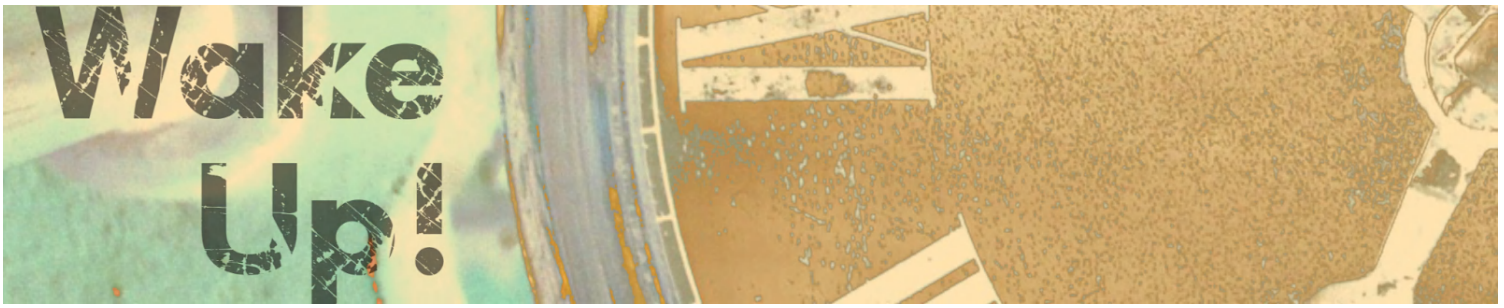


Connect Together

What does it mean to be "bold" nowadays? How is it either beneficial or unfavorable? Why is a right understanding of "bold" important, especially today?

Lesson Verses - 2 Peter 2:4-16 (CSB)

4 For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell
and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment; 5
and if he didn't spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of
righteousness, and seven others, when he brought the flood on the world
of the ungodly; 6 and if he reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to
ashes and condemned them to extinction, making them an example of
what is coming to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot,
distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral 8 (for as that righteous
man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by
the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 then the Lord knows how to
rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under
punishment for the day of judgment, 10 especially those who follow the
polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority.

Bold, arrogant people! They are not afraid to slander the glorious ones; 11
however, angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring a
slanderous charge against them before the Lord. 12 But these people, like
irrational animals—creatures of instinct born to be caught and
destroyed—slander what they do not understand, and in their destruction
they too will be destroyed. 13 They will be paid back with harm for the
harm they have done. They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad
daylight. They are spots and blemishes, delighting in their deceptions
while they feast with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery that never
stop looking for sin. They seduce unstable people and have hearts trained
in greed. Children under a curse! 15 They have gone astray by abandoning
the straight path and have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Bosor,
who loved the wages of wickedness 16 but received a rebuke for his
lawlessness: A speechless donkey spoke with a human voice and
restrained the prophet's madness.

Study & Apply

1. a. What is the reason that Peter is using these Old Testament examples? (v.9; Romans 8:38-39; Psalm 3:1-4)

   b. Why is God righteous in not sparing those who perished? (v.13; Genesis 18:25; Deuteronomy 32:4; Romans 1:32)

   c. Since we are all unrighteous sinners, why does God still save us? (Romans 5:6–10; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 1:10)

APPLY: Notice how Peter shows that God is able to rescue us in sticky situations by recalling His acts and promises. If someone said to you, "God could never help me!" What would you say the Bible teaches? What Biblical examples would you talk about?

2. a. How are the unrighteous portrayed in these verses? Is this going too far? Why or why not? (Romans 9:14-15, 20; Mark 7:20-23; John 8:44)

   b. What incredible wrong have they done? (2 Peter 2:1-3; Romans 1:18-21)

   c. How do we know that God has mercy on them? (And also should never say, "I hope they burn in hell!") (2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11; Psalm 86:15)

APPLY: How can we protect ourselves while trying to restore those who teach a false doctrine? (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17-18)

Discuss & Share

Hell is no joke. Yet, God does not take pleasure in the suffering of the wicked. Remember: What does God think? (Question 2c) How does knowing this bring passion and power to you personally, for sharing the gospel?

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.
Pray for the salvation of someone you know needs Jesus.