"False Teaching is Still Alive and Well" (Part 2) 2 Peter 1:19-2:3a & Jude 1:3-23

- False Teachers 101:
 - There will always be false teachers and you need to avoid them at all costs.
 - False teachers are "among us" or within the Body of Christ. They claim Christianity but are not Christians (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
 - The most severe rebukes in Scripture are for those that mishandle the Word of God (Galatians 1:9; 2 Peter 2:1 & 3 & 21; Jude 1:13; Revelation 22:18-19). Satan twists the Word of God, (Matthew 4:5; Genesis 3:1-5) so we should handle it properly as God's children (2 Timothy 2:15).
- Marks of a false teacher:
 - They teach destructive heresies (a religious opinion or doctrine that is not found true according to God's Word).
 - They will approve of sinful behavior in people's lives to gain support and power.
 - Their lives bring shame to Christianity when they are exposed.
 - They will tell you what you want to hear for financial gain.
 - They are given to sexual sin and despise God's authority (2 Peter 2:10; Jude 1:4 & 8 & 12 & 16-18).
 - Their teaching does not focus on holiness but instead focuses on worldliness and temporal gain (2 Peter 2:2; Jude 1:18-19).
 - They have no fear of God and/or His judgment (2 Peter 2:9-10; Jude 1:14-15).
- How are we protected against false teaching?
 - What is grace?: The unmerited love and favor of God.
 - <u>The grace of God's Word:</u> We must know it, study it, treasure it, memorize it, follow it, and be thankful for it.
 - <u>The grace of biblical preaching</u>: Preaching saves, sanctifies, builds faith, protects, patiently teaches, exposes our hearts, encourages submission, and reminds us of God's promises.
 - <u>The grace of sanctification:</u> By God's grace we will grow in mercy, peace, and love (Jude 1:2 & 22-23).
 - <u>The grace of contending for truth:</u> The Word of God is truth and truth is worth fighting for because of the importance of what is on the line (Jude 1:3 & 23).
 - <u>The grace of sharing the gospel:</u> We have been called to fight for people's souls by sharing truth and being patient with those who doubt and struggle (Jude 1:22-23).
 - <u>The grace of prayer</u>: Pray according to God's Word and pray that people will see truth (Jude 1:20).
 - <u>The grace of sight:</u> Ask God that you would have eyes to see and hear truth, and the faith to persevere (Jude 1:21).
 - <u>The grace of perseverance</u>: God has promised to keep you from stumbling and keep you blameless for His glory (Jude 1:24-25).
 - <u>The grace of living for God's glory</u> (Jude 1:25).

Worship: How Great Thou Art (Various Artists) Heart of Worship (Matt Redman)