

# *Satan's Greatest Attack on the Church*

II Peter Series – Part 3

Scripture text – II Peter 1:12-21

## Introduction

- There is widespread agreement that Christianity was at its best during the \_\_\_\_\_. Thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ were sent out. There was also a proliferation of \_\_\_\_\_ ministries.
- In light of this, Satan launched his greatest \_\_\_\_\_. He created a counter-movement called “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- This counter-movement represented a direct attack on today's text.

## Background to the Passage

- By the end of Peter's life, the churches had become infected with false teaching. Specifically, the false teachers disagreed with the apostles that Jesus was coming \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The false teachers said the apostles were making this up in order to compel people to follow their strict code of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Peter's Two Responses

- Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> response was that he was an eyewitness to Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_. This event was a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' future glory & exaltation.
- Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> response was that the apostles' teaching was consistent with what the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ taught.

## Anticipating an Objection

- Peter immediately anticipated the false teachers' claim that the Old Testament prophets were making things up and had \_\_\_\_\_ imaginations.
- On the contrary, Peter insisted the prophets “*spoke from \_\_\_\_\_ as they were carried along by the \_\_\_\_\_.*”
- This also applies to the \_\_\_\_\_ (see II Timothy 3:16).

## Human & Divine

- There is no more important question for a church than what it believes about the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Just as Jesus is both \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_, so is the Bible.
- It's the divine part that gives the Bible its \_\_\_\_\_.

## The History of Theological Liberalism

- The father of theological liberalism is Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834). He was a pioneer of the academic discipline known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Regarding the Bible, Schleiermacher argued:
  1. The Bible is solely a \_\_\_\_\_ book.
  2. The Bible is not historically \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The sole value of the Bible are its \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ teachings.
  4. However, morality & ethics are constantly \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. The final authority is human \_\_\_\_\_.
- By the mid-1900's, Schleiermacher's thinking (theological liberalism) had captured a large segment of Protestant Christianity, especially within the 7 \_\_\_\_\_ denominations.

## Application

- Process is important, but this is primarily a \_\_\_\_\_ issue for our church, probably the most important of the past 30-plus years.
- We have to decide who we \_\_\_\_\_ with.