**Faith Foundations 2022-2023**

**The Catholic Epistles, Part 2**

**Session 3—2 Peter 2:1-10a**

**In the second chapter of Peter’s second epistle, the apostle gets to the heart of his reasons for writing the letter: denunciations and warnings against false teachers. At the end of chapter 1, Peter drew attention to the prophetic Word of God as found in the Scriptures as being the only infallible testimony concerning God and His Son Jesus Christ. He drew a contrast between the words of men and the words of the Scriptures, which come ultimately not from their human authors, but from the Holy Spirit Himself. Having established the authority of the Scriptures, Peter then turns his full attention to those who teach contrary to them.**

**Read 2 Peter 2:1-3. About what does Peter warn his readers?**

**Is this a new problem for the people of God? Why or why not?**

**What will these people try to do?**

**What will happen to those who engage in this sin?**

**Will they have any success in what they are trying to do?**

**These three verses serve as an introduction to chapter 2 and its theme. Peter will spend the entire chapter denouncing false teachers and urging his readers to reject them.**

**Read 2 Peter 2:4-10a. Which three examples from biblical history does Peter cite in these verses?**

**Read Revelation 12:7-12. How does this account illustrate God’s judgment upon those who rebel against Him?**

**Read (or just skim) Genesis 6:1-9:17. How does this account illustrate God’s judgment upon those who rebel against Him, and His grace toward those who repent and believe?**

**Read (or just skim) Genesis 18:20-19:29. How does this account illustrate God’s judgment upon those who rebel against Him, and His grace toward those who repent and believe?**

**What point is Peter making with these biblical examples? How do they serve as both warning and encouragement to Christians?**

**What are the two most “serious” sins that Peter mentions in verse 10? How do the three examples from the text illustrate these particular sins?**

**Peter clearly does not have anything good to say about false teachers. They lead the people of God astray, and they will be punished for their rebellion against Him. But Peter wasn’t done denouncing false teachers yet; he still had some other choice words to say about them. We will continue to read Peter’s less-than-flattering portrayal of them for our next session.**