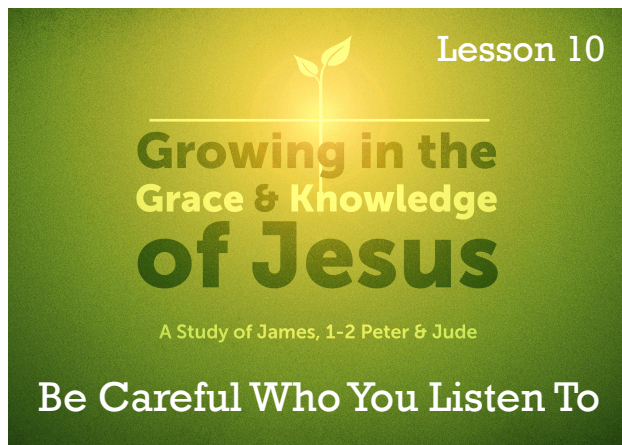
So what should we do? We aren’t left helpless, on our own. Because of the work of God’s faithful messengers, it’s simply up to us to **remember** and **apply**.

But you must _____, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 17)

...you should remember the predictions of the holy _____ and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your _____... (2 Pet 3:2)

That’s how we can avoid being “carried away with the error of lawless people” (2 Pet 3:17).

That’s how we can be stable. That’s how we’ll grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ In your own words, what is a “cleverly devised myth” (2 Pet 1:16)? Maybe you’ve learned about Greek and Roman mythology in school. Can you think of any examples of “myths” from the ancient world? Why would it be a very big deal to believe those as Christians—then or now?
- ▶ Why do you think Peter is so insistent for us to recognize that he was living and writing as an “eyewitness” of the majesty of Jesus?
- ▶ Let’s go back in our Bibles to Matthew 17:1-8 and read it together. Why was this such a monumental moment in Peter’s life that he would reference it in 2 Peter 1:16-18?
- ▶ Look back at 2 Peter 1:19—“And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...” What does that mean? What is Peter talking about?
- ▶ If you were going to try to explain the message of 2 Peter 1:20-21 in your own words, how would you do it?
- ▶ As you go back and scan those descriptions of false teachers in 2 Peter 2:1-19 and Jude 4-16, what stands out to you? What’s the big deal? Why are Peter and Jude sounding such a loud alarm?
- ▶ In 2 Peter 2:20-22, Peter seems to be describing a really ugly, really tragic situation. What has happened? Why would this “last state” be “worse”?
- ▶ Both Peter and Jude conclude their warnings with a call for disciples of Jesus to remember (Jude 17; 2 Pet 3:1-3). In a nutshell, *what* do we need to remember? *How* will this remembering shield us from error, keep us from stumbling, and help us grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus?