



Terrorists in the Church: The Description, Danger and Doom of False Teachers (Part 2)

08112Pe2.1b(21)

2 Peter 2:1b



1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as also there will be false teachers among you who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth

will be blasphemed; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle and their destruction is not asleep.

– 2 Peter 2:1-3, As translated from the Greek New Testament by Tony A. Bartolucci.

The Passage is Also Found on Page 184 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

Example of chiasmic structure....

- A. NT Apostles (1:16-18)
- B. OT Prophets (1:19-21)
- B. OT False Prophets (2:1a)
- A. NT False Teachers (2:1b)

Chapter Overview:

- ❶ The Commencement of False Teachers (1-3a)
- ❷ The Condemnation of False Teachers (3b-10a)
- ❸ The Character of False Teachers (10b-22)

I. The Commencement of False Teachers (1-3)

A. Be Aware: False teachers in the church PARALLEL the false prophets of Israel (1a)

B. Be Alert: False teachers in the church operate COVERTLY (1b)

C. Be Separate: False teachers in the church _____ God (1c)

1. What does it mean that they *deny the Master / Despot* (despot s | δεσπότης) *who bought them*?

a. Issues, options and answers: (see page 2)

D. Be Patient: False teachers in the church are being _____ (1d)

Interpretational Options in 2 Peter 2:1
even denying the Master who bought them

<p align="center">The Apostates were once Genuine Christians*</p>	<p align="center">The Apostates were never Genuine Christians</p>				
<p><i>They were atoned for and redeemed by Christ.</i></p>	<p><i>This was their own confession</i></p>	<p><i>This was the charitable observation of others in the church</i></p>	<p><i>They were truly redeemed but not justified</i></p>	<p><i>They were atoned for but not redeemed</i></p>	<p><i>God purchased them (owned them) as He did Israel (cf. Gen. 32:6; 2 Sam. 7:23)</i></p>
<p>They forfeited their salvation by means of their apostasy.</p>	<p>This was their claim even though it wasn't grounded in reality.</p>	<p>This was how others in the church viewed them. Love demands that we give others the "benefit of the doubt" when it comes to their salvation.</p>	<p>They were redeemed in the sense that Christ died for them, purchasing them out of the slave market of sin. However, they never appropriated the gift by faith and were saved.</p>	<p>There are general benefits of Christ's death that all men receive while the specific benefit of redemption is limited to the elect.</p>	<p>Just as Israel was bought by God, the false teachers, who paralleled the false prophets of Israel, were His to do with as He wills. They were in rebellion against the Creator who owned them. Cf. 1 Peter 2:8.</p>
<p>The problem with this view is that it reads too much into the meaning of "bought" and violates the clear biblical teaching of other passages such as 1 Peter 1:1-9.</p>	<p>This view seems strained.</p>	<p>This view doesn't fit the context or the rest of Scripture. Apostates are not viewed as Christians, even in the judgement of charity. Cf. 1 John 2:19.</p>	<p>The problem with this view is that redemption in this sense is limited to the elect. Cf. Titus 2:14; Galatians 4:5; Eph. 1:7,14.</p>	<p>This view is a possibility. However, the concept of atonement (and the distinction between atonement and redemption) still has to be read into the text.</p>	<p>This view is consistent with Peter's use of OT imagery (he alludes to Gen. 32:6 here and in 2:13 he alludes to Gen. 32:5). This view is also consistent with the use of the word "despotes" (Master) and the fact that whenever redemption is used in the NT <i>salvifically</i>, there is a corresponding price stated such as the blood of Christ.</p>

* Another view (that isn't worth defending) is that the apostates were and are genuine believers who won't forfeit salvation but who will forfeit reward.