

Description Of False Teachers

2PE 2:12 But these [false teachers], like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

1. "Unreasoning animals"

- a. They existed only for the desires of the flesh.
- b. They are like brute beasts.
- c. They gave no thought to spiritual things except to use them for their own desires.

2. **"born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed"** - Since they have lowered themselves to the level of beasts, these false teachers determined their own destiny would be the same.

3. **"Reviling where they have no knowledge"** - Evil men are most often ignorant of God and His word.

4. **"will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,"** - NIV "like beasts they too will perish."

2PE 2:13 suffering wrong [punishment] as the wages [reward, pay back] of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains [blots] and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse [feast along] with you,

1. **"suffering wrong as the wages [reward, pay back] of doing wrong"** - McCord "And receive the wages of wrongdoing."

- a. They may have suffered some temporal punishments.
- b. They brought upon themselves spiritual death. (Rom 6:23).

2. **"They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime"**

- a. Most evil people hide their shameful deeds in the darkness. (Eph. 5:11,12; 1 Thess. 5:7).
- b. They had no shame of their evil, vile deeds.
- c. Some today do not have shame day or night.

3. **"They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse [feast along] with you,"**

JUD 1:12 These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

a. Jude maintains that they practiced their evil at the "love feast." The best manuscripts do not have "love feasts" in 2 Pet. 2:13.

b. These were fellowship meals the early Christians enjoyed together. See 1 Cor. 11:33; Acts 20:11.

2PE 2:14 having eyes full of adultery [an adulteress] and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable [weak, untaught] souls, having a heart [expertly] trained in greed [lust, coveteousness], accursed children;

1. **“having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin”**

a. Greek has literally has “eyes full of an adulteress.”

b. They lusted after every woman they see. (Matt. 5:27, 28).

c. Lust is a violation of the commandment “Thou shall not commit adultery.” (Exod. 20:14).

2. **“enticing unstable [weak, untaught] souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;”**

• Lit. “children of cursing.” “They are under God’s curse.”

• “Children of a curse.” YLT

a. They were trained in greed. NIV “they are experts in greed”

b. Christians should develop maturity to the point they can distinguish good from evil. (Heb. 5:14), but the “unstable souls” were easily led astray. It was like taking candy from a baby.

c. It is serious to lead others astray. (Matt. 18:6).

3. They were “children of cursing” which is a Hebraism meaning they were children of cursing, that is, they were a curse to all whom came in contact with them, and were under God’s curse.

“The Way Of Balaam”

2PE 2:15 [deliberately] forsaking the right [straight, upright] way [the way of truth and righteousness] they [the false teachers] have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the {son} of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness [wickedness], Num. 22:5, 7; Num. 22-25. See 2 Pet. 2:3 - Greed

• “kataleipo” [ka ta lay’ po] - “leave, leave behind, abandon”

• “euthus” [you thoos’] - “straight, right, upright.”

1. **“forsaking the right way they have gone astray”** - Their departure was deliberate and motivated by money and lust.

2. **“having followed the way of Balaam, the {son} of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness [wickedness],”**

a. He sought to curse the people of God because of his desire for reward promised to him by Balak. (Num. 22:27).

b. Through the influence of Balaam the Israelites committed immorality with the daughters of Moab. (Num. 25:1-9; 31:16).

Note: Balak, king of Moab, realized he could not defeat Israel and asked Balaam to curse Israel.

2PE 2:16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression [evil-doing]; {for} a dumb [speechless] donkey, speaking with a voice of a man [human voice], restrained [checked] the madness [folly] of the prophet. Num. 22:21-31.

1. **“he”** [Balaam] received a rebuke for his own transgression [evil-doing]”
2. **“A dumb donkey”** -
 - a. God empowered the donkey to speak to Balaam.
 - b. He was rebuked by the donkey in a human voice when an angel blocked the way.
3. **“restrained the madness of the prophet”** Gr. “paraphronia” [pa ra fro nee’ a] - “madness, folly, insanity.”

Note: For this sinful of teaching Israel to curse themselves by committing fornication he was killed by the sword in the conquest of Canaan. (Num. 25:1-9). Worse than that he lost his soul.

2PE 2:17 These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black [the gloom of] darkness has been reserved.

1. **“springs without water”** - They make promises that do not materialize. They are like a spring that once gave water but is dry in time of thirst.
2. **“and mists driven by a storm”** - This is a promise of rain without fulfillment. These are examples to emphasize these false teachers do not keep their promises.
3. **“for whom the black darkness [of hell] has been reserved.”**

2PE 2:18 For speaking out arrogant {words} of vanity they entice by fleshly [lustful] desires, by sensuality, those [new converts] who barely escape from the ones who live in error [and delusion],

1. “oligos” [o lee’ gos] - scarcely, barely
1. **“For speaking out arrogant {words} of vanity they entice by fleshly desires”**
 - a. They lead young or new Christians back into immorality.
 - b. It was easy to prey on the weak ones who had just come out of paganism.
2. **“by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,”**

Promised What They Did not Have

2PE 2:19 promising them freedom [liberty] while they themselves are slaves of corruption [depravity, defilement]; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

- They convinced the new converts they had lost their freedom.
- They convinced them that freedom meant the lusts of the flesh were right to fulfill outside of marriage and any way they chose.

1. **“promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption”** - depravity, lust and passions.
2. **“for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.”**
 - a. NIV “for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.”
 - b. Men become slaves to countless things - power, money, lust, drugs, fame, etc.

Backsliding

2PE 2:20 For if after they have escaped the defilements [corruptions, pollutions] of the world by the [saving] knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them [taken into a net or trap] and are overcome [by Satan and sin], the last [final] state has become worse for them than the first.

1. **“after they have escaped the defilements of the world”**
 - a. There was a time when they had “escaped the defilements of the world.”
 - b. There is no hint of the time frame that preceded their return to the defilements of the world.
2. **“by the [saving] knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,”** They had evidently been converted, but turn from the right way.
3. **“they are again entangled in them [defilements] and are overcome”**
4. **“the last [final] state has become worse for them than the first.”**
 - a. They are past redemption is the basic idea. (Heb. 6:6; 10:26-30).
 - b. NIV “They are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.”
 - c. There is no hope of them being saved.
 - d. Sin had utterly enslaved and defeated them. They had calloused, seared hearts.

2PE 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness [grace and truth and uprightness], than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment [the gospel, teachings of Christ and the apostles] delivered to them.

1. **“For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness”**
 - a. “the way of truth” (2 Pet. 2:2).
 - b. “the right way” (2 Pet. 2:15).
2. **“than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment [the faith, the gospel commandments] delivered to them.”**
 - a. Those who spurn the Lord and turn away from Him are harder, if not impossible, to bring back to the faith.
 - b. They may return to even a more corrupt state than before their initial conversion.

- c. "the holy commandment" refers back to what is included in 2 Peter 1:3.
3. Peter is not describing every believer who is overcome by sin.
- a. Many can be restored if they come to their senses.
 - b. It is urgent that we seek to restore them before their hearts become too hardened by sin. (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19, 20).

"The True Proverb"
Two examples Of Returning To The Unclean

- "paroimia" [pa roi mee' a]- by-word, proverb, adage." (2 Pet. 2:22).
- An obscure saying, enigma. (Jn. 16:25, 29).
- Parable, similitude, discourse. (Jn. 10:6).

2PE 2:22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, {returns} to wallowing in the mire [mud]."

1. **"A dog returns to its own vomit,"** -"Like a dog that returns to its vomit Is a fool who repeats his folly." (Prov. 26:11).
 - a. This disgusting action parallels what these apostates were doing.
 - b. They had come to Christ and the way of righteousness, but then returned to their uncleanness.
 - c. They were not satisfied with leaving Christ for mud, but were intent on getting others to join them in the mud of corruption.
2. **"A sow, after washing, {returns} to wallowing in the mire."**
 - a. Like a hog that has washed but which returns to his own wallow, so is the Christian who returns to his old, sinful environment.
 - b. He will become defiled again and his end will be death unless he repents.
 - c. There was virtually no hope of this person repenting.
 - d. He/she is forever lost because of a lack of repentance.

Some Concluding Thoughts

1. There have always been false teachers.
 - a. They are inside and outside the church.
 - b. We must especially watch those in the church. (Acts 20:28-30).
2. False teachers do great harm to themselves and those who are duped by them.

3. False teachers are sometimes obvious, and sometimes not so obvious. (Matt. 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).
4. False teachers most often know they are false.
 - a. Matt. 7:15; 2 Pet. 2
 - b. False teachers will never call themselves “false teachers.”
 - c. Many warn against false teachers that causes people to think they are true.
5. Sincere false teachers can destroy us with their poisonous doctrines.
 - a. The sincerity or lack of sincerity of the teacher does not diminish the danger of a poisonous doctrine or doctrines.
 - b. One who denies the humanity of Christ, the Deity of Christ, the resurrection, the importance of coming to Christ, etc. will cause us to lose our souls if we accept their corrupt doctrine.
6. False teachers will be punished by God and so will their victims unless they repent. (Lk. 13:3, 5).
7. We must be concerned about false teacher, but we must not spend all our time fighting them.
8. It is vital that we proclaim the gospel to the whole world. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19, 20).
9. Let us follow “the way of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:21).
10. This way is found in the scriptures. (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

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