

A Practical Study of 2 PETER:

A Winner's Game Plan

“What It Takes to Break the Tape”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all Grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Study Number Five – “Here’s How They Look” – 2 Peter 2:10-22

If you’ll turn to study #5: “Here’s How They Look”—chapter 2, verses 10-22.

Our key verses that we are going to focus on in this one is verses 17 and 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.

I don't know of any couple of verses that more graphically describe the destiny of the lost. When you look at that, what a sobering, sobering picture.

Judy Kellogg had a little musical back a number of years ago called "The Master Plan." And she titles one of the songs "Lucifer, the Son of the Morning"—referring to Satan.

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 the heavens
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.

(source unknown)

She has preserved Isaiah 14 and the fall of Satan and all of those other angels that fell.

You know, the thing that has been such a revelation to me, being a student of prophecy for over 50 years and wondering about some things. I've wondered often how humanity could be so deceived that they would yield the leadership. They would give over themselves and their future to someone who is so graphically described as wicked, evil, and has a completely different agenda.

And you know, just through this last election I've seen the charisma. The charisma without character results in chaos. And when you have so many of these people in our country that are so deceived and who care nothing about biblical truth or care nothing about what somebody believes, when you entrust them with leadership.

And I'm not trying to be critical or grind an axe. It's one of those things where we're responsible to pray for the leaders of our land and we do. And we hope we're going to survive all of this. But deep in my heart I now understand how the man of sin can step on center stage, Satan's man of the hour, and have all of these things begin to take place.

Isn't it interesting that Peter has talked to you personally about what you have in the Lord Jesus Christ? And then he's talked to you about not being content and that's not a terminal experience. It's just the beginning. It's a growing relationship in those 7 things we talked about.

And then for Peter to slip alongside us and say “Even though I’ve got a short fuse and I’m going to die, I’m going to help. I’m going to serve you. I’m going to try to prepare you for what’s coming ahead.”

In these last verses that we’re going to have, you’re going to see the help. He’s going to really talk about some prophetic truths. I’m so excited to get to talk to you about the truth from the prophetic scriptures because many of you have never had any kind of teaching or understanding of what we’re expecting and why we are where we are, and where are we going, and what’s going to happen. We’re going to try to answer a lot of those things in the next study.

And then what he said this morning, “here’s what you’re going to face.” He began to draw a picture of the wicked world and of the evil that is there. And now he just continues to pick up on that. And here’s what he’s telling us how they look.

Whereas we’ve been talking in the first three studies on the OFFENSIVE WEAPONS we have to live the Christlike life, basically. We’ve turned in these verses in study 4 and this one to the DEFENSE. Now we’ve got to know the enemy in order to be prepared to be victorious.

Someone asked me this morning if I had a deep love and appreciation for Howard Hendricks. And he, of course, is the man that every Dallas Seminary graduate loves, respects and appreciates for the tremendous passion that he brings to the

classroom.

Howard tells the story about his father who worked in the Pentagon for years. And he was waiting for his dad one afternoon and there was a book by General Douglas MacArthur laying on the table. And this is what he began to read:

Requisites for Military Success. There are four such requisites:

1. First, there must be morale, a will to win.
2. Secondly, there must be strength.

Now, I'm not reading the whole thing. Of course, morale means you're willing to die for it and so and so forth. I'm just giving you the main points.

3. Third, there must be an adequate source of supply. The life links between the supply and the troops are so critical.
4. Fourth, the bulk of the article was devoted to the fourth. In order to win, an army must have a knowledge of the enemy.

And he concludes the article by saying:

The greater the knowledge of the enemy, the greater the potential for victory.

He went on to track through military history those four principles.

(source unknown)

And you know that's true in almost everything in life. The more you know about what you're getting ready to do, the better chance you have for being successful in what you are endeavoring to try to accomplish.

Well, when we come to this particular section, you become kind of, well I say, a little bit apprehensive. Those three illustrations this morning about God's swift judgment on angels and then God's swift judgment in the flood, and God's swift judgment in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah kind of make you think I wonder if He's still just as swift and whether He's going to be here very soon.

Boy I'm telling you, I wake up every day thinking the possibility that He might split the skies in our lifetime. What a wonderful, wonderful thing.

There's a verse of scripture in 2 Corinthians 2:11 that would set the stage for my thoughts with you this afternoon.

2 Corinthians 2:11

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

Now, when you have the knowledge of the enemy, then you're prepared ahead of time for what you're going to face. What is his modus operandi? Well, we know he hates us. And what

else is new as far as our world?

Hasn't that been a shock to you? Ever since 9-11, that people actually hate us enough to want to kill us? And we haven't done anything to them. We haven't been ugly. We haven't been mean. But see, the whole problem is the majority of Americans don't believe that. They still think "Oh ya, if we just sit down with them and talk to them real nice, everything's going to be ok." That's being blinded by Satan himself.

There's a great lady journalist, I wish I had her name. She's written a book called *For Those Who Hate*. It ought to be required reading for everybody. She lived in Lebanon and she and her parents were wounded during the Lebanon attacks back a number of years ago. She became a commentator for Al Jazeera network because she could translate into English. She has since come to the United States of America to tell her story but there aren't many who are listening to what she has to say.

So if you get a chance to read that book, that would help you. It would give you a greater knowledge of what we're facing. That's a whole issue, by the way, that I personally could not fit into Bible prophecy for the longest time. I always thought that the old school would say that there would be an ecumenical religion that would be the enemy—some dominant movement, some big massive religious movement that would be against all conservative evangelical Christianity.

Well I was right in one sense but in another I was not prepared that Islam was probably going to be that. Just because of the fact that there is no common relationship between the two.

Now I say that but I also say this, there are more Muslims coming to Christ today than ever before in the history of the world. There are thousands and thousands of Muslims coming to Christ in Iran. You say “īran” I say “ēran.” There are house churches and Bible classes. In Iraq it’s the same way but those stories never get back to us.

If you want to read a great book and you want to be right up to speed, read Joel Rosenberg’s book *Revolution Now*.

Now, it’s one of those that’s beyond my measure of thickness but I thank God I spent the four weeks reading it because it really, really encourages you from the standpoint that Jesus Christ is on the move and lives are being changed.

Now, what we need to do today in this time together is to get a full description of the criminal. We need to have a picture of who it is that we’re facing and what’s trying to happen.

Remember those verses I gave you yesterday? Second Corinthians 11:13-15?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers,

transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ; and no marvel, for Satan himself has been transformed as a minister of righteousness. And those who work for him as well, whose end shall be according to their works.

That's the kind of picture of Satan's men in action. Now, here we go. That's the basic little thought that you'd put over these verses because they're very sobering but they're very real too. Now you'll have a better understanding.

Verse 10.

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,

Now, that's the beginning of this study. But the last verse we had last time, let me read it because it puts it in context.

2 Peter 2:9

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

That was the last verse we had in our session this morning. But notice, he says:

“and especially...”

When he uses that term, he is singling them out, recognizing who their father is and describing the whole picture for us.

And especially what?

“those who are going after the flesh in corrupting desire...”

Well I just wrote HOLLYWOOD all over that. I thought that would pretty well cover that little thought.

But it’s a “corrupting desire” you notice that? It’s not the normal, natural desire. So what would you expect? You’d expect we would kill babies so we kill the evidence of our sexual infidelity.

You would expect that men would burn for men and women would burn for women. We saw that in Sodom and Gomorrah. Romans 1:32 says it:

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.

Does that sound like today? It really does. And it makes you

feel like you're just kind of old fashioned and out to lunch. And you know, when you get up in your 70s it even gets a little bit worse. You think you've been passed by the whole thing.

But isn't it interesting that he says "especially"? It's like there's some things that God really hates.

In Proverbs 6, you've got those 6 things that he hates and we don't like to look at that list because he says "Oh by the way, there's 7." And of course pride is number one on the list. And we have talked about the struggle that we each have about being so selfish and being into ourselves rather than being what He would want us to be.

"especially"—sure, it did happen in Sodom and Gomorrah. It did rain fire and brimstone. But in the future day He's got a special judgment for these folks.

That ought to make you shiver in your shoes. But it doesn't make them feel that way. They just consider it's an old book with traditions and irrelevant to the present day society. You don't have any basis for any kind of sound discussion scripturally with them because they don't see any authority in the truth.

And look at that next phrase:

"who are caring nothing for authority."

Woo! Boy that really fits the scene.

Do you remember that last verse in Judges?

Judges 21:25

Everyone did that which was right in their own eyes.

In other words, they were living under their own authority. There was no authority over them and they didn't want any authority over them and they were doing what they wanted to do. That verse ends one of the most horrible pictures of immorality and sin in those last three chapters of book of Judges.

Romans 1:30

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

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

They don't care! And they just live it the way they want. They're blasé about it. And they don't care what anybody else thinks is what you have described there.

You say, “boy I'm sure glad that doesn't happen in the body of Christ.” Whoops!

Third John 9 & 10 describes the same kind of a character in

Diotrephes:

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'm going to 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.

Boy, any of us that are in ministry can tell you that the devil's in the church too. And he's working in the hearts of people. And some of the hardest things we have in ministry is people who are so much opposed to just a simple teaching of the truth of the Word of God.

And it's not an agenda. It just shows up in different places. I find so many times some of these older folks are just frustrated because they never got to go into the ministry, now they want to make up for lost time and go in and run it. And that makes it so hard to pastor and to shepherd and those things. But, so what? You bow your neck and you stay in there and hang in there and don't wince and don't back off because you're teaching the truth of the Word of God and stay after it and don't get distracted.

I mean, that's the mentality I'm sure that many of you have faced if you have been involved in ministry. Even John the

apostle of love has to have a Diotrephes in his life and what a sad, sad commentary.

William Barclay says this and I think it's so, so significant. The reason:

...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 [Bam! Bam! Bam!] and the expression of its own feelings. 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.

(source unknown)

They are so selfish and so into themselves, that last is phrase is there, they don't care who they're defaming:

“they are defaming those in exalted positions.”

It's the critical spirit. It's the slander instead of support. It is the criticism rather than the compassion and the love of serving the Lord together.

Many of you remember J. Vernon McGee when he was alive and in fact his radio broadcasts still go on in many places in the United States. He said:

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...take God's name in vain...don't take the city's name in vain...the boss's name in vain...some people they hate. [But God Himself.]
(source unknown)

And so what a tragic, sad picture you have here in these first couple of phrases that describe this group.

You getting a little bit of a picture of it? That's what Peter wants you to do in these few verses we have to look at.

Verse 11.

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

They reject this kind of behavior even though they are mighty and stronger than we are. Yet, they're "not bringing a reviling judgment against them before the Lord." They don't talk about these fallen angels. They don't get involved in all of that kind of stuff. They don't talk about the devil and ridiculing him and calling him names.

I have to say that Michael, the archangel, wouldn't do that. Or if Michael, exalted as he is wouldn't do it, the little man down here on earth needs to be very careful that he doesn't do it.

You know, I've lived long enough and done enough camps and

conferences for kids' stuff in younger years. I think one of the scarier memories I have is the giddy, light way young people—when I was involved in youth work—referred to Satan.

“Oh Satan made me do it” was kind of the giddy little attitude rather than recognizing the power of the enemy. These giddy little songs that were sung totally underestimated it. “I don't care what the devil's going do.” Well you better brother. But that was the way they sang the songs. That's the things they had to say.

You don't read these verses without realizing you've got a very powerful enemy. And one of the things that General MacArthur said is “Don't ever underestimate the power of the enemy.”

Don't get intimidated because you're on the winning team.

“Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. But don't you minimize the enemy” is basically what Peter is trying to tell us.

Why's he telling us that? Well, his pride almost blew it apart when he told the Lord that He wasn't going to go to the cross. And the Lord had to say “Get thee behind me Satan” and when he denied the Christ three times the night before the cross.

He knows what the battle is.

Remember what he told those recipients of the Peter letter, the First Peter letter?

1 Peter 5:8-9

Satan is a roaring lion, going about seeking whom he may devour. Whom resists steadfast in the faith knowing that the same problems and sufferings are shared by your brothers and sisters in the world.

I mean, they're in holocaust in the midst of this. Many of them have been displaced and moved out of the Holy Land up to the north, just south of the Black Sea in Asia Minor. And so these displaced persons are receiving these two wonderful letters from our man of the hour.

Now look how they characterize them—verse 12.

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,

You've heard the phrase "They're living like animals." Well, that probably came from Peter.

He says they're living "like unreasoning animals." They have no faculty of judgment or consequence or concern about anybody else.

“Reviling where they have no knowledge.”

“You do not have a right to opinion until all the facts are in” ought to be a principle that we live by.

The prophetic end to these is seen in that last phrase:

“in their destroying surely they will be destroyed.”

They need to be caught and killed, basically is what Peter is saying, rather than the unity and the love and the thrill of walking with God.

Verse 13.

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;

Now that’s a whole different ballgame.

The concern he has is these people that are Satan’s emissaries are centering their focus with people in the church and covering up their true teaching and who their true father is.

What is the word “wages” have to say to you?

Romans 6:23 don't you think?

Romans 6:23

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

Galatians 6:7

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

What I'm going to do now is outline it carefully for you so it will be easy for you to recall back. There are FIVE THINGS that are said here about these individuals.

1. The first thing is "They are counting it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.

Do you remember in the book of Acts when the Spirit of God came in Acts 2, what the people thought had happened? Acts 2:15, Peter says:

Acts 2:15

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

You've got alcoholics here who revel in the morning, they revel at the night, they revel at the noonday! They're plastered all

day long! That's basically the picture that's described in the first thing about them.

2. Secondly, "They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they are feasting together with you."

This is a classic illustration of Judas Iscariot. He could be with the twelve, charged as a treasurer with all of the financial responsibilities and under and behind the scenes he was only concerned about what Judas was going to get out of all of this. He was phony. He was hypocritical. And that's all these words really mean.

"They are stains and blemishes reveling in their deceptions, [and] they are feasting together with you." You've got the enemy among you!

There's another graphic picture of that in Galatians 2. The book of Galatians is written to a lot of people who got sidetracked over performance of the Law rather than relationship with Christ. And we read in:

Galatians 2:4

But it was because of the false brethren, who had snuck in to spy out our liberty [this is at the Jerusalem council in Acts 15 that he's talking about] which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

Paul says it. We were at the Jerusalem council. We were

standing against all these guys who would say faith plus circumcision—faith plus keeping the Mosiac Law—faith plus anything! And he knew these guys were there. They snuck in with an agenda to disappoint Gentile salvation, to see it as just an act of faith in receiving Jesus Christ.

Verse 14.

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. “Having eyes that are full of [desire for] an adulteress”—number 3.

Why is it that Job said in Job 31: “I’m making a covenant with my eyes not to look at a woman in lust”?

These folks don’t have any problem with that. They lust. They carry on.

I believe that sex probably is going to be one of the big dominant things in the fall of the United States of America. You just cannot see the statistics on the availability of pornographic literature and the websites and all of the ugly crap that’s coming—sorry but that’s the way I feel about it.

It’s just really a sad, sad picture.

In our couples' conferences last year we brought the movie *Fireproof*. Mark and Donna had seen it and told us to get after it and we did finally. It took us a while but we made it. What a tremendous story of a guy struggling with pornography and almost losing his marriage.

And you old bucks don't think that you're exempt. You need to sit down and watch that movie because it really will enrich your life. And then there is a Love Dare with 40 days and what you need to do to keep your marriage going good in the right direction. It's a great resource to be able to use to fight what you're seeing here in this ugly, ugly stuff.

“Having eyes that are full of [desire for] an adulteress and unceasingly looking for sin;” or for opportunity.

2 Timothy 3:6

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

Now you take the Sermon on the Mount and you throw that alongside of it and it makes you realize how far we have drifted and why we are in the mess we're in.

Listen to Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 5:27-29

You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I am telling you that everyone who looks on a woman in lust for her, has committed adultery with her already 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 your parts of your body perish than for the whole body to be thrown into hell.

That tells me that's a serious matter.

Why is he saying that? I finally grew too soon old and too late smart!

The very thought of adultery, in the lust, to Jesus is saying that's setting you up for it. Because as a man thinks in his heart so is he.

The battle is the battle of the mind. And I just wrote in big letters in my devotional material:

2 Corinthians 10:5

I am bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

And then Philippians 4:8, these are the things I think on.

And when Satan distracts me with a thought from the past or from some other experience, I immediately go to Philippians 4:8:

Philippians 4:8

Finally my brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there's any virtue, if there's any praise, think on those things.

Spirit of God, control my mind and take that ugly stuff out of it! Don't let it find a nest in my thoughts!

And I find so oftentimes the Spirit of God immediately erases it and comes back with another passage of scripture to encourage so you keep from being distracted by all of the things we see. And we're all vulnerable because the whole society is saturated.

Don't you really respect the fourth thing you see on that page?

4. "enticing unstable souls."

Do you know what that is? You take most of the cults and the religions that Satan is using today, you don't find them feasting on sinners, you find them feasting on new converts.

You want to talk about religion with me, huh? Well let me tell you, I know a whole lot more about it than you do, you new, fresh young buck just born again!

And that's the way they do it! That's the way they build it all. By taking and spilling the blood of young believers and getting them distracted from biblical truth to their suppositions, their text out of context, the things they're trying to do to accomplish their agenda.

And I know some of you probably think this is a little severe but it is a day for severity my brothers and sisters in Christ.

We've got to start calling a spade a spade and realize that when there are organizations that are out there designed to feed on believers and to distract and to take them out of the body Christ, their support groups, and take them away from their daily reading of the scripture. We've got a serious matter and we better stand up and go ahead and say what we need to say. And stand on the side of truth.

And you can do that without hatred. You can do that without being angry. You can say it kindly. I hope.

It is an amazing thing how so many cults and religions, groups that have caught up in error, feast on unstable souls. I've seen so many.

Matthew 13, remember the parable of sower and the seed? What happens to some of that seed that falls on the hard ground? Satan comes down and snatches it in the birds and takes it away.

What about that seed that is sowed among the rocky soul? It

never takes root. There's your picture. Satan is designing his program to catch the people whose seed fell on rocky soul and it hasn't had a chance to really take root. And BAM! Here he comes. He's going to destroy it before it really gets there. You're going to see that picture here.

I was so surprised, again, as I studied this to see the actual picture that I've just described, of what he is trying to accomplish.

Now look at number 5. Are you ready for this?

The fifth characteristic Peter gives is:

5. "having a heart trained in greed."

It's what I can GET rather than what I can GIVE.

The best illustration of that is Naaman and Gehazi. Do you remember? When Naaman came down and experienced being healed of his leprosy in the Jordan River because Elijah told him what he had to do. He had to go over there and dip in the river seven times.

As soon as he got his healing, he tried to give the prophet all of these gifts and said "No way José! I don't want any of that!" But as soon as he got to the city limits, Gehazi that greedy servant of the prophet, was begging for bags of silver and clothing because some prophets had just come in unexpectedly. That's the whole picture.

Living for the offerings, begging people for funds, that's the description.

Boy Barclay's on a roll in this. This is what he 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 while he is still here on earth.
(source unknown)

Woo! Thank you Barclay for that. That's enough said on that.

Verse 15.

**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,**

Leaving the what? The "right way." They're leaving the Cross of Christ and God's design and plan. We've already talked

about that.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...

Now who does he use? He uses Balaam. Do you remember the story of Balaam?

Actually, the king of Moab was looking for somebody to curse the children of Israel and so he calls on Balaam the prophet to do it. Balaam is only mentioned three times:

1. it's "the way of Balaam" here in 2 Peter,
2. in Jude it's "the error of Balaam," and
3. in the book of Revelation it's "the doctrine of Balaam."

All of it centers around greed. And all Balaam wanted out of this was the money that would come from Moab if he could be freed as a prophet to curse God's children.

And of course you recognize that through a talking donkey the poor guy got himself nailed, big time. But he's an illustration of that last characteristic: "having a heart trained in greed."

Now, verse 16.

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.

“but he received a rebuke for his own transgression; for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man; restrained”—WHAT?—“the insanity of the prophet.”

When you are living in sin, when you are violating God’s principles and God’s thoughts, like I just got through telling you, from God’s perspective that’s insanity! That is without a right mind and a right orientation to participate in this stuff. And what is it that goes with these guys who drink and whose drugs just fill their minds? They lose their minds! They lose their ability to make good judgments, to make good decisions. And tragically the consequences are so bitter.

“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.”

I wrote over to the side of this:

Selfishness is insanity!

That’s not the way God designed us to think and to live and to act. All about me! All about my things! Rather than being a sacrificial servant. That’s the first thing that starts to happen to you when you get out of insanity.

Verse 17. Now, this is not very pretty. Here's our key verses.

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

There're springs of water but they're dry. You want to contrast that with John 4 and the "living water." John chapter 7, the "living, refreshing water" that is ours. The woman at the well. All of those are great illustrations of what happens as far as the refreshment that the Lord provides.

And they are:

“mists driven by a storm for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved.”

They're very impressive but there's no water in the well. There's no rain in the clouds. People are thirsting today for the Word of God and yet there's nothing to be given to them because they don't have the refreshment of the Spirit of God to provide for them.

Their reservations for eternity have already been made. The blackness of the darkness has been reserved for them. You can use that one verse to explain to some people who'll tell you they want to go to hell so they can be with their friends. It's going to be a blackness, a darkness. It's an outer darkness and

it will be a doom for eternity.

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

Here's how they look. Isn't that an awful picture? They know there's a way out. They know they're wrong. They know they're over here in this cult or in this situation. How many of those guys from the People's Temple were trying to get out when they were forced to drink the cyanide-laced Kool-Aid? They were trying to get away from it.

How many letters does Pearl get? "I'm trying to get over drugs. It's dominating me. It's ruined my family. It's destroyed me in this prison sentence. It's almost unbearable."

Those are the kinds of things that are described in this kind of a look.

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

Make no mistake, it is really tough to recovery.

1 John 4:4

But greater is He that is in you than He that is in the

world.

There's a lot I could say on that I can't. Time's running out.

You know, you see the very same thing with a lot of these couples that make a try-out of their marriage. You counsel them. Some of them that Pearl and I've had over these last couple of years, we think we have victory, we think we have the thing broken, we think we have everything laying on the table and we turn around and they split. And it just destroys you. And there can even be pregnancy involved in those kind of situations. It hurts so bad to see what happens when someone ruins the intention of the marriage relationship. And the chain of events is bent toward Satan because he's dealing with sensuality and these things. And you're trying to take a step to disengage but then you're just trapped and gone back into it.

It's not only religion. It's all these other things.

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.

Woo! That's a strong verse! I could spend a whole session on it.

Paul said I don't want to be anybody who is doing anything that will enslave me. That will control me personally.

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.

It's so hard to fail and to go back in a society that expects you to keep on going on.

We think we saw that in Josh Hamilton on how the press has just clobbered him to pieces because he failed last January. Went immediately to the Texas Rangers. Went to his wife and apologized. Got back on track and now the press has picked it up. And they're just trying to destroy his season along with the physical problems that he faces. But that's the kind of stuff you have to deal with out in this world. The sadness of it all.

Well, the last two verses then I'll let you go.

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."

Peter is a legalistic and he had a hard time with anything that

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had to do with dogs or pigs. And there is no dog and no pig in the Bible that's a Christian. Ok? We're all sheep. So he's not talking about believers here who were failing. He's talking about the victims of these false prophets who have never taught religion. Who have never taught the new birth and the relationship that is ours in Christ.

Father, we thank You for the time together. We rejoice in Your word and praise You for Your goodness and how You instruct and teach. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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.

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – “HERE’S HOW THEY LOOK” – **2 PETER 2:10-22**

NOTES

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 overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

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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.”

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Peter 2:10-22 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Characterize the false teachers, according to verses 10-12.

3. How is the principle of “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” illustrated in verse 13?

4. How are they characterized further in verses 14 & 15?

5. How did Balaam receive a “rebuke,” according to verse 16?

6. How are they described further in verses 17-19?

7. What would be better for them, according to verse 21?

8. State the proverb and explain it in verse 22.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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.

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