

2 Peter 2:17

by John Gill

The sermon warns against false teachers who appear to be ministers of righteousness but have nothing but error and iniquity in their teachings.

Scripture: Isaiah 66:24, Matthew 7:15, Mark 9:44, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Galatians 1:6-9, Ephesians 4:14, 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, 2 Peter 2:17, Jude 1:12

Topics: "Spiritual Discernment", "False Teachers"

Description

John Gill expounds on 2 Peter 2:17, illustrating the deceptive nature of false teachers who appear promising but ultimately provide nothing of substance, likening them to dry wells and clouds without rain. He emphasizes their ability to mislead through their outward appearances and empty promises, leading many into spiritual darkness and despair. Gill warns of their eventual judgment, which is described as a mist of darkness reserved for them forever, highlighting the seriousness of their error and the consequences of their actions. The sermon serves as a cautionary reminder of the importance of discernment in faith and the dangers posed by those who distort the truth.

Transcript

Ver. 17. These are wells without water,.... Which look large and deep, promise much, and have nothing in them; so these men looked like angels of light, transformed themselves as ministers of righteousness, had a form of godliness, and boasted of their great knowledge; promised great advantages to their followers, but were like deceitful brooks, or dry wells, and so disappointed those that came to them, and attended on them; having nothing but the filth and slime of error and iniquity, being destitute both of the grace of God, comparable to water, and of the truth of heavenly doctrine, which is like the rain that fills the wells, pools, and fountains.

Clouds that are carried with a tempest; these false teachers may be compared to clouds for their number, for many antichrists and false prophets soon came into the world; and for their sudden rise in the churches, into which they crept privily and unawares; and because of the general darkness they spread, for when errors and heresies prevail it is a dark and cloudy day with the churches, a day of gloominess and darkness, of thick darkness, a day of trouble, rebuke, and blasphemy; and because of the height of them, especially light clouds, as these are compared to, who are high in their own conceits and imaginations, and think, and give out themselves to be some great persons; and also because of their sudden destruction, which lingers and slumbers not, but comes upon them in a moment, and their glory

passes away like the morning cloud: and these may be said to be as clouds "carried with a tempest": of their own lusts and passions, by which they are governed, and are led, and carried away with the force of them, and have no power to resist them, being under the dominion of them, and captives to them; and of Satan's temptations, who works effectually in them, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, and being taken in his snare, are led captive by him at his will: Jude says, "carried about of winds", Jude 1:12, with every wind of false doctrine, like meteors in the air; are never at a point, always unsteady and unsettled, and ready to embrace every new and upstart notion:

to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever; the nature of their punishment is expressed by "darkness", the blackest darkness, the mist of darkness, and which Jude calls blackness of darkness, the same with utter darkness; and which signifies a most forlorn and uncomfortable condition, and is a righteous judgment, and just retaliation upon them who studied to darken counsel by words without knowledge; and the certainty of their punishment is signified by its being "reserved", even as the happiness of the saints, and the safety and sureness of it are represented by an inheritance reserved in heaven: and as God has his treasures, magazines, and stores of grace and mercy, felicity and glory, for his people; so he has his wrath and vengeance reserved, laid up in store with him, and sealed up among his treasures, which he will surely bring forth in his own time: and the duration of this punishment is "for ever"; it is a worm that never dies, a fire that is never quenched, Isa 66:24 Mr 9:44; it is everlasting fire and burnings, the smoke of which ascends for ever and ever.

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