

STUDY NUMBER FIVE

"Here's How They Look" - 2:10-22

Key Verses: 2:17,18 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved. For they are speaking high-sounding but empty words. They are enticing by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error

TEXT:

v.10 And especially those who are going after the flesh in corrupting desire and who are caring nothing for authority. Presumptuous, stubborn, they are not trembling when they are defaming those in exalted positions.

v.11 Whereas angels, who are greater in might and power are not bringing a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

v.12 But these, like unreasoning animals, having been born as creatures of instinct to be caught and killed, reviling where they are having no knowledge; shall in their destroying surely be destroyed

v.13 Suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They are counting it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they are feasting together with you;

v.14 Having eyes that are full of (desire for) an adulteress and unceasingly looking for sin; enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

v.15 Leaving the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

v.16 But he received a rebuke for his own transgression; for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man; restrained the insanity of the prophet.

v.17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved.

v.18 For they are speaking high-sounding but empty words. They are enticing by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error

v.19 Promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man has been defeated, by this he has been enslaved.

v.20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again being entangled being

Judy Kelloqg
in her Musical Master Plan

Lucifer Son of The Morning Sings

If I were the king of the Great Gathering of hosts
what kind of a king would I be?

If I were the prince of the hosts of this heaven
How would I rule if given the key?

I have the Charm, the looks and the grace,
I have the wisdom, the words and the face
to be someone special, adored by the rest;
I'm sure I could do it if put to the test.

I'd sit on the throne with superior air
with posture erect and an occasional glare,
I'd show them how I could be... debonair!
While ruling with the utmost of care.

If I were the king of the Great Gathering of hosts
The best kind of king I would be.

If I were the prince of the hosts of this heaven
Then all of the Angels would bow down to me!

overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.
v.21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment which was delivered to them.

v.22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A dog returns to his own vomit, and a sow, having been bathed, to its rolling in the mire.'

INTRODUCTION:

We have been studying together 'How to Win the Game of Life; Written by One Who Did.'

- Offense* { 1. In study #1 we've considered "Here's What You Have"
2. In study #2 "Here's What You Do"
3. In study #3 "Here's How I'll Help"
- Defense* { 4. In study #4 "Here's What You're Going to Face"
5. And now in study #5: "Here's How They Look"

Satan's Men

Howard Hendricks in his book Elijah says, "While waiting for my father in his office at the Pentagon some time ago, I picked up a military journal and began to read a fascinating article by Gen. Douglas B. MacArthur, entitled 'Requisites for Military Success.' He stated four such requisites:

1. First, there must be morale, a will to win. There must be an esprit de corps. There must be a cause worth dying for.
2. Second, there must be strength. An army must have capabilities in terms of adequately trained and well-equipped personnel.
3. Third, there must be an adequate source of supply. Life lines must be kept open.
4. The bulk of the article was devoted to the fourth: In order to win, an army must have a knowledge of the enemy. And General MacArthur made this statement: 'The greater the knowledge of the enemy, the greater the potential of victory.' He traced this principle through military history, beginning with General Joshua and ending with the North African campaign in the second world war

N.F.C. Computer football - Know how you will react on any given play!!
Satan has a computer print out on us And how we
will react in any given situation ... Strengths & weaknesses

where Rommel was finally defeated because of the successful work of counter-espionage. ^{To here} This principle has its parallel in the spiritual realm. Paul knew that, for he told the Corinthians that he did not want Satan to gain an advantage over them. And then he adds the reason: 'For we are not ignorant of his devices.' We are not in the dark as to how the enemy operates. And the greater the knowledge of the enemy, the greater the potential of victory."

* 2 Cor. 2:11

"In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

In these verses under consideration from verse 10 down to the end of the chapter, we have a full description of the criminals. We have what to look for.

This is a full description of the thief or the robber or the criminal.

II Cor. 11:13-15

*We Are Going to be looking At Some Game films
Satan's Men in Action*

v.10 And especially those who are going after the flesh in corrupting desire and who are caring nothing for authority. Presumptuous, stubborn, they are not trembling when they are defaming those in exalted positions.

Back in verse 9 of the previous study we have read, "The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (or temptation) and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished."

And now he speaks of this punishment of the unrighteous more specifically when he says, "And especially." That is, he is going to single out a certain group at this point. "And especially those":

1. "Who are going after the flesh in corrupting desire"

Romans 1:32

"And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

They are going after the flesh in corrupting desire, that is, the wrong use of desire, the illicit sex or the homosexual are demonstrations of the corrupting of desire, and

He's Got A special Judgment For The homo sercots

2. "Who are caring nothing for authority"

Who demonstrate to win the right to justify their sin - - -

Romans 1:30

"They are slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents."

Judges 21:25

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

"Presumptuous, stubborn, they are not trembling when they are defaming those in exalted positions."

3 John 9,10

"I wrote something to the church but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and he forbids those who desire to do so, and puts them out of the church."

English points out, "So high-minded these false teachers are that they do that which angels greater than they in power and might would never do. They assume that they know more than God about running the universe,"

*Especially
Sure did i in
Sodom & Gomorra h
Rained Fire &
Brimstone on
their Parade*

and they speak evilly of them that rule. They consider themselves above and not accountable to authority and government in direct contradiction to the teaching of God's Word. Somehow I think the reference goes above earthly powers to the powers in the air, of speaking slightly, for example, of the power of Satan himself, not in trembling but daringly, which the angels themselves dare not do. He, having been created by God. It is the Lord who will judge such false teachers, presumptuous as they are. It is the Lord who will vindicate himself, not today, but in that future day when He himself shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels and flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Barclay points out, "There is a reason for this loss of proportion, and the reason is nothing other than selfishness. The root evil of the lust-dominated life is that it proceeds on the assumption that nothing matters but the gratification of its own desires and the expression of its own feeling. It has ceased to have any respect or care for others. It has erected itself in the center of the picture. Selfishness and desire go hand in hand. The bad man is the man who has allowed one side of his nature a far greater place than it ought to have, and who has done so because he is essentially selfish and completely inconsiderate of others."

Nothing matters!!
Critical Spirit
lauder instead of support...
Acts 4:12
They Are defaming Those in exalted positions!!

J. Vernon McGee points out, "They are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. The word for dignities is actually glories. They speak evil of that which is sacred, that which is holy. Isn't it interesting that men take God's name in vain. They don't take the city's name in vain or their boss's name in vain or the name of some people they hate. But they take God's name in vain. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignities, of glories, of this order that God has established in His universe."

Alb. N.M.
Ronald Reg
Ralph Nade
O! Buddha, Shinto, Confucious

DeHaan points out, "Peter went on to say that these godless leaders were not afraid to speak evil of dignities. This means that they maligned the superiors to whom

they were responsible. Had they accepted the fact that God takes note of everything man says and that He will one day hold him accountable, they would have been more cautious. In sharp contrast, we are reminded that angels who are greater in power and might are careful not to speak disparagingly of their superiors. In the parallel passage Jude said that when Michael the archangel disputed with the devil over the body of Moses, he dared not bring against him, that is, Satan, a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

v.11 Whereas angels, who are greater in might and power, are not bringing a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

Peter used angels as illustrations in the last study in chap. 2:4

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them down into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, being reserved for judgment."

Peter describes the angels as "greater in might and power," and even though they are in this position, they "are not bringing a reviling judgment against them before the Lord."

McGee points out, "The false teachers are lifted up with pride and they do something that angels don't dare to do. In the little epistle of Jude we find that Jude gives a specific instance of this when Michael the archangel was disputing with Satan about the body of Moses. You see, the devil didn't want Moses to appear later in the promised land at the transfiguration of Jesus, so there was some dispute. God buried the body of Moses. And Jude tells us that Michael would not bring a railing accusation against the devil, but he simply said, 'The Lord rebuke thee' (Jude 9).

"This is a spirit that we need to manifest today: A spirit of humility in the sense that we turn all of this over to God. It is pride that causes us to speak as we do. When I hear someone sometimes, even a Christian,

Never take vengeance into your own hands...

talking about the devil, ridiculing him and calling him names, I have to say that Michael the archangel wouldn't do that; and if Michael, exalted as he is, wouldn't do it, a little man down here on earth needs to be very careful."

Offensive -
weapon is the
word
Defensive -
weapon is the
shield of faith

Giddy little songs: "I don't care what the devil's going to do!"...
underestimate Power of the enemy

v.12 But these, like unreasoning animals, having been born as creatures of instinct to be caught and killed, reviling where they are having no knowledge; shall in their destroying surely be destroyed

Peter now uses an illustration to describe these false prophets. They are like unreasoning animals. That is, they are controlled by their desires rather than intelligent thought, having been born as creatures of instinct.

They are born to be caught and killed, according to Peter.

"reviling where they are having no knowledge"

Rebecca Pipert Confronting the College intellectual!

A man without the facts has no right to an opinion.

The prophetic end to those who are doing these things "shall in their destroying surely be destroyed."

They are destroying unity and love within the body of Christ, and this is not going unnoticed by the Lord. They will ultimately be destroyed as well.

They are destroying love, beauty and holiness. And in the process, they too shall surely be destroyed.

v.13 Suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They are counting it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they are feasting together with you;

Lives that have all the potential in the world to be beautiful!

Examined All The Original documents of Christianity...
① Read the Bible Record.
② Studied well the life of Jesus.
③ Evidences for the existence of God.

"Suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong." One is reminded of Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Galatians 6:7

"Do not be deceived; God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

We would ask the normal question: What are they doing wrong? The apostle then outlines five things in the remainder of this verse and verse 14 that they are doing wrong:

#1

1. The first thing that is mentioned is THEY ARE COUNTING IT A PLEASURE TO REVEL IN THE DAY TIME.

Peter, in making defense for those who were manifesting the phenomenal signs at the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:15 says,

"For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day."

These false teachers are drinking and carrying on during the day time hours when they should be at work, constructively involved in the tasks that are at hand.

#2

2. THEY ARE STAINS AND BLEMISHES, REVELING IN THEIR DECEPTIONS, AS THEY ARE FEASTING TOGETHER WITH YOU;

They are phony and hypocritical, as Peter describes them, and they are carrying on, going through all the religious motions without a relationship. They are associating themselves without the acceptance of Christ.

Classic illustration in Judas Iscariot !!

All day Drinking long!!

Galatians 2:4

"But it was because of the false brethren, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty, which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage."

v.14

Having eyes that are full of (desire for) an adulteress and unceasingly looking for sin; enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

#3

3. The third description of these false teachers is in v.14: HAVING EYES THAT ARE FULL OF (DESIRE FOR) AN ADULTRESS AND UNCEASINGLY LOOKING FOR SIN.

2 Tim. 3:6

"For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women, weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses."

Matt. 5:27-29

"You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her, has committed adultery with her all ready in his heart. And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you. For it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

#4

4. ENTICING UNSTABLE SOULS

It is an amazing thing how so many cults and religious groups that are caught up in error feast on the unstable souls, that is, the new converts who have not had a chance to really get established. It seems like the heretics just delight to feast on the unstable souls.

"Lord, This is Gilbert" - - -

John & Liz

Ministerial Student: Sure picked A convenient Time to do this didn't he?

Sowing the seed before it takes root...

5. The fifth description that Peter gives is
HAVING A HEART TRAINED IN GREED.

Namaan + Gehazi

*what can I Get rather than what
can I Give --*

1 Tim. 6: beg. at v. 5

v. 5 And constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

v. 6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

v. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

v. 8 And if we have food and covering with these, we shall be content.


v. 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

v.10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil; and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

v.11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

He makes a summary outburst here in conclusion: "accursed children."

Weisiger points out, "The Libertine era fostered sins of speech, lust and greed. The person who yields to these sins may be said, in the beginning, to possess them. Later they possess him. He is their slave. They have a terrible grip or fascination. Four marks of deep slavery to sin are:

- 
1. Rationalization
 2. Shamelessness
 3. Abandonment
 4. Seduction of others

The Libertines rationalized their sin by teaching that which was false. They lost all sense of shame and counted it pleasure to riot in the daytime. Their eyes were full of adultery; that is, they were so unrestrainedly

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abandoned to sin that they could not look at a woman without lascivious ideas in their imagination. Sinful practice is like a groove cut in a record, in which the needle is stuck. It plays and plays its monotonous tune. Nothing is more terrible to behold than the final bondage of a wicked old man or a wicked old woman who leaves this world confirmed in the vilest mouthings and practices."

Use This!!
William Barclay says, "If a man dedicates himself to these fleshly pleasures, if he makes them his only joy, in the end he so ruins himself in bodily health and in spiritual and mental character, that he cannot even enjoy them. To put it quite simply and bluntly, the glutton destroys his appetite in the end. The drunkard ruins his health. The sensualist destroys his own body. The self-indulgent ruins his own character and his own peace of mind. The man who dedicates himself to these things is seeking for pleasure. For a while he might enjoy what he calls pleasure, but in the end he ruins his health, wrecks his constitution, destroys his mind and character, and begins his experience of hell when he is still upon the earth. It takes more and more of them to satisfy. The luxury must become even more luxurious. The wine must flow even more freely. Everything must be done to make the thrill sharper and more intense. Further, a man becomes less and less able to enjoy them. His physical capacity and his physical ability to enjoy such things in the nature of things declines. He has given himself literally to a life that has no future, and to a pleasure that ends in pain."

"All the mischief we have wrought,
All forbidden things we've sought.
All the sin to others taught,
Forgive, O Lord, for Jesus' sake."

Tom Westwood points out, "Peter is presenting here the sad and awful indictment of the apostate teachers whose destructive heresies eventually turn the professing church into a veritable cesspool of iniquity. It is undoubtedly descriptive of the same character of moral corruption that characterizes the last stage of the church described to us in the end of Revelation chapter 3, the church of Laodicea. It is a citadel of proud pretention,

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self-sufficiency and arrogance. The Lord addresses that church in a striking manner when He says,

*** { "So then because you are ~~neither~~ lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

v.15 Leaving the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

John 14:6 "The right way!"

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man comes to the Father but by Me."

"they have gone astray"

Isaiah 53:6

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Peter now uses an illustration here of Balaam from the Old Testament. "Having followed the way of Balaam" and his family background: He is the son of Beor. And he is characterized as one "who loved the wages of unrighteousness."

Back in verse 13 we had the phrase "suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong." And now the word wages again occurs here as that which Balaam loved, the wages of unrighteousness.

We already know what that is, according to Romans 6:23

"The wages of sin is death."

J. Vernon McGee points out, "Balaam is mentioned three times in the closing books of the New Testament:

- * 1. In 2 Peter it is "the way of Balaam."
- * 2. In Jude it is "the error of Balaam."
- * 3. And it is "the doctrine of Balaam" in the book of Revelation.

Each one is different. What is the "way of Balaam?" Peter says he is the son of Beor who loved the wages of unrighteousness. Balaam knew that he should not go and prophesy against Israel. But he loved the price that was being offered to him. Therefore, the way of Balaam is the covetousness of one who does religious work for personal profit." it is what can I get more than " " " give...

#5 This ties into the fifth characteristic in verse 14 "having a heart trained in greed."

v.16 But he received a rebuke for his own transgression: for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man; restrained the insanity of the prophet.

Balaam received a rebuke for his own transgression in this situation. Then Peter speaks about how this happens: "for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the insanity of the prophet."

He calls selfishness insanity

God uses the animal creation to accomplish His purposes in this circumstance.

Isaiah 1:3

"An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know. My people do not understand."

★ J. Vernon McGee points out, "Someone has said that in the old days it was a miracle when a jackass spoke, and now in our day, it's a miracle when one of them keeps quiet. This jackass spoke to Balaam and rebuked him because of his covetousness."

"My friend, I believe that you can judge the religious racketeer by his standard of living. A friend of mine heard me make the statement that people should check up on radio broadcasters and see what kind of homes they live in and what cars they drive. He thought I was wrong to have made a statement like that but he decided to check up on one man. He found that man living in a very costly home with two cadillacs parked in front and an expensive swimming pool behind it."

v.17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved.

The false teachers are characterized in two ways here:

1. They are "springs without water."

John 4:10

"Woman At the well"

"Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him; and he would have given you living water.'"

John 4:13ff.

"Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst. But the water that I shall give him shall become unto him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'"

John 7:37ff

v.37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried out, saying, If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

v.38 He who believes in me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

v.39 But this he spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Psalm 32:3,4

David

"When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away, through my groaning all day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me. My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer."

Numbers 21:17

"Then Israel sang this song: Spring up, O well, sing to it."

Isaiah 58:11

"And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden; and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."

Hosea 13:15

"Though he flourishes among the reeds, an east wind will come, the wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness; and his fountain will become dry, and his spring will be dried up."

*Lord, I have to speak And I feel so dry, what shall I tell them?
Tell em. Your dry !!*

2. The second characteristic in the 17th verse is "AND MISTS DRIVEN BY A STORM, FOR WHOM THE BLACKNESS OF THE DARKNESS HAS BEEN RESERVED."

J. Vernon McGee points out, "As a boy, I lived in West Texas, although we left there in the third year of a three-year drought. I can remember when we would go into the fields and chop cotton. Believe me, in those days cotton didn't grow well in that country even if there was rain. But sometimes late in the afternoon big thunderheads, big clouds, would gather overhead,

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and there would be lightning. We'd think, My! We're going to have rain. But we didn't have rain. How dry it was. Many people are following false teachers who are like that. They are wells without water. They are like clouds, beautiful clouds. Oh how tremendous it is to see and hear these folks. They are very impressive but there is no water in the well and there is no rain in the clouds. People are thirsting today for the word of God, and yet it is not being given to them."

The reservations for eternity have already been made. The blackness of the darkness has been reserved for them.

In Matthew 22:13 and Matthew 25:30 Christ speaks of casting into outer darkness those who have not responded properly to that which He has commanded.

v.18 For they are speaking high-sounding but empty words. They are enticing by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error.

I have chosen verses 17 and 18 as the key verses in study #5 "Here's How They Look."

"These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved. For they are speaking high-sounding but empty words. They are enticing by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error."

They are betrayed, first of all, by their speech. They say a lot of high-sounding things but their words are empty of truth.

Secondly, by their actions they are enticing by fleshly desires and by sensuality those who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error.

No water in the well!!
No rain in the clouds!!

-17-

Back in verse 15 we learned that "they are leaving the right way, and they have gone astray," and here in verse 18 we are learning that they are "living in error."

J. Vernon McGee points out, "These false teachers use beautiful, flowery language. They soar to the heights oratorically, speaking in basso profundo voice."

You will notice it says, "Who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error." In other words, they haven't made it yet. But they are endeavoring to do so but still trapped by words and actions from these teachers to keep them enslaved.

One of Satan's instruments from the very beginning has been desire.

Genesis 3:6

"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."

Matt. 4:3,4

"And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

1 John 2:15,16

"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father but is from the world."

The unstable souls of verse 14 are those who are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error in verse 18.

The chains of illicit love will bind you forever in its slavery !!

We hear so many stories today of those who were in the process of escaping from Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple and from Garner Ted Armstrong and from Mormonism and from Moon and a host of other religious cults and isms.

David Kores

hardest thing in the world to do is to admit that you have made a mistake . . .

v.19 Promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man has been defeated, by this he has been enslaved.

They have been defeated by their own desires, and thus they are slaves of them.

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

These false teachers are promising freedom but they themselves are slaves of corruption.

There are four things said about these teachers:

1. They speak with high-sounding words.
2. They entice by fleshly desires.
3. They are living in error.
4. And they are promising freedom while they themselves are slaves.

The last phrase in the 19th verse is a key phrase: "for by what a man has been defeated, by this he has been enslaved."

Ecclesiastes 4:5

"A fool folds his hands and ruins himself."

if it whips you, you are its slave

can't control it, it's got you !!

Paul says: I will not be a slave of any . . .

2:7 Righteous hat worn down

Taking
Steps to
disengage

Peril of the Unsundered Will

You can be
Pinned to the
Canvas in Pride
Too! Talk To
Jacob About
That!!

-19-

For by

defeated

by

enslaved

You can define the words 'what' and 'this' in this phrase and you will have what it is that had defeated a man and what it is that he is enslaved to. Perhaps a man has been defeated by bodily appetites, sex, sleep, and steaks. By these very things also he has been enslaved.

Don Sanders
Guilt,
Negative Thinking
Unsundered
Will

Perhaps a man has been defeated by strong drink. Also by this he has been enslaved. I Corinthians 6:12 "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything."

v.20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again being entangled, being overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

We noticed in verse 18 that "they are just about escaping from the ones who are living in error." And now it says, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world" and we can assume those who are living in error; and they did this "by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Lot's of Good Moral Guys who have
No relationship w/ X.

This does not say that they have entered into relationship with Him but they have an awareness of the facts of the Gospel. Then it goes on to say, "they are again being entangled, being overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first."

2 Tim. 2:3,4

"Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."

McGee points out, "These apostates have a head knowledge of Christ. They know the truth but have no love of the truth. They reject what they once professed and become enslaved in some sort of corruption."

Seed has been Snatched Away!!

they know About Christ but they don't know Christ!!

Guy in Austin... All-American Altar boy!!

v.21

For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment which was delivered to them.

v.22

It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A dog returns to his own vomit, and a sow, having been bathed, to its rolling in the mire.'

"For"

The reason it is worse for them in the last state than the first is because it would have been better for them, negatively, not to have known the way of righteousness than, having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment which was delivered to them.

Back in chap. 2:1 we realize that these false prophets were those who were denying the Master who purchased them. Here they are turning away from the holy commandment which was delivered to them.

When you hear: + you are held Accountable!!

Xians - Jc. 1:22; Matt. 2:1
Non-Xians

By an act of the will they chose not to receive Christ. What is the holy commandment?

Luke 10:27

"And He answered and said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.'"

Matt. 7:13,14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction; and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

Luke 9:23

"And he was saying to them all, If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

James 1:22

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."

The words 'entangled' and 'overcome' in verse 20 nullify chap. 1:3,4 if they actually come to faith and salvation,

*** { "Seeing that His divine power has generously given to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by means of His own glory and virtue, through which things He has generously given to us His precious and exceeding great promises, in order that through these we might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the destruction in the world caused by desire."

Judas Iscariot, King Agrippa, Pilate, and the rich young ruler, all are illustrations of those who chose to turn away from the holy commandment which was delivered to them.

"Many" + "the Few"

John 3:7

"You must be born again." — Divine Imperative

In verse 22 we read, "It has happened to them according to the true proverb."

Then there are two illustrations from nature that are given in this proverb:

1. A dog returns to his own vomit.
2. A sow, having been bathed, to its rolling in the mire.

The Scriptures never refer to the believer being a dog or a sow, but only a sheep. And Peter knows this well because on three occasions in John 21 the Lord had told him to feed, to care, and to tend the sheep.

One writer says, "Here we have the parable of the prodigal pig versus the parable of the prodigal son."

The Lord tells the story of the Good Shepherd !!
Not the healthy dog !!
Nor the washed pig !!

2 Cor. 5:17

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."

chap. 1:4

"Through which things He has generously given to us His precious and exceeding great promises, in order that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the destruction in the world caused by desire."

2 Peter 2:9

"The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (or temptation) and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished."

1 Peter 1:15

"But like the holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior."

2 Cor. 7:1

"Therefore, having these promises beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Glasgow points out, "He warns against turning back from the holy commandment and shows that such is spiritual treason; declares that their hidden heart is not that of the lamb which, though it may fall into the mire, will never abide contented there, but is the heart of a sow which gladly returns to her wallowing in the mire or the heart of a dog turning again to his own mire. The nastiness, the pollution, the degradation of sin needs to be fairly and frankly faced by God's people. To speak of sin as the error of mortal mind, toning it down with effeminate and bloodless language is

to insult God, both in His mental and moral capacities, and to mark ourselves as an easy and willing prey to our most relentless and direst foe: Satan himself."

Jowett points out, "Maintain your alliance with the Lord and you are secure in a health which keeps your enemy at the gate. Let your alliance become loose, and your moral repulsion grows faint. I offer no argument to prove it. The proof is found in common experience. "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present evil world." Yes, but before Demas had forsaken Paul, he had broken with the Lord, and then he swung back in mighty drift towards the world. When he had willfully rejected the help of the heavenly energy, he succumbed to the gravitation of the world."

Matt. 12:43-45

"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came. And when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself. And they go in and live there. And the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."

English points out, "These were never children of God. There is no evidence of regeneration in them in this whole passage. We are not told that they were redeemed. Their conduct is shrieking evidence of the fact that they were not. We read that they have the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but He is not spoken of as their Lord and Savior. They may know the way of righteousness as revealed in God's Word, but the life which is offered in that way and its fruit, they know not, for they have never believed in Christ and the blood of the cross. They have never received Him as Savior and Lord. Finally, the very words of the proverb quoted by the apostle clearly show that he was not referring to those who are the redeemed of God. Christians are never spoken of in God's word as dogs or sows. They are sheep. So beloved by the Good Shepherd,

who gave His life for them, that He will never allow them to be plucked from His hand; but by the Father's power, He keeps them. And in Him we are accepted in the beloved, children of God by faith. No sheep will do what this dog is said to do. Nor will it do what the sow does. These of whom the apostle was writing have never been born again. They have escaped the outward pollutions of the world as one who has reformed, but they have never escaped, most apparently, the corruption which is in the world by lust. It would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness, for having known it and having turned their backs upon the holy commandment delivered unto them, to repent and to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to be saved. Their judgment will be the heavier because their responsibility is the greater. We cannot turn the page without this word, herein heed the warning of the Spirit of God."

William Barclay points out, "So Peter ends with contempt. These evil men are like dogs who return to their vomit (Proverbs 26:11), or like a sow which has been scrubbed and then goes back to rolling in the mud. These men have seen Christ but they are so morally degraded by their own choice that they prefer to wallow in the depths of sin rather than to climb the heights of virtue. It is dreadful warning that a man can make himself such that, in the end, the tentacles of sin are inextricably around him, and virtue for him has lost its beauty."

Richard DeHaan points out, "Profession of faith in the Savior isn't necessarily possession of salvation." Not all who claim to be Christians are born again followers of Christ. A person who denies the Lord Jesus after having made a profession of faith in Him and turns away to his wicked way of life very likely was never saved in the first place. Jesus informed His disciples of this possibility when He said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21-23).

As long as a person thinks he is good enough to earn his own salvation or feels he can contribute something to merit its attainment, he isn't ready to place his trust in Christ. If he doesn't come to the Lord Jesus as a helpless and condemned sinner, acknowledging his need for cleansing and forgiveness, he will never be

saved. My father, Dr. M. R. DeHaan, used to say, You've got to get a man lost before you can get him saved. By that he meant that a person must come to the place that he realizes his inability to save himself before he will cast himself totally upon God's mercy as revealed in Christ."

John 13:18ff

"I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen. But it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, He who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me. From now on, I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. Truly, truly, I say to you, He who receives whomever I send, receives me. And he who receives me, receives Him who sent me. When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit and testified and said, Truly, truly I say to you, that one of you will betray me. The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. There was reclining on Jesus' breast one of His disciples whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter, therefore, gestured to him and said to him, Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking. He leaning back thus on Jesus' breast said to Him, Lord, who is it? Jesus therefore answered, That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him. So when He had dipped the morsel, he took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. And after the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Jesus therefore said to him, What you do, do quickly."

Tom Westwood points out, "Both the dog and the sow in Scripture are used as emblems of the unregenerate man and his natural propensities toward filth and evil. None of the Lord's truly redeemed ones are ever likened either to a dog or a sow. The beautiful emblem which the Lord uses for his own is that of a sheep. How wonderfully He impresses upon us too that He knows His sheep and that He is the Good Shepherd that gives His life for the sheep."

Nisbet points out, "They have proved themselves never to have been inwardly renewed as the true sheep of Christ are but only by their baptism and profession to have externally renounced their vileness whereunto they are now returned again after the custom of dogs and swine, according to that true proverb which is made use of in Scripture (Proverbs 26:11). They who after external reformation and great profession of holiness be returned to and continue in their renounced sins, do thereby give evidence that they were never inwardly or really changed in their nature. For these of whom the apostle speaks here being still dogs and swine were only washed externally and did vomit up by confession and seeming renunciation their filthy practices, to which they did return again."

Harry Ironside quotes from Charles Haddon Spurgeon who well said on one occasion, "If that dog or that sow had been born again and had received the nature of a sheep, it never would have gone back to the filth here depicted. The dog is used as a symbol of false teachers on more than one occasion in Scripture. The sow is the natural man who may be cleansed outwardly but still loves the hog wallow, and as soon as restraint is off, he will go back to the filth in which he once lived."

Smedes in his book says, "He knows our motives, our plans, our excuses, whatever it is, He knows. Nietzsche wrote a story about a man who, in desperation, killed God. They asked him, Why in the world did you kill God? The answer: He knew too much. This is bad news to know that He is your judge. I am sure this is the reason that we have gone through the 'God is dead' era so that it can free man from any moral restraints or responsibilities and ultimately to any accountability for a life lived by desire, as has been described in these verses.

One guy wrote during that era that he was "sorry about your God being dead because I talked to mine this morning."

Khrushchev says, "I talk about God but I am really an atheist. Oh, yes, I'm a real atheist. God knows I am an atheist."

Grady Nutt in his book So Good, So Far says, "Back to the parable of the prodigal for a moment. One of the overwhelming moments of sensitivity in the story comes when the loving father consents to the prodigal's departure for the far country for points unknown. Not for one moment do I doubt that the loving father spent many nights out behind the barn punching fenceposts. You do not take hands off your beloved child, watch him walk into certain pain and disillusionment without punching fenceposts. That is what made him a loving father. He granted his son the freedom to learn from his own mistakes, and then loved him all the more when he made his own mistakes.

There is a poster on the wall of my Sunday School class that says, God does not say, I love you if...God says, I love you, period. That about says it all. But I have seen parents continue to place guilt and hurt and disappointment on their children in order to bend their wills and direct their lives. I have known middle-aged folks still controlled by parents who are retired. But what about this one? The gray in her hair was put there with the paintbrush of my misery."

In his book The Right Stuff by Tom Wolf he points out, "Sometimes at Edwards they used to play the tapes of pilots going into the final dive, the one that killed them; and the man would be tumbling, going end over end in a 15-ton length of pipe, with all aerodynamics long gone, and not one prayer left and he knew it; and he would be screaming into the microphone, but not for Mother or for God or ^{some} ~~the~~ nameless spirit of ahor, but for one last hopeless crumb of information about the loop. I've tried A, I've tried B, I've tried C, I've tried D. Tell me what else I can try! And then that truly spooky click on the machine. What do I do next?! In this moment, when the halusian gulf is opening, and everybody around the table would look at one another and nod ever so slightly, and the unspoken message was: Too bad, there was a man with the right stuff."

8 Lessons

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The false teachers are living above authority and controlled by desire.

LESSON #2: They have association without acceptance; religion without a relationship.

LESSON #3: The false teachers spend a lot of time on new converts.

LESSON #4: The false teachers are characterized by greed or covetousness.

LESSON #5: They are promising freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption.

LESSON #6: By what a man has been defeated, by this he has been enslaved.

LESSON #7: It is better not to have known than to have known and turned away from the way of righteousness.

LESSON #8: The dog and pig represent people who have never become sheep.

The apostle has been giving us the rules for the road by one who proved that they work:

1. First, we have been checking the equipment to see that we have everything we need for a life of godliness.
2. We've talked about the training schedule and the seven areas of development.
3. We've received the coach's counsel, that he is going to remind us of our duty on every convenient occasion.
4. We have discussed 'Who is our opponent?'
5. And this week we have been looking at their films.

Now that we know what they look like and who they are, we can be preparing ourselves for the wonderful truths that await us in chapter 3.

Don Francisco sings a song called "The Steeple Song":

I don't care how many buses you own, or the
size of your sanctuary.
It doesn't matter how steep your steeple is,
if it's sitting on a cemetery.
I don't care if you pave your parking lot or
put pads upon your pews,
What good is a perfect picture stage if you're
missing all your cues?
I don't care if your pastor's super-powered and
your program is always new.
What you need is love and truth; men are going
to come to you.
It doesn't matter if you know the Bible, if it's
all just in your head.
The thing I need to ask you is, Have you done
the things I said?
Do you love your wife? For her and for your
children are you laying down your life?
What about the others? Are you living as a servant
to your sisters and your brothers?
Do you make the poor man beg you for a bone?
Do the widow and the orphan cry alone?

I don't care if you pray for miracles.
I don't care if you pray in tongues.
I don't care if you've said you love me in
every song you've sung.
It doesn't matter that your sacrifice of praise
is loud enough to raise the dead.
The thing I need to ask you is, Have you done
the things I said?

Do you love your wife? With all you've got
inside you, are you laying down your life?
What about the others? Are you living as a
servant to your sisters and your brothers?
Do you make the poor man beg you for a bone?
Do the widow and the orphan cry alone?
Lord, when were you a prisoner that we didn't
come to you?
When was it that we saw you sick that we didn't
follow through?
Every time you turned your head and pretended
not to see.
If you did it not to the least of these, you
did it not to me!

It would be well for us to be reminded of what the real
and the genuine looks like in contrast to what we have
just seen.

Rebecca Manley Pippert in her book Out of the Salt-Shaker
and into the World gives the concluding illustration
in her book in this way: "That is what God is like--
He is the One who walks alongside. And that is what
he calls his children to do. Regardless of age, tempera-
ment, fears, inhibitions, he bids us to feed his sheep.

What will we look like? We will look like a man I have
only heard about. When I first came to Portland, Oregon,
I met a student on one of the campuses where I worked.
He was brilliant and looked like he was always pondering
the esoteric. His hair was always mussed, and in the
entire time I knew him, I never once saw him wear a
pair of shoes. Rain, sleet or snow, Bill was always
barefoot. While he was attending college he had become
a Christian. At this time a well-dressed, middle-class
church across the street from the campus wanted to develop
more of a ministry to the students. They were not sure
how to go about it, but they tried to make them feel

welcome. One day Bill decided to worship there. He walked into this church, wearing his blue jeans, tee shirt and of course no shoes. People looked a bit uncomfortable, but no one said anything. So Bill began walking down the aisle looking for a seat. The church was quite crowded that Sunday, so as he got down to the front pew and realized that there were no seats, he just squatted on the carpet, perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, but perhaps unnerving for a church congregation. The tension in the air became so thick one could slice it.

Suddenly an elderly man began walking down the aisle toward the boy. Was he going to scold Bill? My friends who saw him approaching said they thought, 'You can't blame him. He'd never guess Bill is a Christian. And his world is too distant from Bill's to understand. You can't blame him for what he's going to do.'

As the man kept walking slowly down the aisle, the church became utterly silent, all eyes were focused on him, you could not hear anyone breathe. When the man reached Bill, with some difficulty he lowered himself and sat down next to him on the carpet. He and Bill worshiped together on the floor that Sunday. I was told there was not a dry eye in the congregation.] ← To have

This is the real stuff !!

The irony is that probably the only one who failed to see how great the giving had been that Sunday was Bill. But grace is always that way. It gives without the receiver realizing how great the gift really is.

As this man walked alongside of his brother and loved him with all that he had received from Christ's love, so must we. This man was the Good Samaritan. He made Bill feel welcome, feel as if he had a home. So he also knew the secret of the parable of the Prodigal Son: there finally is a homecoming because we really have a home to come to."