

our concepts in this discussion. There is no place else to which we can hopefully return. We must at all cost avoid the danger of neglecting the Word of God.

- III. Conclusion: We might conclude with Paul's advice to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16---*to keep ourselves and the doctrines. The gist of this is to keep oneself in the Word of God. No, it does not tell us everything but it gives us guidance in every area and plenty of explicit instruction as well. It will not teach you how to repair your car but it will teach you how to treat another when you repair another's car. In the face of all other things, pay attention to the Scripture.*

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### **MESSAGE # 3: BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE MISLED**

Biblical passage: 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22

#### **I. Introduction to the Study:**

This chapter in 2 Peter is one of those "tough" chapters in which evil forces are brought to light with the intent being that the Lord's people should be able to identify them and not be involved in their evil ideas and/or schemes. The passage is marked with identifications that are not always clear to us although the outcome of evil working is very plain. The descriptions are graphic and the text sounds more like the pronouncements of the Hebrew prophets on the troublers of the people in their time. But the warning is a serious one for those who are opposed to God are always on the scene and make evil look good to the extent that God's people are sometimes "taken in". The spiritual character of these deceivers is seen very well in verses 1, 11, and 20-21. I think the persons described are not in any real sense *members of the Christian community* but I do not doubt that some of them presented themselves that way. The positive thrust of the chapter is that those who are the Lord's should keep themselves for Him and not allow any exterior force to challenge their loyalty or commitment. *The danger lies in being misled, the answer lies in following the Lord*

- II. Discussion: Our thinking turns on these points...points that will keep us from being misled.

#### **A. Follow the Lord -v 1 "the Lord who bought them"**