

Pursuing Godliness: 2 Peter  
**Godliness and Deliverance**



***Safety for the Godly***

Throughout the Bible God has provided a way of safety or deliverance for the righteous [the godly]. What do we need to be delivered from? One thing is false teaching and false teachers. Peter now turns his attention to the false teachers that had arisen within the early church.

**I. The Rise of False Teachers 2 Peter 2:1-3**

- a. **Destruction from within:** They were part of the church and may have started out in truth.
- b. **Destructive heresies:** [2:1] Soul-destroying denials of core doctrine; the Trinity, deity of Christ, His virgin birth, and denying the Sovereignty of God. [Master].
- c. **Destructive lifestyles:** [2:2] Doctrinal error leads to a compromised lifestyle which is attractive to many.
- d. **Destructive motives:** [2:3] Their greedy is both sexual and financial in nature. Their words are soothing but deceptive. Someone has said, “The devil is never more satanic than when he carries a Bible.”
- e. **Destruction of false teachers:** [2:3] We are not told exactly when their judgment will take place, but vs. 1 and 3 make it clear that God does not tolerate false teachers for long.

**II. The Rescue of the Righteous 2 Peter 2:4-10**

This next section has a number of **if** clauses which reveal both the destruction of unrighteousness and the ‘rescue’ of the godly.

- a. **Judgment—angels and the ancient world:** [2:4-5a] This refers to *Gen 6:1-4* when angels cohabitated with women of the earth. See also *Mark 12:25*. The point Peter is making is that if God judges the angels—how much more will He judge ungodliness in man?
- b. **Deliverance—Noah:** [2:5b] Even when the world was almost totally given over to sin—God saved a few righteous.
- c. **Judgment—Sodom and Gomorrah:** [2:6] God saw this unrestrained degeneracy **NOT** as a sickness or genetic predisposition—He saw it as sin. *Gen 19:24*
- d. **Deliverance—Lot:** [2:7-8] Lot is here described as ‘righteous’ because of living in the midst of the sin and being tormented by it—but not giving in to it.
- e. **Judgment reserved:** [2:9b-10a] Peter is making the point that the false teachers will NOT prevail and have a ‘reservation’ in hell.
- f. **Deliverance reserved:** [2:9a; 1 Peter 1:4] The Lord will deliver us from our trials and He has also promised you “...an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

**2 Peter 2:1-10 (NKJV)**

**2:1** But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they will bring swift destruction on themselves.

**2:2** And many will follow their debauched lifestyles. Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered.

**2:3** And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation pronounced long ago is not sitting idly by; their destruction is not asleep.

**2:4** For **if** God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment,

**2:5** and **if** he did not spare the ancient world, **but did protect Noah**, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when God brought a flood on an ungodly world,

**2:6** and **if** he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction, having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of the ungodly,

**2:7** and **if** he rescued Lot, a righteous man in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of lawless men,

**2:8** (for while he lived among them day after day, that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)

**2:9** — **if** so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the day of judgment,

**2:10** especially those who indulge their fleshly desires and who despise authority...