

Wells Without Water

Introduction:

- I. Those who teach false doctrine have always been an abomination to God. They are, therefore, condemned throughout God's Word. One portion of God's Word that deals extensively with false teachers and their doctrines is 2 Peter 2. The general subject of the chapter is stated in its first verse

2 Peter 2:1

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

Three points are made in this verse: 1) *False teachers are to be expected today just as there were false teachers in times past.* 2) *That these false teachers would bring in damnable and destructive error.* 3) *These false teachers would most certainly be punished.* The design of this chapter is to illustrate these points. But before Peter continues, he sets forth a solemn warning to the disciples of Christ (ver. 2). Notice please that because of false teachers and the doctrine that they espouse, "the way of truth" shall be evil spoken of. That was true in the first century and it is still true today.

- II. Peter sums up the character of false teachers and the nature of their heresies in a rather emphatic way in ver. 17.

2 Peter 2:17

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. KJV

Doesn't this describe false doctrine perfectly? They are "wells without water." Imagine if you will, a man stranded in some uninhabited desert, walking under the heat of an intense sun, dying literally for a small sip of water. And finally, after hours of strenuous travel, he sees in the distance a water well. And so he somehow gathers his strength and runs to the well, only to find it without water. Imagine the disappointment. That well is useless. It gives hope of salvation, but it can't deliver. And in fact the man who sees it is worse off than before, because it simply reminds him of just how thirsty he is. Now, Peter tells us that this is the case with false teachings. It looks good afar off, and sometimes even up close. But in reality it is useless. It promises salvation, but instead it only delivers damnation. Let's look at a few false teachings that might be described as "wells without water."

Lesson:

I. Saved By Faith Alone.

That's a well that looks good, doesn't it? No works required. No effort necessary. No responsibilities to meet or obligations to keep. Simply believe in Jesus and that's all that's required. You don't even have to leave your home to be a Christian. Don't worry about letting your light shine. Don't worry about telling others about Jesus. Don't worry about attending some church service somewhere. Don't worry about giving of your means. Don't worry about partaking of the Lord's Supper. None of that is necessary. Just believe in Jesus and nothing else is required. The majority of denominations who claim to believe the Word of God as truth teach this doctrine. For example:

- Methodist – *“Wherefore that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort.”*
- Church of the Nazarene – *“...believers are to be sanctified wholly through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Baptist – *“All you have to do is believe and He will save you...”*

Now let me tell you this doctrine sounds good, it looks good, and even feels good, but it's a well without water! While the Bible talks about faith saving, it never talks about faith saving alone. We must work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12; Acts 2:40; Jas. 2:14ff). We must labor in order to enter into the rest of heaven after while.

Heb. 4:9-11 – “...Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

1 Cor 15:58 – “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

Any doctrine that suggests that obedience isn't part of being saved and staying saved is a well without water.

II. There Is No Hell.

We all know that Jehovah Witnesses believe and teach this doctrine. The person who is an atheist would also subscribe to this notion that there is no such place. Surprisingly, however, there are more and more mainstream religionists who are starting to preach this error. Homer Hailey, in a book entitled, "God's Judgments and Punishments" wrote, *“...Sodom and Gomorrah are set forth as an example of suffering the punishment of eternal fire...If they serve as an example, what do they teach except that those who*

suffer the punishment of eternal fire are TO EXIST NO MORE" (chapter 10). Now this sounds good, doesn't it? You see if there is no hell, there are no eternal consequences for sin other than a ceasing to exist. If there is no hell, preachers can stop preaching so negatively, and only accentuate the positive. If there is no hell, we can all eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die and cease to exist. If there is no hell we can do any thing, say anything and think anything we want to. Oh that sounds wonderful, doesn't it? But it's a well without water. It looks good from a distance, but up close one can easily see its futility. *It sounds good and feels good, but it leads to damnation.* You can believe there is no hell all you want to, but it won't change the reality of its existence. Truth is truth no matter what people believe or feel. It doesn't matter how many people think that the Bible doctrine of hell is too harsh. It doesn't matter how many people try to soften the truth by saying that the only hell is the grave and that people just cease to exist when they die. It doesn't matter how many say that the teaching of eternal torment is incompatible with the existence of a God of infinite love. After all of the arguments against hell are made, the truth of God's Word will still stand, and that truth is that you and I have a choice between two places of eternity and hell is one of those places. Now what kind of place does the Bible say that hell is going to be? It is first all going to be a place of outer darkness. Jesus said,

"But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt 8:12).

But that's not all! Hell is also going to be a place of intense and tormenting pain. Jesus said,

"So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matt 13:49-50).

The pain of hell will be unlike anything we can imagine. Someone said that hell is going to be a place that those therein can see, smell, breathe, hear and feel. If you end up in hell, you will be able to see the destruction thereof. You will be able smell the smoke, breath contaminated air, hear the cries of those around you and feel the everlasting pain. That's what hell is going to be like. Jesus calls it a furnace of fire.

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matt 13:41-42).

Now, who is going to hell?

1. Those who obey not the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
2. Those who live immorally (Rev. 21:8).
3. Those who do not live faithfully until death (Rev. 2:10).

Don't be deceived by the false teacher who says that there is no hell. It may sound good and give sinners a sense of relief, but make no mistake about it, it is as good and useful as a well without water.

III. **Cannot Fall From Grace.**

The impossibility of apostasy is a teaching that is vital to the doctrine of Calvinism. They believe first in *total depravity*, i.e., that man is so completely depraved spiritually that he cannot even believe in the gospel apart from a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. Then they believe in *unconditional election*, i.e., that God has unconditionally chosen certain individuals to be saved apart from the individual's own will, desire or actions. Then they believed in *limited atonement*, i.e., that Christ died only for a small group of people, i.e., those who were unconditionally elected, and no one else. Next they believe in *irresistible grace*, i.e., that those who have been predestinated to be saved cannot resist the grace of God for after all they have been specially chosen by God. Well what is the result of all these man made doctrines? It is what Calvinists call *perseverance of the saints*, i.e., saints cannot fall from grace. They sometimes refer to salvation like this: *there's nothing you can do to get it. But if you get it, you can't lose it, and if you lose it you never had it.* Well let me tell you it might be comforting to think that once you are saved you will always be saved no matter what, but it's a well without water. Every step of Calvinism is unscriptural and therefore wrong (*Totally depraved*- Ez. 18:19-20; *Unconditional election* – Matt. 7:21; *Limited Atonement* – Heb. 2:9; *Irresistible grace* – Gal. 2:20-21; *Perseverance of saints* – Gal. 5:4).

IV. **All False Teaching On Marriage Divorce and Remarriage**

It is a sad fact that around fifty percent of marriages today end in divorce. This fact has a great impact upon our society morally. We have more broken homes, single parent families and less discipline of children than ever before. We must put forth a greater effort in teaching our young people the importance of marriage and that it is not something that should be taken lightly. Marriage is to be a life long arrangement, not a temporary pact that last only as long as two can get along. If we do a better job at emphasizing the sanctity of marriage, there would be fewer divorces with which to contend.

But the fact is we live in a society of divorce and this practice, which God by the way hates, is becoming more and more prevalent among members of the church. And with the rise of divorce, both in society and among us, has

come a host of false teaching on the subject of divorce and remarriage. Some are teaching:

- All divorced people can remarry.
- The guilty person put away for fornication can remarry.
- The non-Christian who has been married and divorced can remarry after he or she obeys the gospel (non-Christians are not amendable to law of Christ).
- The Christian whose non-Christian spouse divorces him or her can remarry.

These are four of the leading false theories on this subject, but listen to me: they are all, every single one of them, wells without water. They may bring comfort and security to the mind of those who are divorced and remarried, but they are useless doctrines, good for nothing but to send people to a devil's hell. Why? They are useless because they all contradict the law of Christ on this issue (Matt. 19:4-9).

- ⇒ All can remarry (not worth refuting).
- ⇒ Guilty party (Rom. 7:1-4).
- ⇒ Non-Christians not amendable (Matt. 19:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- ⇒ Not under bondage (1 Cor. 7:15, 27, 39).

If you are in a marriage with someone other than your first husband or wife, you better make sure that your first marriage was dissolved because you put away your spouse for fornication. If not, and your spouse is still alive, you are in an adulterous relationship. That means you have no fellowship with God and you will go to hell if you die in your present condition. Repent! Get out of that relationship while you still can or else ye too shall likewise perish.

Conclusion:

False doctrines often sound good. But like that waterless wells, they cannot deliver what is hoped for. The thirsty body cannot be satisfied by a well without water, and false teaching cannot relieve the thirsty soul. Only the truth of God's Word can do that.