

## DENYING THE LORD

By Don Ward

2 Peter 2:1-2

*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

Warning the church that there will be unbelievers, atheists or various opponents of the faith would be like warning picnic goers there will be water when it rains. These types of warnings invariably have to do with dangerous heresies that will become accepted doctrine within (“among you”) the Christian religion. Dangerous precisely because they will pass as truth replacing the actual truth which will become “evil spoken of”.

Secondly, one need not think Christians will openly deny the Lord. Denial is not what they do but is, by revelation, the result of what they do. It would be bizarre for those who profess Christ to stand up and deny Christ. Where is the deception (“false prophets”) in that? They will not even consider that they are denying the Lord. But the heresy they teach and believe will, in truth, be a denial. Deception which is not deceptive deceives no one.

So what is Peter saying? Is this a warning of general heresy or does he have reference to a specific doctrine? Peter makes a direct reference to “denying the Lord that bought them”. Notice Peter does not say only, “denying the Lord” but “denying the Lord that bought them”. Now, how are Christians bought?

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed (ransomed – Strongs. I.e., bought) with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:18-19).*

*For ye are bought (to purchase, specifically redeem – Strongs. I.e., bought) with a price (1 Cor. 6:20).*

Our purchase price is the death of Christ and nothing less or nothing other. The “precious blood of Christ” does not have reference to bleeding but dying. “For the life of the flesh is in the blood . . . for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” (Lev. 17:11), “without shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb.9:22).

Behold, what do we have today and have had for centuries? The very thing Peter warned about. “Of course, he didn’t really die”, I was told. Of whom was he speaking and by whom was I told this? It was a young man who, along with his wife, had recently accepted Christ. He was speaking of Christ Jesus. The young man’s statement of faith is so common as to be recognized and accepted in churches everywhere.

When the bible deals with a subject it is very likely to have more than limited or brief significance. For those who know the truth the application should be obvious but often despised. They will go out of their way to defend those who hold the deception. For those who hold the deception, the truth it replaces is despised. This is not trivial pursuit.

However you want to say it the meaning is crystal clear. “Really, Jesus did not die”. “In reality, Jesus did not die”. Does the word “really” fool anyone? Does it change the meaning in any way? There is no other way to say it than to say it, “Jesus did not die”. “there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them”.

Considering the present circumstances of the church and the time of day, can anything be more relevant? The time is long past to mince words for whatever justification is given.