

“LAST DAYS LIVING”

2PETER 1:15-3:18

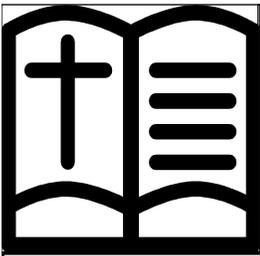
I. THE DESTRUCTIVE ART OF UNBELIEF

1 Peter 1:15-21

- A. *The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination... ..producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.*
- B. *Peter and the apostles had seen and experienced a personal revelation that was consistent with thousands of years of previous revelation; They witnessed it as absolute truth and shared it in the whole world*
- C. *The people to whom he was writing had received it as truth especially when backed by supernatural confirmation; they would be facing enormous opposition to this revelation intended to bring doubt and rejection of it*
- D. *Unbelief is to ignore the revelation as unimportant to one’s life; at its worst, it is the refusal to consider or be persuaded that revelation has any value to anyone*
- E. *With the growing arrogance of rebellion against the revelation, comes the creative use of the unenlightened imagination to create new forms of worship and awe - the art of unbelief*

II. WARNINGS OF THOSE WHO WILL OPPOSE TRUTH

- A. *The arrival of false prophets*
 - 1. *False prophets are God’s way of purifying*



the faithful and revealing the phonies.

- 2. Many who have professed faith in Christ will follow them causing the Way to be criticized*
- 3. The tools in their deceptive, destructive tool kit are diverse, appealing to the imagination and/or the baser elements of men*
- 4. Their judgment by God is certain*
- 5. Warning believers to recognize the patterns and avoid these prophets completely*

B. Scoffers in a couple of categories

- 1. Mocking the second coming of Christ*
- 2. Denying the past records of judgments*
- 3. Denying any knowable truth*
- 4. Setting up alternate systems of “truth”; taking away any possibility of peace*
- 5. Persecuting those who stubbornly follow the old ways*
- 6. Their judgment is also certain*

III. CALLING BELIEVERS TO A FOCUSED LIFE OF FAITH

- A. Know the ways of God: Why does He wait? Why does He not crush His detractors? Why does He not come to our aid?*
- B. Know sincerely what He has said is ahead*
- C. Don't get pulled into the lies no matter how convincing they seem to be! Back to the Garden*
- D. Use biblical discernment for all information*
- E. Be diligent to focus on Christ; practice what He taught us; live peacefully; trust God; desire Him*