

Choose What Is Right: A Study in Discernment

Lesson 4-False Teachers, God's View, Our Response



Discernment is being able to tell the difference – from rightly handled, in context Scripture – between sound, biblical doctrine and false doctrine.

[Read Jude, 2 Peter 2](#)

Questions to Consider

1. Do you notice the similarities between 2 Peter 2 and Jude? Click [here](#) (***) and read the second paragraph under “Author and Date”. What might be the reason for some of the similarities? Make a two-column chart. Examine Jude and 2 Peter 2 side by side, verse by verse. (You may want to do this with two Bibles, two devices, or a split screen on your Bible app or device.) List the verses or phrases that are strikingly similar in wording and concept. What does each mean? Why might God have emphasized a particular verse or phrase by placing it in Scripture twice?

2. To what general group of people are Jude's (v.1) and Peter's (1:1) letters addressed? What is Jude's (3) appeal to the church? Why is he urging them to contend for the faith (Jude 4, 2 Peter 2:1-3)? What are some of the things that happen to a church when false teachers gain a foothold?

Do these epistles apply to you as a Christian, and to the church, today? Why? Have you (or your church) ever been urged by a pastor or teacher to contend for the faith? Why do you think that admonition is so lacking in the church and from Christian teachers today?

2. How does Jude (4a) describe false teachers entering the church? How does Peter (1) say false teachers will bring in destructive heresies? Compare this characterization to the way [these passages](#) (John 10:1, 2 Timothy 3:6, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15) say false teachers infiltrate the church and the home. What does this characteristic of sneakiness tell you about false teachers? Why aren't they just open and honest with Christians and the church about what they want to teach?

3. What do Jude (4, 13) and Peter (2:3, 2:17) say is the final destiny of false teachers?

Examine 2 Peter 2:4-10. Who are the godly people mentioned in this passage and how did God deal with them? Who are the ungodly who are listed, and how did God deal with each of them? Do these ungodly people include false teachers (2 Peter 2:10, Jude 8)?

What does this tell you about how God views false teachers? How He views and protects His faithful children?

4. What are Jude (8-9) and Peter (2 Peter 2:10b-11) telling us about [angels](#) (**), blasphemy and the [glorious ones](#) (**)? How does this reflect the pride and arrogance of false teachers?

What are Jude (10) and Peter (2 Peter 2:12) telling us about the ignorance of false teachers? Think about how the indwelling Holy Spirit illuminates (***) Scripture to the Christian. What might be one reason false teachers do not understand Scripture or how to properly handle it?

What is the significance of Jude's (11) comparison of false teachers to Cain (Genesis 4)? Of Jude's (11) and Peter's (2 Peter 2:15-16) comparison to Balaam (Numbers 22)?

Consider the imagery in Jude's (12-13) and Peter's (2 Peter 2:17) comparative metaphors to false teachers. What are the characteristics of each metaphor mentioned, and how do they apply to false teachers?

5. In your own words, write a brief summary of the character of false teachers according to Peter and Jude. Do you know of any pastors or teachers who could be described this way? Who, and why?

6. What does Jude (17-23) say about how we should respond to the types of teachers he and Peter are describing?

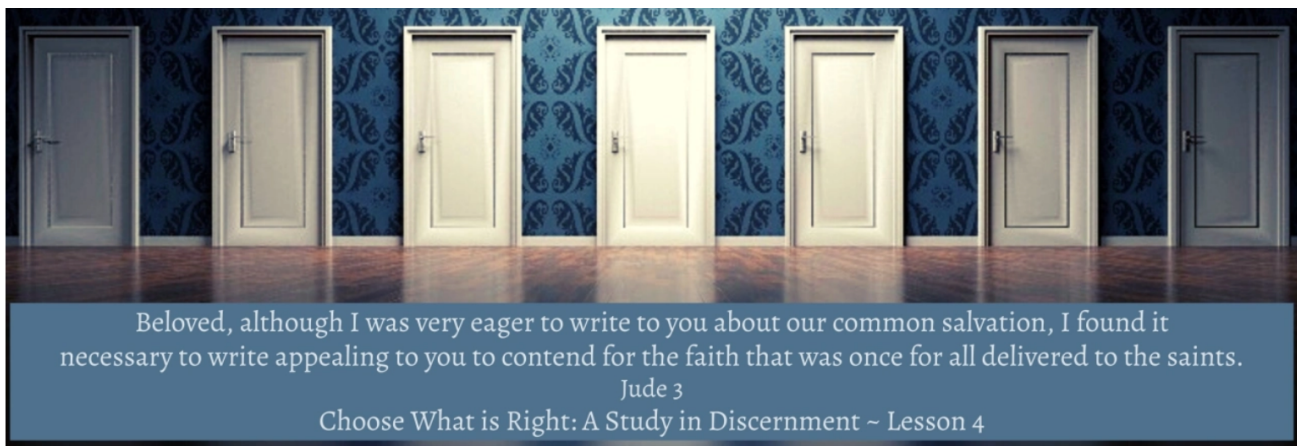
Homework

If you'd like a little extra study on these passages, check out:

[Wednesday's Word ~ Jude](#) (***)

[Living Stones: A Study of 1 & 2 Peter ~ Lesson 11](#) (***)

Suggested Memory Verse



<https://www.gty.org/library/bible-introductions/MSB65>

<https://www.gty.org/library/bibleqnas-library/QA0132/angelic-conflict>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/glorious-ones>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-illumination.html>

<https://michellelesley.com/2015/01/28/wednesdays-word-jude/>

<https://michellelesley.com/2020/04/15/living-stones-a-study-of-1-2-peter-lesson-11/>